

# TMCA NEWS



## President's Message

This past October when I was sworn in as your president, Art Camacho presented to me a football he has cherished for many years. I cannot find adequate words to express how deeply moving his giving me such an important part of his past means to me. Art's gift was an amazing example of a sacrifice that exemplifies teamwork, and so I'd like to start our year with an article about some of the lessons we, as city secretaries, can learn from football, reflecting upon a few words of wisdom from some of that sport's legendary coaches and players.

Of course, I have to begin with Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, who once said, "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." It's been said that class is being self-assured in your own worth and being compassionate to others. If you focus



TMCA President  
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC  
City Secretary, College Station

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

on improving your personal best, rather than comparing yourself to others, you will be much happier and more likely to achieve your goals simply because of that singular focus.

Another great coach said, "The strength of the team is each individual member... the strength of each member is the team." – Phil Jackson (I know, I know. He's a basketball coach, but it's a great quote anyway!) Whether the team is our professional organization, our city employees, or our collective citizens, we all depend on each other. It is as a team that we gain strength and are encouraged when we are down. We never know when we will depend on the kind word or support of another. So plant lots of words of encouragement: they will come back to you tenfold. Remember, it is a privilege and a gift to ourselves when we encourage the people in our lives.

Do you want to instill a sense of pride in your team? Do you want loyalty and respect? Here's another great quote from Coach Bryant: "If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it. If anything goes really good, then you did it." So simple, but so powerful.



2014 TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC** (*far right*), city secretary, Haltom City, presented a cherished football from his high school football career to incoming 2015 TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC** (*second from right*), city secretary, College Station, during the oath of office ceremony.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joe Namath was the quarterback for the New York Jets back in the day. He was as famous for his off-field antics as he was for his gridiron prowess (anyone remember those commercials? And what about that fur coat?) He said, "Football is an honest game. It's true to life. It's a game about sharing. Football is a team game. So is life." It is the same with our professional organization, the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. We all have a unique talent and perspective to bring to the profession. We need to celebrate and honor that uniqueness; we need to share our own special talents with one another because others need what we have to offer.

And finally, "Success is not forever, and failure isn't fatal." —Don Shula. Many successful persons claim to have learned more from their failures than their successes. In fact, they credit their successes to the valuable lessons learned in their failures. There is not one city secretary who has, at some time in their career, forgotten to post an agenda or left something important off the agenda... once. Trust me, it will never happen again. So relax and enjoy your daily successes, and don't stress over the infrequent failures. Just let those failures

teach you what you need to do differently, and turn that failure into a future success.

Vince Lombardi, legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, said, "Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." Each of us is endowed with gifts and talents that make our contribution to society unique, but those contributions cannot stand alone against the challenges and obstacles we encounter. Teamwork is the key, and together we can accomplish great things. Coach Lombardi also said, "Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off of the goal." As we move forward into the coming year, let us commit to keeping our eyes on the goal, giving our all as individuals, and working together as the TMCA team to continue striving towards excellence in Texas local government.

*Sherry Mashburn, TRMC*

*2015 TMCA President*

*[smashburn@cstx.gov](mailto:smashburn@cstx.gov)*

# 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year

By Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair **Jenny Page, TRMC**

City Secretary, Frisco

*Nominate your 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year By June 15!*



Jenny Page, TRMC

## **2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee:**

Chair Jenny Page, TRMC  
City Secretary, Frisco

Barbara Boyd, TRMC  
City Secretary, Center

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC  
City Secretary, Missouri City

Kathy Hoover, TRMC  
City Secretary, Gilmer

Baudelia Rojas, TRMC  
City Secretary, Alton

TMCA Board Liaison  
Aimee Nemer, TRMC  
City Secretary, Richardson

On behalf of the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, I am pleased to announce that nominations for the distinguished 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year award are now being accepted. **Each TMCA chapter is encouraged to nominate a representative for consideration. Nominations are also accepted by individuals.** Perhaps there is a special clerk that has been an inspiration and mentor to you personally. This is the time to honor one of our own for the significant contributions they have made on the local and/or state level.

**The nomination form may be downloaded here**, or you may **contact** the TMCA office to request the form (or 940-565-3488). Nomination forms will also be sent to all TMCA chapter presidents. **The deadline to submit nominations is June 15, 2015.**

The 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year will be announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with this year's TMCCP Graduate Institute **in Fort Worth on October 8.** Make plans to attend the Awards Ceremony to support your nominee(s) and honor the recipient! ★

### **Nominee requirements:**

1. Must be a municipal clerk who is an active member of TMCA and must have been an active member 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 (TRMC) Certification;
5. Must currently hold a municipal clerk position; and
6. Must not be a prior recipient of the Municipal Clerk of the Year award.

### **Please submit your nomination(s) to:**

City Secretary Jenny Page, TRMC  
City of Frisco  
George A. Purefoy Municipal Center  
6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 5th Floor  
Frisco TX 75034

## TMCCP SEMINARS



Hilton Waco

## Municipal Budget Cycle

April 16-17, 2015 • Waco • Hilton Waco

*With speakers **Patrick Shinkle**, Associate Director for the Center of Public Management, University of North Texas, and **Dr. Robert Bland**, Endowed Professor in Local Government and Faculty Director for UNT's Center for Public Management*

Registration now open—**learn more about this seminar and register today!**

South Shore  
Harbor Resort

## Goals for Public Service: A View from the City Clerk's Office

June 18-19, 2015 • League City • South Shore Harbor Resort

*With speakers **Dr. Abraham Benavides**, Department Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of North Texas, and **Dr. Amy Holt**, Education Director, TMCA/TMCCP*

We hope to see you at **South Shore Harbor Resort** for this seminar! The content will be focused on developing you as a professional in your field. The topics are meant to be beneficial for you in your position now and useful preparation for whatever future endeavors you choose to pursue. You will learn fundamentals for teambuilding in your office and municipal setting, dealing with difficult people and situations, technical writing, and decision-making. There will also be a session focused on learning what your city manager thinks about the city clerk position and how you can be an influential part of his or her thinking in this regard. Time will be focused on learning how to ensure that the city clerk position is considered invaluable in your municipality. Finally, there will be activities aimed at developing you for the future—whether that means being the best city clerk right where you are, helping you prepare for a move to a different municipality's clerk's office, or moving up the ladder in a different capacity for a town or city. There will be something for everyone in June! We look forward to seeing you in League City.

*Registration opens at the end of April.*

# 2015 Scholarships

By Scholarship Committee Chair **Ron Gonzales, TRMC**

Assistant City Secretary, Fort Worth

*Learn more about scholarships and apply today:*

- *About the Scholarships, page 7*
- *General Requirements, page 8*
- *Selection Criteria, page 8*
- *Scholarship Administration, page 9*



Ron Gonzales, TRMC

## **2015 TMCA Scholarship Committee:**

Chair Ron Gonzales, TRMC  
Asst. City Sec., Fort Worth

Kara Atwood, TRMC  
City Secretary, Lufkin

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC  
City Secretary, Brenham

Kristi Gilbert, TRMC  
City Secretary, Argyle

Susan House, TRMC  
City Secretary, Mesquite

Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC  
City Secretary, Leon Valley

Sherry Reeves, TRMC  
City Secretary, Grandview

Sherry Roberts, TRMC  
City Secretary, White Oak

Board Liaison  
Kim Sutter, TRMC  
City Secretary, Euless

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association provides outstanding scholarship opportunities for its members who are in pursuit of their **TMRC certification** or **recertification**, **college education** (undergraduate & graduate degree) and/or an approved **records management** program. The different scholarships' uses are listed on page 9.

There are multiple scholarships that are awarded by the TMCA Scholarship Committee each year and the application only takes about 10 minutes to complete. Please review the scholarship information on the next few pages and then click on the links to the appropriate forms to apply. Whether you apply for one of the **TMCA's Major Scholarships** and/or the **MCCi Records Management Scholarship**, you are taking advantage of a valuable resource that may assist you with the funding of the start or the continuation of your professional development.

**The deadline for receipt of the scholarship application is June 15;** however, you can complete and submit the application any time before that date.

Please send your applications to TMCA Scholarship Committee Chair Ron Gonzales by email, **Ronald.Gonzales@fortworthtexas.gov**, or mail: Assistant City Secretary Ron Gonzales, TRMC, 1000 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-6311. Once the TMCA Scholarship Committee has reviewed and considered all applications, scholarship recipients will be notified and advised that the scholarships will be formally presented at the annual TMCA Awards Banquet on October 9, 2015 (held during the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in Fort Worth).



## 2015 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

**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

**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

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

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

#### *Susan Rocha Scholarship*

**Maximum amount awarded:** \$500

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

**History:** Established in 2011 to honor Susan Rocha's memory and her commitment to education and enthusiasm for the municipal field. Ms. Rocha was a partner with Denton, Navarro, Rocha and Bernal, P.C., and a frequent speaker for the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar. The scholarship was established by friend and colleague, Alan Bojorquez, Bojorquez Law Firm, P.C., to be administered by TMCA, Inc.

#### *Vendor Scholarships*

**Maximum amount awarded:** \$500

**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 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: Agent IT; American Legal Publishing; Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc.; Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP; Municipal Code Corporation; and the Underwood Law Firm.

### 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.

## 2015 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.

*Download the TMCA  
Major Scholarship Award  
application*

*Download the MCCi Records  
Management Scholarship  
application*

Submit completed form(s)  
by **June 15** to:

Ron Gonzales, TRMC  
Assistant City Secretary  
City of Fort Worth  
1000 Throckmorton St  
Fort Worth TX 76102-6311  
[ronald.gonzales@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:ronald.gonzales@fortworthtexas.gov)



## 2015 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 at right.

### *Dorothy Byrd Scholarship*

*(for TMCCP certification/recertification or college)*

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to TMCCP expenses, including: enrollment fees, textbooks, exam fees, and TMCCP seminar registration fees and travel expenses; or college expenses, including: 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.

### *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.

### *Susan Rocha Scholarship*

*(for TMCCP certification/recertification, incl. travel)*

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: enrollment fees, textbooks, exam fees, TMCCP seminar registration fees and travel expenses.

### *Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*(for TMCCP certification/recertification, incl. travel)*

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: enrollment fees, textbooks, exam fees, TMCCP seminar registration fees and travel expenses.

### *Vendor Scholarships (Including the MCCi Records Management Scholarship)*

*(see page 7 for intended use)*

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: enrollment fees, textbooks, exam fees, TMCCP seminar registration fees and travel expenses. ★

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

## TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

# But I'm Too New to Qualify For A TMCA Travel Stipend or Seminar Scholarship!!!



TMCCP Education Director  
**Dr. Amy Holt**

So you don't qualify for a **TMCCP travel stipend or scholarship** because you're a municipal clerk who hasn't held your position for the past 24 months? Never fear, our TMCA Immediate Past President Art Camacho, TRMC, has an opportunity for you. We all know the generous nature of Art Camacho and he is at it once again. I may start calling him Santa Camacho.

Mr. Camacho is the city secretary for the City of Haltom City and struggled to be able to earn his Texas Registered Municipal Clerk designation. You have probably heard him tell the story of sleeping in cheap motels and snagging extra cookies at break to eat later that night as ways to save money so that he could attend seminars. Art has been very successful in his career, and can now eat most anything he wants for dinner (provided it is on his heart-healthy diet), but he vividly remembers the days when this was not true. He does not want finances to stand in the way of a municipal clerk being able to earn their TRMC designation.

For this reason, Art has decided to offer a financial incentive to help clerks who are pursuing their first-time

certification: he is offering a **drawing for a \$250 award** to pay for a single 2016 seminar. Here are the requirements; the **deadline is November 30, 2015**.

- Individual must be a municipal clerk
- Individual must have been employed as a municipal clerk for fewer than 24 months as of November 30, 2015
- Individual must be newly enrolled in the Certification Program on or after July 1, 2014
- Individual must have paid TMCA dues for 2014 and 2015
- Individual must complete 2 courses of homework (all modules) by November 30, 2015
- Individual must successfully pass 1 course exam by November 30, 2015
- Individual must attend 1 full TMCCP seminar (all 12 hours) by November 30, 2015

If an individual meets these criteria then they will be entered into a drawing for a \$250 award to be applied to the cost of attendance for one TMCCP seminar in 2016. The winner may choose any seminar offered in

## TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

2016 by TMCCP.

As an added incentive, once the minimum requirements are met, individuals can earn an additional chance at winning the prize with each additional course of homework completed, each exam successfully passed, and each seminar attended in whole (all 12 hours) prior to the November 30, 2015, deadline.

The drawing will be held on **December 4, 2015**, with the winner being announced shortly thereafter.

If you qualify to be entered into this drawing, please fill out and submit **this short form** and submit to Dr. Amy Holt ([amy.holt@unt.edu](mailto:amy.holt@unt.edu)).

A big “thank you” to Art for funding this award. His hope is that this will provide the motivation for many clerks to continue the pursuit of their TRMC even though they may face financial obstacles. ★

## 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

Lucretia Alvarez, Elgin  
Carolyn Anderson, Dickinson  
Cinda Etheridge, Rusk  
Carla Walker, Granbury

### Course 2

Machiel Covey, Clarendon  
Michelle Perez, Friendswood  
Jamie Lee Pettijohn, San Marcus  
Alicia Smith, Boyd

### Course 3

Julie Arrington, Pantego  
Sheila Edmondson, Cibolo

### Course 4

Julie Arrington, Pantego  
Kristy Ashberry, Rockwall  
Cheryl Brown, Kerrville  
Jennifer Clements, Lubbock  
Angela Galvan, Clear Lake Shores  
Marisela Garcia, Nassau Bay  
Carrie Hart, Denison  
Holly Houston, Euless  
Staci King, Stephenville  
Adriana Moreno, Odessa  
Tracy Norr, Wichita Falls  
Debora Penberg, Leander  
Marissa Quintanilla, Willis

# 2015 Election Law Seminar

January 21-23, 2015, Frisco, Texas

*This year's TMCCP Election Law Seminar in its new Frisco location was a great success! Attendees loved the Embassy Suites and the spacious convention center. We had 29 speakers educating 511 attendees in 33 sessions, on everything from early voting to provisional voting to ISD elections—and much, much more.*

Photo: TML Legal Counsel Scott Houston and Bill Longley's session "TML Legislative Update on Elections."

**Election Bills**

- Uniform Election Dates
  - H.B. 361 (Springer) - No May Elections
- Voter Registration
  - H.B. 311 (Martinez-Fischer) - Same-day registration during early voting
  - H.B. 442 (Alonzo) - Same-day registration
  - S.B. 84 (Elli) - Same-day registration

TMCA

## TMCCP ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

*Photos at right: Toni Milam, TRMC (in foreground), city secretary, Llano, walks to the next session during a break at the Election Law Seminar.*

Speakers **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville, and **Aimee Nemer, TRMC**, city secretary, Richardson, answer a question from the audience during their "Joint Elections" session. Session convener **Teresa Valdez, TRMC**, city secretary, Rockport, (*standing*) assisted in facilitating questions.

There were 134 in attendance at the pre-seminar "Step By Step Session for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections" with speakers **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; **LeAnn Gallman, TRMC**, city secretary, Muleshoe; **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; and **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen.

Hundreds of copies of the "Step By Step" handbook awaited session attendees.

*Below:* There was an intimate pre-seminar round table for "Attendees Contracting for the First Time" with panelists **Mary Kayser, TRMC**, city secretary, Fort Worth; **Patrice Fogarty, TRMC**, city secretary, La Porte; **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville; and **Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC**, city secretary, Odessa.



## TMCCP ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

*Photos at right:* TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Dr. Amy Holt** (*right*) assists attendees during a break at the Election Law Seminar.

An attendee signals a question for speakers at the "Step By Step Session for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections." Speakers from left to right: **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; **LeAnn Gallman, TRMC**, city secretary, Muleshoe; **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; and **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen.

The "Joint Elections" session with speakers **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville, and **Aimee Nemer, TRMC**, city secretary, Richardson; session convener **Teresa Valdez, TRMC**, city secretary, Rockport, stands center.

TMCA officers and the keynote speaker assemble for the graduation luncheon. *From left to right:* TMCA Immediate Past President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City; TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; TMCA President Elect **Cheryl Salgado, TRMC**, city secretary/asst. city manager, Spearman; and keynote speaker **Dr. Allen Clark**, vice provost, University of North Texas.

*Below:* **Mary Kayser, TRMC**, city secretary, Fort Worth, and **Cheryl Salgado, TRMC**, city secretary, Spearman, speak on "Candidate Packets"; convener **Gretchen Mercer, TRMC**, (*standing, center*) city secretary, Canyon, facilitated questions from the audience.



## TMCCP ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

*At right:* Keynote speaker **Dr. Allen Clark**, vice provost, University of North Texas, addressed the luncheon attendees. His speech was followed by the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program graduation ceremony.

There were 31 graduating and 46 recertifying in 2015. Each honoree was announced and walked across the stage to receive their certificate. *Below left:* **Deana McMullen, TRMC**, city secretary, Aledo, is applauded by **Dr. Allen Clark**, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Dr. Amy Holt**, and TMCA Certification Committee Chair **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen. Deana received a standing ovation from the audience for earning her fifth recertification.

*Below right:* TMCA Certification Committee members stood in the receiving line to congratulate and confer certificates and pins to each graduating or recertifying member. From left to right: TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director **Peggy Burnside, TRMC**; **Melissa Brunner, TRMC**, city secretary, Flatonia; **Irma Parker, TRMC**, city secretary, Port Aransas; **Mary Supino, TRMC**, city secretary, Arlington; and **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville.



© Paul Traves, T16 Photography



## TMCCP Graduating Class of 2015

*Congratulations to graduates earning their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification!*



Photo © Paul Traves, T16 Photography

**Graduating Class of 2015.** *Front row, from left to right:* Jennifer Clark, TRMC, administrative assistant, Lucas; Veronica Lomas, TRMC, records manager, Southlake; Carol Ann Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Westworth Village; Krista Beach, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Weatherford; Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Melissa Grace, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Boerne; Cynthia Ward, TRMC, city secretary/HR, Bellmead; and Juanita Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Dilley.

*Second row:* Amber Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Hubbard; Shelly Guevara, TRMC, city secretary, Winters; Andrea McDonald, TRMC, finance secretary, Amarillo; Frances Hibbs, TRMC, city secretary, Amarillo; Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm; Tanya McNutt, TRMC, deputy city secretary, College Station; Sorangel Arenas, TRMC, city secretary, Lancaster; and Denise Vice, TRMC, assistant city secretary, McKinney.

*Final rows, from left to right:* Dalessa Vardell, TRMC, city secretary, DISH; Lisa Palomba, TRMC; Angie Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Venus; Bobbie Jo Taylor, TRMC, assistant to the city secretary, Crandall; Janice Moore, TRMC, city secretary/treasurer, Meadows Place; Seth Gipson, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Hutto; Kathryn Sanchez, TRMC, city secretary, Blue Mound; Deborah Dane, TRMC, city clerk, Kilgore; Lisa Dawn Cabrera, TRMC, city planner, Forest Hill; Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak; and Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville.

*Not pictured:* Deborah Gurka, TRMC, assistant to the city secretary, Texas City; Connie Hansen, TRMC, town secretary/municipal clerk, Providence Village; Rhonda Nabors, TRMC; and Traci Paprocki, TRMC, records coordinator, Schertz.



# TMCCP Recertifying Class of 2015

*Congratulations to graduates who have recertified their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification!*



Photo © Paul Traves, 116 Photography

**Recertifying Class of 2015.** *Front row, from left to right:* Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman; Jana Shelton, TRMC, city secretary, Crandall; Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook; Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary (retired), Woodway; Laura Bell, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Carrollton; Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater; and Sonia Padron, TRMC, assistant city clerk, Pharr.

*Second row:* Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr; Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary, Cibolo; Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Jeana Bellingier, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; and Stephanie Hunt, TRMC, finance clerk, Corsicana.

*Third row:* Deborah Goza, TRMC, city secretary, Live Oak; Lisa Hernandez, TRMC, city administrator/secretary, Natalia; Alicia Ramirez, TRMC, city secretary, Buda; Donna Pliska, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Haltom City; Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless; Michelle Ballenger, TRMC, city secretary, Longview; Dianna Barker, TRMC, city secretary, Killeen; and Monica Solko, TRMC, assistant city secretary, North Richland Hills.

*Fourth row:* Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley; Dana Nixon, TRMC, development services director, Melissa; Melissa O'Sullivan, TRMC, finance clerk, Corsicana; Deana McMullen, TRMC, city secretary, Aledo; and Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, administrative services director, Carrollton.

*Not pictured:* Linda Ashby, TRMC, city clerk, Sherman; Rita Frick, TRMC, city secretary, Hurst; Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Lynne George, TRMC, city secretary, Magnolia; Kristi Gilbert, TRMC, town secretary, Argyle; Patricia Holley, TRMC, director of administration, Burkburnett; Jeanine Inman, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Newark; Cara McPartland, TRMC, city secretary/court clerk, Wimberley; Ursula Paddie, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Lampasas; Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth; Janet Sheguit, director of client services, BSP Engineers, Inc.; Callie Shreckengost, TRMC, town secretary, Refugio; Angela Stutts, TRMC, city secretary, Onalaska; Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes; Larry Thompson Jr., TRMC; Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Bowie; Karen Warren, TRMC, city secretary, Hillsboro; and Dessie Whelchel, TRMC, city secretary, Redwater.

## THANK YOU

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2015 Election Law Seminar!*

*Thank you to our volunteer speakers:*

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, City Secretary, Odessa  
 Marie Balthrop, TRMC, City Secretary, Holliday  
 Betty Brown, TRMC, Local Gov. Election Specialist, Bickerstaff Heath  
 Melissa Brunner, TRMC, City Secretary, Flatonia  
 Peggy Cimics, TRMC, City Secretary, Cibolo  
 Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, City Secretary, La Porte  
 LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, City Secretary, Muleshoe  
 Shelley George, TRMC, City Secretary, Allen  
 Melba Haralson, TRMC, City Secretary, Gladewater  
 Scott Houston, Texas Municipal League Legal Counsel  
 Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC, Asst. City Secretary, Waco  
 Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary, Fort Worth  
 Bill Longley, Texas Municipal League Legal Counsel  
 Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, City Secretary, College Station  
 Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, Admin. Services Director, Carrollton  
 Aimee Nemer, TRMC, City Secretary, Richardson  
 Jenny Page, TRMC, City Secretary, Frisco  
 Irma Parker, TRMC, City Secretary, Port Aransas  
 Crystal Roan, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Webster  
 Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, City Secretary/Asst. City Mgr., Spearman  
 Andrea Slater Gulley, Underwood Law Firm  
 Pauline Small, TRMC, City Secretary, Webster  
 Doris Speer, TRMC, City Secretary, Tomball  
 Fred Stormer, Underwood Law Firm  
 Kim Sutter, TRMC, City Secretary, Euless  
 Carole Vanzant, TRMC, City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch  
 Sandra Watkins, TRMC, City Secretary, Deer Park  
 Melinda Welsh, TRMC, City Secretary, Friendswood  
 Lee Woodward, TRMC, City Secretary, Huntsville

*Thank you to all those who volunteered as session conveners:*

Kara Atwood, TRMC	Kim Perez, TRMC
Marie Balthrop, TRMC	Susie Quinn, TRMC
Carol Borges, TRMC	Christi Shivers, TRMC
Melissa Brunner, TRMC	Mary Supino, TRMC
Zanea Carpenter, TRMC	Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC
Diane Cockrell, TRMC	Amy Turner, TRMC
Brenda Dennis, TRMC	Leticia Vacek, TRMC
Paula Favors, TRMC	Teresa Valdez, TRMC
Rita Frick, TRMC	Carol Vanzant, TRMC
Ron Gonzales, TRMC	Beth Walls, TRMC
Sharon Harris, TRMC	Karen Wilkerson, TRMC
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC	Linda Zartler, TRMC
Tanya McNutt, TRMC	Norma Zenk, TRMC
Gretchen Mercer, TRMC	

*Thank you to all those who volunteered to scan attendance:*

Kara Atwood, TRMC	Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC
Carol Borges, TRMC	Lori Payne, TRMC
Melissa Brunner, TRMC	Hilda Pedraza, TRMC
Diane Callahan, TRMC	Jamie Pettijohn
Tammy Cook, TRMC	Mary Valenzuela, TRMC
Kelly Edwards, TRMC	Carole Vanzant, TRMC
Maria Hatchett, TRMC	Alicia Richardson, TRMC
April Hill, TRMC	Beth Walls, TRMC
Thelma Lenz, TRMC	Karen Wilkerson, TRMC
Irma Parker, TRMC	Linda Zartler, TRMC

## TMCCP ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

# Thank you to our seminar sponsors

*Clockwise from top left:*

**Dale Barstow**, vice president sales, **Municipal Code Corporation**, greets seminar attendees. Municipal Code Corporation and MCCi are a TMCA Platinum Seminar Sponsor.

TMCA Gold Seminar Sponsor **Franklin Legal Publishing**, with President/Attorney at Law **Kirk Franklin**, second from right.

Bill Wright with **Agent IT Solutions** talks to an interested seminar participant.

**Red Wing Software** representative **Gay Shelton** (right) talks with a seminar attendee at her booth.

An **AdComp Systems Group** representative talks to seminar attendees about their payment kiosks.

TMCA Platinum Seminar Sponsor **Underwood Law Firm, P.C.**, at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar.



# Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Lydia Lopez, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Hewitt*



Lydia Lopez, TRMC

In December I attended the TML Board of Directors Orientation and Meeting. The orientation was most informative. We had an opportunity to meet with key staff and were briefed on the following topics: Objective and Services of TML, TML Constitution, Responsibilities and Service Requirements, League Policies, FY 2014-2015 Operating Budget, FY 2013-2014 Year-End Audit, and upcoming Board Meetings schedule. Service on this board really educates one on the benefits received from being a member city.

The board considered and adopted the League's 2015/2016 Legislative Program. TML General Counsel Scott Houston provided a visual of the voluminous packages received by the League with proposed bills for the upcoming 2015 session and distributed a list of city-related bills for the board's review. The League will make every effort to assure that detrimental bills are defeated and beneficial bills are passed. The TML Legislative philosophy is to oppose any legislation that would erode the city's authority; protect cities'

ability to raise the revenue necessary to provide for capital infrastructure; and oppose any imposition of any state mandates that would require cities to raise money for the state. The Board voted unanimously to approve the League's 2015/2016 Legislative Program with amendments.

The 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature is well underway and the League may need our assistance to provide testimony during the 2015 legislative session and/or simply provide perspective on particular legislative matters. As an affiliate and professional association, we should stand ready to provide that assistance if needed. ★

# IIMC News

## Annual Conference

IIMC will be holding its 69th Annual Conference in Hartford, Connecticut, on May 17-20. The conference theme is “Seasons Change and So Do We.” Information on registration, housing, and more is **now available on the IIMC website**. Network with colleagues from around the world!



## Upcoming 2015 Events

April 1, Grapevine • **Registration open**

**NTMCA Chapter's Athenian Dialogue: "Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery"**

Educational credit: TMCCP recertification credit can be earned with dialogue participation and satisfactory completion of the learning assessment. Also preapproved for three IIMC CMC or MMC education points with completion of a learning assessment.

April 16-17, Waco • **Registration open**

**TMCCP Municipal Budget Cycle Seminar**

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 3 or Recertification seminar credit

May 17-20, Hartford, Connecticut • **Registration open**

**IIMC Annual Conference**

June 17, League City • **Registration open**

**IIMC Athenian Dialogue: "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way"**

Educational credit: TMCCP recertification credit can be earned with dialogue participation and satisfactory completion of the learning assessment. Also preapproved for three IIMC CMC or MMC education points with completion of a learning assessment.

June 18-19, League City • *Registration opens late April*

**TMCCP Seminar: "Goals for Public Service: A View from the City Clerk's Office"**

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 1 or 2 or Recertification seminar credit

July 8, Richardson • **Registration open**

**Lone Star Chapter's Athenian Dialogue: "I Am Malala"**

Educational credit: TMCCP recertification credit can be earned with dialogue participation and satisfactory completion of the learning assessment. Also preapproved for three IIMC CMC or MMC education points with completion of a learning assessment.

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Leon Valley*

The Alamo Chapter had a very busy 2014 that included presentations on “Being Organized” by Linda Hambrick of Local Government Services; and “The Value of the City Clerk” by 2014 TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. We had special guests such as Texas Workforce Commissioner Hope Andrade and the outstanding former City of San Antonio City Clerk Emeritus Norma Rodriguez. Although we enjoyed the company of these guests and speakers, we also stayed busy amending our chapter bylaws.

One of our favorite activities is awarding scholarships. This year we had the honor of awarding the 2015 Norma Rodriguez Scholarship to Melinda Uriegas, assistant city clerk, San Antonio. Ms. Uriegas has worked with the City of San Antonio for 14 years. Her entire tenure has been with the Office of the City Clerk coordinating Municipal Elections. In January 2014, she received her TRMC designation. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in Political Science from St. Mary’s University.

**We are so proud of your hard work and dedication, Melinda!**

We ended the year by voting in our 2015-2016 Alamo Chapter officers. These officers will be installed at our February banquet: President Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley; Vice President Leticia Saenz, TRMC, deputy city clerk, San Antonio; Treasurer Lisa Hernandez, TRMC, city secretary/city administrator, Natalia; Secretary Angela Cantu, city secretary-treasurer, La Vernia; and Historian Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes. ★

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Karen Wilkerson, TRMC**

*City Secretary/Administrator, De Leon*

The Bluebonnet Chapter held their December 2014 meeting in Breckenridge at the “Breckenridge Fine Arts Center” and meal sponsored by GK Direct-Delford Johnene. On behalf of the chapter, we would like to say “thank you” to Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge, for hosting the meeting site and all of the work that went into getting it set up. The Bluebonnet group would also like to thank City Manager Andy McCuistion for taking time out of his busy day to come out and

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**Bluebonnet Chapter members at their December meeting** (pictured left to right): Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge; Heather Robertson, city secretary, Breckenridge; Karen Langley, TRMC, city secretary, Coleman; guest: mother of Kay Torres; Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee; Mary Wells, city secretary, Ranger; Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland; Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, city administrator-secretary, De Leon; Diane Latham, asst. city secretary, Breckenridge; Tammy Thorn, city secretary, Bronte; Staci King, community service admin. asst., Stephenville; Pat Martindale, city secretary (ret.), Bronte; Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin; and Ryan Polster, city secretary, Hamilton.



## BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

greet us and bless our meal. The chapter had the normal reading of the minutes, treasurer's report, and historian report.

GK Direct presented the group with magazines of their products and what they could offer. If you are part of the Buy Board, they can offer discounts and some really good pricing.

Linda Knight, TRMC, retired city secretary, Breckenridge, presented Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge, with the Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year Award.

Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee, presented the Bluebonnet Scholarship to Tammy Thorn, city secretary, Bronte.

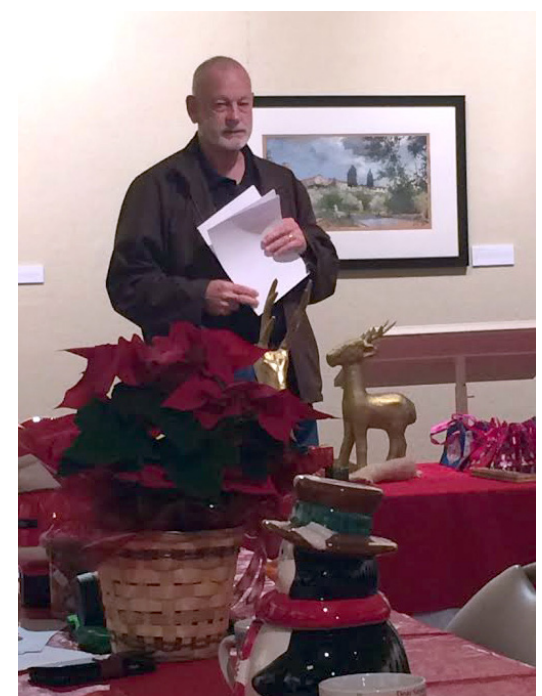
The 2015 Bluebonnet officers took the oath of office: President Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Vice President Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville; Secretary Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood; Treasurer Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; and Historian Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, city secretary/administrator, De Leon. Oaths were postponed until the meeting in March at Robert Lee due to



*Above left:* **Linda Knight, TRMC** (left), retired city secretary, Breckenridge, presented Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge, with the Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year Award.



*Above right:* **Tammy Thorn** (left), city secretary, Bronte, was presented the Bluebonnet Scholarship by **Kay Torres**, city secretary, Robert Lee.



*Near right:* Breckenridge City Manager **Andy McCuistion** greeted the chapter members.



## BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

Cindy and Christi not being able to attend this meeting.

Pat Martindale, retired city secretary, Bronte, thanked everyone for the gift given at her retirement party.

Diane asked that if we were attending the Election Seminar in Frisco in January 2015, if we could meet at 5:30 p.m. for a group picture with our chapter shirts.

The group participated in a gift exchange game and then we took a tour of the Art Center.

The silent auction brought in \$163.00. Names were drawn for door prizes and the door prizes were the cookie jars and coffee cups on the tables and some jewelry. The next chapter meeting will be in March at Robert Lee and then in June at Hamilton. ★

Members in attendance at the December meeting:  
 Staci King, community service admin. asst., Stephenville  
 Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge  
 Karen Langley, TRMC, city secretary, Coleman  
 Diane Latham, asst. city secretary, Breckenridge  
 Pat Martindale, city secretary (ret.), Bronte  
 Ryan Polster, city secretary, Hamilton  
 Heather Robertson, city secretary, Breckenridge  
 Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland  
 Tammy Thorn, city secretary, Bronte  
 Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee  
 Mary Wells, city secretary, Ranger  
 Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, city administrator-secretary, De Leon  
 Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin



At top: The chapter listened to GK Direct's presentation at the meeting.

Above: Door prizes at the December meeting.

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Capital Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Robyn Ryan**

*City Secretary, Rollingwood*

The East Williamson County Higher Education Center was the setting of the December 2014 Capital Chapter meeting and Christmas social. The meeting was hosted by the City of Hutto, with City Secretary Christine Martinez and Management Assistant Seth Gipson, TRMC, coordinating the event. The group was received by a beautiful room decorated for the holidays which included a lavish lunch, dessert, and a “Hutto Hippo” cookie at each decorated place setting.

At conclusion of the luncheon, current chapter President Shirley Garvel, city secretary (ret.), Elgin, addressed the members, thanking every person for their assistance during her term of office. Ms. Garvel then honored and presented the outgoing board members with a personalized Christmas ornament: Janet Rogers, city secretary (ret.), West Lake Hills; and Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham (2015 President Elect). (Not present at the meeting were Jessica Graefe, TRMC, city secretary, Giddings, and Brenda Page, city secretary, Smithville.) 2014 TMCA President Elect Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, presented outgoing President Shirley Garvel with a special ornament, with gratitude for her service to the Capital Chapter.



Capital Chapter members at their December meeting in Hutto.

## CAPITAL CHAPTER

Sherry Mashburn presented the incoming board members with a “key” representing their respective position on the board, and Ms. Mashburn performed the swearing in ceremony for the new board members: President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; Vice President Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown; Treasurer Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills; Secretary Lucretia Alvarez, city secretary, Elgin; and Historian Robyn Ryan, city secretary, Rollingwood.

The meeting concluded and festivities continued with a Christmas ornament exchange at the end of the meeting, and every attendee taking home a Hutto Hippo cookie. ★



The new chapter board members were presented at the December meeting.

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Mary Valenzuela, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Kingsville*

The Coastal Bend Chapter had its first 2015 chapter meeting on January 29. This meeting was hosted by Rebecca Huerta, city secretary, Corpus Christi, where members enjoyed a wonderful lunch and heard a great educational program. The educational program was on “Records Management” presented by City Secretary Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi Assistant City Secretary Paul Pierce, and Ingleside City Secretary/HR Director Kimberly Sampson. Mrs. Huerta, Mr. Pierce, and Ms. Sampson did an outstanding job on their presentation.

The Coastal Bend Chapter is working on hosting an Athenian Dialogue in September 2015 in Port Aransas. A definite date has not been selected as of yet, but once it is determined we will post about it in an upcoming newsletter. Keep a lookout for this information!



Coastal Bend Chapter members at their January 29 meeting in Corpus Christi.

## COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

At this time, we encourage everyone to join your local chapter as it is a great way for networking and getting business done. For information on how to join the Coastal Bend Chapter, please contact Chapter Secretary Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville, at 361-595-8002 or [mvalenzuela@cityofkingsville.com](mailto:mvalenzuela@cityofkingsville.com). ★

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*At right:* Coastal Bend Chapter members at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco in January. *Standing, left to right:* **Mary Valenzuela**, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville, and **Teresa Valdez**, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport. *Seated, left to right:* **Cathy Duhart**, city secretary, Sinton; **Barbara Trevino**, city secretary, Beeville; **Rebecca Huerta**, city secretary, Corpus Christi; and **Teresa Bowe**, TRMC, city secretary, Yoakum.



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Toni Milam, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Llano*

Greetings from the beautiful Hill Country! Spring is just around the corner, so make your plans to visit our Hill Country for what will be a bumper crop of bluebonnets this year!

The Hill Country Chapter met together in December, in the City of Fredericksburg. A “small” cozy group participated in a “big” fun gift exchange, which is always a highlight of our Christmas gathering luncheon. Pat Dildine, city secretary (ret.), Johnson City, shared a “Christmas Poem” with those present, which is always special. It’s always a special treat for the chapter when our retirees come for the fellowship!

Special congratulations to Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals, who earned her MMC designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks on November 20 and looks forward to becoming an Athenian Fellow in the IIMC Athenian Leadership Society.



Around the table, from left to right: **Elaine Simpson, TRMC** (far left, not pictured), city secretary, Granite Shoals; **Pat Dildine**, city secretary (ret.), Johnson City; **Kelly Dix**, city secretary, Burnet; **Margie Rivera** (at back, hidden), deputy city secretary, Fredericksburg; **Bobbie Mowery**, city secretary (ret.), Blanco; **Brenda Craig, TRMC**, city secretary, Kerrville. (Not pictured: **Toni Milam, TRMC**, city secretary, Llano.)

## HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

It was so good to see our friends from all over the state at the 2015 TMCCP Election Law Seminar held in beautiful Frisco. As always, it was a great program by the great TMCA staff and executive board.

Several from the Hill Country Chapter were in attendance, and when we weren't learning, we were making new friends and sharing with those who were at their first Election Law Seminar! Kristi Bannowsky,



*Clockwise from top left:*

A PROUD MOMENT: **Melissa Grace, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Boerne, receiving her TRMC Certification! Way to go, Melissa!

**Elaine Simpson, TRMC**, city secretary, Granite Shoals, and **Teresa Moore, TRMC**, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay—always checking for new emails while away from the office.

**Dr. Amy Holt**, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; TMCA President Elect **Cheryl Salgado, TRMC**, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman; and TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, at the graduation luncheon.

**Veronica Muncy**, city secretary, Richland Springs; **Linda Hardy**, election judge/clerk, San Saba; and **Sabrina Maultsby**, city secretary, San Saba.



## HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

city secretary, Junction, attended her first Election Law Seminar, and was so glad she did. We also welcomed Amy Van Pelt, city secretary, Blanco.

To join the Hill Country Chapter of City Secretaries, please contact President Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville, at [brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov](mailto:brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov). ★

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*Top left:* **Teresa Moore, TRMC**, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay, and **Kelly Dix**, city secretary, Burnet, at the graduation luncheon.

*Lower left:* Newly-TRMC certified graduate **Lisa Palomba, TRMC**, with **Elaine Simpson, TRMC**, city secretary, Granite Shoals.

*Far right:* At an Election Law Seminar session—**Veronica Muncy** (*standing*), election judge/clerk, San Saba; **Sabrina Maultsby** (*seated, second row left*), city secretary, San Saba; **Teresa Moore, TRMC**, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay; **Kelly Dix** (*seated first row, far left*), city secretary, Burnet; **Toni Milam, TRMC**, city secretary, Llano; and **Kristi Bannowsky**, city secretary, Junction.





## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Vickie Schmid, TRMC**  
 Deputy City Secretary, Richardson

### November 5 Meeting

At the November 5 Lone Star Chapter meeting, new committee chairs and members were announced for 2014-2015, the meeting start time for future meetings was changed to 11:30, and Karen Adkins, emergency preparedness coordinator of McKinney, gave an informative presentation on “Emergency Management.”

### December 10 Meeting

The Lone Star Chapter met at Frisco City Hall in the McCallum Room on December 10 for our Annual Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction. Twenty-one silent auction items raised over \$400 for the chapter, which helps to fund scholarships!

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*Top right:* Speaker **Karen Adkins**, emergency preparedness coordinator, McKinney, at the chapter’s November meeting.

*Above left and near left:* Lone Star members enjoy holiday fun and fellowship at their December meeting in Frisco!



## LONE STAR CHAPTER

### January 21-23 TMCCP Election Law Seminar

The Lone Star Chapter joined with the North Texas Chapter to host a drawing for multiple door prizes for some lucky seminar attendees!

Lone Star Chapter members Quinlan City Secretary Laura Kennemer passed her TMCCP exam; Lucas Administrative Assistant Jennifer Clark, McLendon-Chisholm City Secretary Deborah Sorensen, McKinney Assistant City Secretary Denise Vice, and Lisa Palomba earned their TRMC designations; Richardson City Secretary Aimee Nemer earned her second TRMC recertification; and Sherman City Clerk Linda Ashby and Melissa Development Services Director Dana

Nixon earned their third TRMC recertifications at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Way to go! We are very proud of you!

### Athenian Dialogue

The Lone Star Chapter will host an Athenian Dialogue featuring the book *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb. The dialogue will be held on July 8 at Richardson City Hall and will be limited to 30 people. The registration form can be found on [our website](#), on [TMCA's website](#), or [IIMC's website](#).

We hope to see you in July! ★



Lone Star Chapter members at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco.

#### Lone Star Chapter meeting attendees:

Kristy Ashberry, city secretary, Rockwall  
 Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing  
 Jacky Casey, TRMC, assistant to city secretary, Rockwall  
 Vickie Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina  
 Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen  
 Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney  
 Lisa Henderson, TRMC, city secretary, Plano  
 Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point  
 Carole Kuykendall, deputy city secretary, Greenville  
 Kim McCranie, executive administrative assistant, Murphy  
 Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson  
 Debbie Newell, city secretary, Greenville  
 Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco  
 Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy  
 Vickie Schmid, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Richardson  
 Alice Snyder, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano  
 Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm  
 Denise Vice, TRMC, assistant city secretary, McKinney  
 Kathy Wingo, TRMC  
 Jo Ann Wright, assistant city secretary, Pilot Point

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Mary Supino, TRMC**  
 City Secretary, Arlington

Greetings to our fellow chapters from the North Texas Chapter!

Thank you to Diane Cockrell, city secretary, Decatur, for hosting our November 12 business luncheon at the fabulous Decatur Civic Center. Marti Miller graciously returned to the NTMCA and spoke to us about “Going for the Gold: Building Economic Development in Our Unique Cities by Appreciating and Valuing the Best Assets We Have... The Human Capital in Our Towns, Workplaces, and Communities!”

Marti shared some special lessons with us regarding making and developing relationships. One big take away for me was hearing Marti say “Relationships, Relationships, Relationships.” She encouraged us to think about the greatness each one of us brings to our respective cities. We are the face of our cities in many ways and we need to make sure we let our DNA (Dynamic Natural Abilities) shine!

Marti encouraged all of us to take the time to find the “gold” in the people around you and ask them about their story. While at work, keep your eyes open for the “gold.” If you see a good idea, compliment that

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*At top:* Speaker Marti Miller at the November meeting.

*At right:* Chapter members at the November chapter meeting in Decatur.



## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

person and tell others. Never underestimate the power of your influence. Look for opportunities and blessings around you, even when some of your challenges feel like failures.

Marti has such a positive attitude and it's contagious! After one of Marti's talks, I always feel uplifted and grateful to be a part of this amazing organization. We are all very blessed to have a network of colleagues and friends to rely on for encouragement and support.

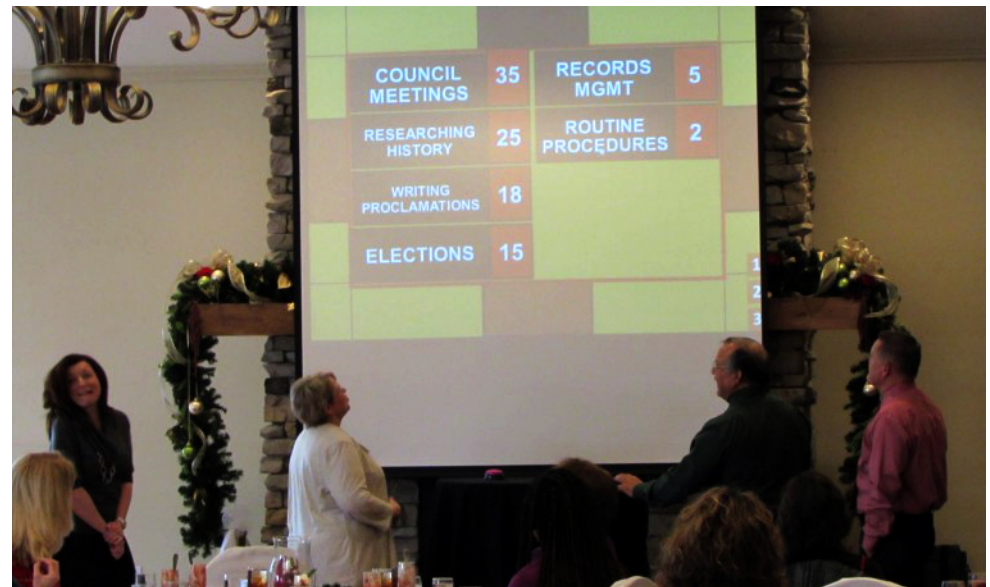
The membership approved the October 15 meeting minutes.

Thank you to our 2014 Holiday Committee members Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth; Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Jesica McEachern, city secretary, Bridgeport; and Asucena Garcia, TRMC, accounting generalist/administrative assistant, Decatur, who hosted a wonderful celebration for us at the beautiful Diamond Oaks Country Club in Haltom City in December! We all had so much fun playing the Municipal Clerk's Edition of the Family Feud game. It was a great idea and we all had a lot of laughs!

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*At top:* Chapter members at the December meeting in Haltom City.

*At right:* Playing Municipal Clerk's Edition of Family Feud at the holiday celebration.



## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

A huge thank you to all of our members whose contributions raised \$400 for the Ladder Alliance, our featured charity this year. The Ladder Alliance is a wonderful organization which assists women victims of domestic violence or low-income women in education, training and pursuing opportunities for employment. Additionally, our annual silent auction was a huge success and raised \$747 for our chapter's Alyce Deering Scholarship Fund.

Lastly, we were so lucky to have a small group of our retired city secretaries join us for our holiday celebration, including Susan Crim (Euless), Becky Null Davidson (Euless), Marty Hendrix (Fort Worth), Ruth Ann Parrish (Farmers Branch), and Paula Paschal (Flower Mound). It is always so much fun to hear how much our retired clerks are enjoying their retirement!

We want to thank Shanae Jennings, TRMC, city secretary, Irving, and Jennifer Phillips, assistant to the city

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*At top:* North Texas Chapter retirees in attendance at the December meeting (*from left to right*): **Susan Crim, TRMC** (Euless), **Becky Null Davidson** (Euless), **Ruth Ann Parrish** (Farmers Branch), **Paula Paschal** (Flower Mound), and **Marty Hendrix, TRMC** (Fort Worth).

*At right:* The North Texas officers at the holiday celebration in Haltom City.



## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

secretary, Irving, for hosting a fabulous meeting at the Greater Irving/Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce on January 15. Randy Pennington, Pennington Performance Group, talked to our group about how to make change work.

Randy discussed our position as city secretaries and how what we do does not change too much, but how we do our job changes all the time. We must be adaptable, we must anticipate change, and we must be open to things outside of our comfort zone. We must be willing to change our perspective on how we can do things better, and look at things differently and look towards the future.

Randy encouraged us to embrace uncertainty with curiosity. He told us the fact that we might not be seeing the possibilities for the future doesn't mean they don't exist. We need to be a part of the process and begin to see the possibilities for change in ourselves and our organizations.

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: meeting minutes from the November 12 and December 11, 2014, business meetings; monthly treasurer reports from October 2014, November 2014, and December 2014; first quarterly treasurer report (October–December 2014); and reallocation of Election Law Seminar reception \$250 contribution to \$250 door prize funding to be distributed at Election Law Seminar.



*At top:* The North Texas Chapter at their January meeting in Irving.

*Above:* **Randy Pennington** spoke to the group at their January meeting.

## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

The NTMCA is always looking to expand our membership and meet new clerks in our area. For anyone interested in attending our meetings or joining our chapter, please see our chapter website [www.ntmca.org](http://www.ntmca.org) or contact Mary Supino at [Mary.Supino@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Mary.Supino@arlingtontx.gov) or 817-459-6186. We are very fortunate to be able to have amazing speakers come to our meetings to share information and knowledge with us in order to enhance our leadership skills. We would love to share these opportunities for professional development with more of our colleagues. Please join us at an upcoming meeting to see what our chapter has to offer you.

The NTMCA will be hosting an Athenian Dialogue for our annual Professional Seminar on April 1 at the Grapevine Convention & Visitor's Bureau. TMCA/TMCCP Educational Director Dr. Amy Holt will be the facilitator for our Dialogue. The book we will be discussing is *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* by Eric Metexas. Registration is open to all, but there is a maximum of 30 attendees. Please see our website for more information regarding meetings and upcoming events: [www.ntmca.org](http://www.ntmca.org) ★

January meeting attendees:

Julie Arrington, city secretary, Pantego

Treasurer Carol Ann Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Westworth Village

Laura Bell, Deputy city secretary, TRMC, Carrollton

Vice President Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary

Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City

Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur

Holly Fimbres, assistant to the city secretary, Euless

Shanae Jennings, TRMC, city secretary, Irving

Christine Green, city secretary, University Park

Kristin Harrison, Irving

Shanae Jennings, TRMC, city secretary, City of Irving

Secretary Sheila Morales, town secretary, Copper Canyon

Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson

Jennifer Phillips, assistant to the city secretary, Irving

Theresa Scott, TRMC, city secretary, Flower Mound

Historian Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville

President Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington

Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless

Michael Wells, TRMC, city secretary, Bedford

Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Sherry Roberts, TRMC**

*City Secretary, White Oak*

The Northeast Texas Chapter held their 2014 Christmas meeting on December 12 at Traditions Restaurant in Tyler, where we enjoyed lunch, fellowship, and our lively gift exchange.

After newly elected President Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary, White Oak, called the meeting to order, all the new officers were sworn in: President Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak; Vice President Doris Crockett, city secretary, Bullard; and Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Studdard, city secretary/director of finance, Nash. Kathy Hoover, TRMC, congratulated Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater for her placement as trustee on the TMCA Executive Board.

Outgoing President Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC, city secretary/court administrator, Mount Enterprise, presented a blanket monogrammed with our chapter logo and names to Sherry Roberts and Jennifer Studdard to show her appreciation for their officer service during her term as chapter president, and to Ore City City Secretary Gail



*December meeting attendees from left to right, seated:* **Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC**, city secretary/court admin., Mount Enterprise; **Sherry Roberts, TRMC**, city secretary/office manager, White Oak; **Shelly Ballenger, TRMC**, city secretary, Longview; Cassandra Brager, city clerk, Tyler. *Standing:* **Debbie Dane, TRMC**, city secretary, Kilgore; **Lawanna Williams**, finance director (ret.), Kilgore; **Yvonne McCauley**, city manager, Van; **Terri Brown**, assistant city secretary, Van; **Melba Haralson, TRMC**, city secretary, Gladewater; **Gail Weir, TRMC**, city secretary, Ore City; **Fran Wendeborn, TRMC**, city secretary (ret.), Rusk; **Kathy Hoover, TRMC**, city secretary, Gilmer; **Rachél Gafford**, city secretary, Overton; **Karen Custer**, city clerk (ret.), Kilgore; **Sereca Huff**, city secretary, Van; **Candis Jones**, admin. assistant for city sec., Longview.



## NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Weir, TRMC, for her assistance in writing the chapter's quarterly submissions to the TMCA newsletter.

The chapter was honored once again to have the following retirees attend our meeting: Fran Wendeborn, city secretary (ret.), Rusk; Karen Custer, city clerk (ret.), Kilgore; and Lawanna Williams, finance director (ret.), Kilgore. It is from our retirees that we learn the dedication and strength to impartially serve our communities. Also in attendance were our newest chapter members, Rachél Gafford, city secretary, Overton, and Terri Brown, assistant city secretary, Van. Welcome, ladies!

The chapter would like to congratulate Debbie Dane, TRMC, city clerk, Kilgore, for graduating at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco in January, earning the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification. She can proudly now add TRMC behind her name. Those that have graduated understand the amount of hard work that is required to complete the Certification Program. We would also like to recognize and congratulate Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater, and Shelly Ballenger, TRMC, city secretary, Longview, on their second recertifications. Congratulations to all of you!

Our next meeting will be on March 13, hosted by the City of Van. We're looking forward to a great attendance at The Farmhouse restaurant! ★

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Panhandle Chapter

By **Kimberly Sloat, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Canadian*

The Panhandle Chapter of Texas Municipal Clerks met December 18 for our bi-monthly meeting. We meet at The Amarillo Club in Amarillo with 13 members present.

The chapter had their annual Christmas Party and gift exchange. We had a round table discussion and got caught up on everything that was going on in our surrounding cities. We had such a great time that we forgot to take a picture!

We had several members attend the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in January and again, we didn't get a group photo. However, we had two of our very own graduate: Frances Hibbs, TRMC, city secretary, Amarillo, and Andrea McDonald, TRMC, finance secretary, Amarillo; and Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman, recertified for the third time. We couldn't be more proud of these chapter members that I like to call my friends.

Our next scheduled meeting was February 19 at 11:30 a.m. at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo. ★

Those in attendance at the December meeting:

Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart

Treasurer Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon

President Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/  
assistant city manager, Spearman

Historian Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon

Frances Hibbs, TRMC, city secretary, Amarillo

Andrea McDonald, TRMC, administrative assistant, Amarillo

Patricia Phipps, city secretary, Friona

Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas

Stella Sauls, TRMC, city secretary, Borger

Secretary Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian

Kristina Solomon, city secretary, Tulia

Kathy Styles, city secretary, Perryton

Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By Chapter Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer **Janelle Dolan, TRMC**  
 City Clerk, Burkburnett

Members of the Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at Logan’s Roadhouse in Wichita Falls on December 10 at 1:00 p.m.

President Byers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted. The minutes of September 17, 2014, meeting were approved, as well as the treasurer’s report through December 10, 2014.

Kim Hemmi, city secretary, Scotland, took up a collection for the Red River Chapter’s Christmas project. The chapter will be buying Christmas gifts for a mother and her children that are staying at Faith Refuge, a shelter for women and children who are homeless. For the last several years, the chapter has been providing for Christmas for a needy family instead of exchanging gifts with each other. We find that is truly rewarding to be able to help another family this way.



A thank-you card the Red River Chapter received for their Christmas gifts.

## RED RIVER CHAPTER

It was announced that longtime city secretary of Bowie, Mitzi Wallace, would be retiring this year after 32 years of service to her city. There was a reception in Bowie at the end of December to honor Mitzi and her service to the City of Bowie.

Guest speaker Krystal Hayes, Municode Regional Sales Representative, was present at the meeting to provide information on upcoming

changes and improvements to Municode.

Our next meeting will be held March 18 at Logan's Roadhouse. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings.

For more information about the chapter contact Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett, at [jdolan@burkburnett.org](mailto:jdolan@burkburnett.org) or 940-569-2263. ★

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Doris Speer, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Tomball*

### November 2014 Salt Grass Chapter Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their monthly meeting on November 12 at the Jimmie Walker Community Center in Kemah. Chapter Vice President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, called the meeting to order with many members in attendance, including special guest Kemah Mayor Pro-Tem Wanda Zimmer. Borger Council member Brandy Callahan was the speaker via Skype and presented details on the formation of and local government engagement in the Borger Youth Advisory Council.

The chapter's 2015 executive board slate was voted upon; scholarship recipients were approved; and the chapter unanimously approved a generous holiday donation, to be selected by 2014 President Crystal Roan, deputy city secretary, Webster, at the January 2015 meeting.

*At top right:* The November meeting was well attended and the Skype presentation by Borger Mayor Pro-Tem Wanda Zimmer regarding the formation and local government engagement of the Borger Youth Advisory Council was enjoyed by all.

*At near right:* The use of Skype technology has enabled the Salt Grass Chapter to receive training and information that might otherwise be cost- and travel-prohibitive.



## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

The chapter accepted the 2015 slate of officers as follows: President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville; Vice President Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; Secretary Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball; Treasurer Melinda Welsh, city secretary, Friendswood; and Historian Olga Garza, city secretary, Southside Place.

### December 2014 Salt Grass Chapter Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their 2014 Annual Installation Banquet/Holiday Luncheon on December 10 at Maggiano's Little Italy in Houston. Salt Grass Chapter President Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, welcomed special guests and Salt Grass Chapter members. Chapter Secretary Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton, led the Pledge of Allegiance and City of Huntsville Mayor Mac Woodward gave the invocation.

Congratulations are in order for winners of the Deloris McKenzie Scholarships and the Patrice Fogarty Athenian Dialogue Scholarships. Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, received a full scholarship up to \$500. Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, and Shannon Bennett, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Deer Park, each received partial

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*At top:* Winners of the Deloris McKenzie Scholarships (**Deloris McKenzie-Calhoun**, TRMC, stands second from left): **Shannon Bennett**, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friendswood; **Maria Gonzalez**, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; and **Lee Woodward**, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville.

*Near right:* Winners of the Patrice Fogarty Athenian Dialogue Scholarships: **Lee Woodward**, TRMC (left), and **Maria Gonzalez** (right); La Porte City Secretary **Patrice Fogarty**, TRMC, stands at center.



## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

scholarships for up to \$250 for travel and registration costs incurred while attending a seminar held by the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, and Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, each received a scholarship for \$100 to attend an Athenian Dialogue.

Congratulations are also in order for the winners of the two Olson and Olson Registration Scholarships for the January 2015 Election Law Seminar: Kristen Edwards, TRMC, public relations/marketing specialist, Deer Park, and Michele Perez, deputy city secretary, Friendswood.

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, proudly accepted the 2014 Salt Grass Chapter award for "Outstanding Municipal Clerk" from last year's recipient, Sharron Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte. Ms. Gonzalez thanked the chapter and her family for supporting her in doing what she loves.

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, introduced 2014 TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. Art Camacho spoke of the outstanding achievements of the Salt Grass Chapter and installed the new 2015 officers as follows: President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville; Vice President Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; Secretary Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball; and Olga Garza, city secretary, Southside Place, Historian. (Treasurer-elect Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood, was unable to attend but was installed at the January 14, 2015, meeting.)

The chapter presented outgoing President Roan with a gavel plaque and gift card in appreciation of her dedication and service on behalf of the chapter. The chapter



The Salt Grass Chapter's 2014 "Outstanding Municipal Clerk" **Maria Gonzalez, TRMC**, city secretary, Missouri City, thanked the chapter and her family for supporting her in doing what she loves.



2014 TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, administers the oath of office to 2015 Salt Grass Chapter President **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville.

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

also presented 2014 TMCA President Art Camacho with a gift card on behalf of the chapter.

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*At top right:* The new 2015 Salt Grass Chapter officers: President **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville; Vice President **Paula Favors, TRMC**, city secretary, Wharton; Secretary **Doris Speer, TRMC**, city secretary, Tomball, and Historian **Olga Garza**, city secretary, Southside Place. (Treasurer-Elect Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood, was unable to attend).

*Center right:* 2014 Salt Grass Chapter President **Crystal Roan, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Webster, and 2014 TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City.

*Lower right:* Chapter members at their Annual Installation Banquet/Holiday Luncheon.

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### January 2015 Salt Grass Chapter Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter welcomed the New Year with a meeting on January 14 at Carrabba's Kirby in Houston, hosted by Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, and honorary SGC member Karen Vannerson. President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, called the meeting to order and administered the oath of office to 2015 Treasurer Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood.

The chapter heard a presentation from Texas State Association of Parliamentarians President Dennis Clark regarding basic parliamentary procedures. TSAP will hold its annual convention in Houston the first weekend in May, and all are invited to attend. Mr. Clark is also working





## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

with the city secretaries in Bryan, College Station, and Huntsville to develop a new TSAP Unit in Bryan/College Station. An exploratory event will be held in Bryan on April 11.

Committee appointments for 2015 were presented by President Lee Woodward and future educational seminars/training sessions were considered. The Salt Grass Chapter's Annual Public Information Seminar will be held on Wednesday, September 9, in Deer Park. A repeat session of the chapter's "Notary Training" is being planned, with the date to be announced. For additional information on the "Public Information" seminar or "Notary Training," please contact Doris Speer, city secretary, Tomball: 281-290-1002 or [dspeer@tomballtx.gov](mailto:dspeer@tomballtx.gov).

A drawing was held for the Olson & Olson Registration Scholarship, returned by Kristin Edwards, public relations/marketing specialist, Deer Park; Shannon Bennett, deputy city secretary, Deer Park, won the Scholarship.

The Salt Grass Chapter wishes special congratulations to all our 2015 TMCCP graduates and recertifiers!

### Graduates:

Deborah Gurka, TRMC, city secretary, Texas City

Janice Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Meadows Place



*At top:* President **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville, with the January guest speaker TSAP President **Dennis Clark**.

*Above:* President **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, administered the oath of office to 2015 Treasurer **Melinda Welsh, TRMC**, city secretary, Friendswood.

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

### Recertifiers:

Angela Stutts, TRMC, city secretary, Onalaska

Lynne George, TRMC, city secretary, Magnolia

Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte

Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook

Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park

The next Salt Grass Chapter meeting was set for February 11 in Tomball at Cisco's Salsa Company, Sol de Luna banquet room. Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month, January through April and August through December—our meetings are open to anyone and we welcome visitors! ★



Members at the January chapter meeting in Houston.

Members in attendance at the January meeting:

Carolyn Anderson, city secretary, Dickinson

Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Spring Valley

Shannon Bennett, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Deer Park

Leticia Brysch, city clerk, Baytown

Lorri Coody, city secretary, Jersey Village

Tracy Dutton, TRMC, city clerk, Bellaire

Anna Evelyn, assistant city secretary, West University Place

Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

Olga Garza, city secretary, Southside Place

Betsy Gates, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Tomball

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Thelma A. Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place

Jennifer Namie, paralegal, Olson & Olson, LLP

Michelle Perez, deputy city secretary, Friendswood

Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster

Courtney Rutherford, assistant city secretary, Jersey Village

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball

Karen Vannerson, consultant, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

Sandi Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park

Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Adriana Moreno**

*Deputy City Secretary, Odessa*

Is it safe to say the last West Texas Chapter meeting was more about the fun and good food than business? Okay, okay. Well, we did work hard before we played—as city secretaries are known for! The chapter held its annual Christmas program during the final quarterly meeting for the year at Dee’s Bistro in Odessa on November 19.

On the business aspect, the chapter approved minutes, reviewed the treasurer’s report, and approved the payment of bills. Other business included discussing membership amongst the chapter and ideas to increase meeting attendance. Chapter President Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland, presented an informational brochure

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Attendees at their meeting in Odessa in November. *Back row, from left to right: SueAnn Reyes, deputy city secretary, Midland; Heather Ramirez, city secretary, Pecos; Adriana Moreno, deputy city secretary, Odessa; and Sara Copeland, city secretary, Andrews. Front row: Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland; and Karla Mata, deputy city secretary, Midland.*



## WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

that was so graciously created by the Midland public information officer. The brochure was distributed to the chapter cities to encourage membership and increase familiarity with the organization and the people involved.

SueAnn Reyes, deputy city secretary, Midland, and Adriana Moreno, deputy city secretary, Odessa, received scholarships from the chapter for continuing education within the TMCA. The scholarships are on a reimbursement basis and are valued up to \$500, which can be used for registration fees and/or travel expenses.

The meeting ended with the Christmas gift exchange. Each member brought a gift valued at \$20 for no particular recipient, and drew from numbers one through seven—seven for the number of participants. The person that drew the number one



**Heather Ramirez**, city secretary, Pecos, with her gift.

was able to choose from the variety of gifts first, and as the game progressed, each person received the chance to make a selection from the remaining gifts or “steal” from another if they were vying for someone else’s gift.

In other news, big congratulations are in order for Pecos City Secretary Heather Ramirez, who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl during the holidays!

Thank you to everyone that has supported Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink, in her battle with cancer through the purchase of the pink T-shirt and for keeping her in your thoughts and prayers. The pink T-shirts brightened up the Election Law Seminar, as Tonya does when she walks in to a room.

Please join us if you are in the area for our next meeting on May 20! ★

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Vicki Collins, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Mansfield*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! At least it was in December 2014. The Yellow Rose Chapter held their holiday meeting on December 4 at Cedar Hill Recreation Center in the "Yellow Rose Room."

Chapter President Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield, welcomed everyone and thanked the host city, Cedar Hill, and City Secretary Belinda Berg for offering the beautiful facility and having everything so well prepared and beautifully decorated for the event. Lyn Hill, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Cedar Hill, gave the invocation and everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday lunch catered by Black Eyed Pea. The chapter members enjoyed holiday music playing in the background during the luncheon.

The business portion of the meeting included the approval of the October meeting minutes and an update on the chapter financials.

Pamela Woodall, city secretary, Ovilla, was honored as Municipal Clerk of the Year 2014 for the Yellow Rose Chapter. Pam is the second recipient of the chapter's prestigious Municipal Clerk of the Year award. The Yellow Rose Chapter was formed in 2012 and Lyn Hill, city secretary (retired), Cedar Hill, received the prestigious award in 2013. Pam was presented with a personalized glass vase containing yellow roses and



## YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

a yellow rose lapel pin which has become a tradition of the Yellow Rose Chapter. Pam has been involved in the Yellow Rose Chapter since its inception as both secretary and treasurer and we are honored to have her as a part of our chapter.

Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service as officer (President 2013-2014) of the Yellow Rose Chapter. A yellow rose was given to Lori as a token of our appreciation.

Pam Woodall, city secretary, Ovilla, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service as founding member and officer (Treasurer 2013-2014) of the Yellow Rose Chapter. A yellow rose was given to Pam as a token of our appreciation.

Angie Arenas, city secretary, Lancaster, was not present at the meeting to accept her Certificate of Appreciation for her service and dedication as Officer (Historian 2013-2014) of the Yellow Rose Chapter.

Updates were given by the Nominating Committee for Officers, Budget Committee, Holiday Celebration Committee, Legislative Committee, Membership Committee, Municipal Clerk of the Year (for 2015) Committee and Technology/Communications Committee. President Collins recognized the Holiday Committee for their hard work on the Christmas luncheon. Holiday Committee members included Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield; Dana

Argumaniz, city secretary, Red Oak; Amber Villarreal, assistant city secretary, Waxahachie; Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville; and Sonja Land, TRMC, city secretary, Mesquite. Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, city secretary, Grand Prairie, also donated her time and contribution of gram prizes and gifts to everyone in attendance.

President Collins expressed her appreciation to Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson, for her service on the Legislative Committee and keeping members updated on all proposed legislation that stands to impact various duties of the municipal clerk position.

Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle, attended the luncheon as a guest of Chapter President Collins and received a big welcome from all the members attending the luncheon.

The members played holiday games organized by Amber Villarreal, which consisted of drawing a Christmas scene on a paper plate that was placed on top of our head, guessing the name of holiday songs from drawings and guessing the number of candy kisses in a jar. The members enjoyed the games and the winner of each game received a prize.

Cathy DiMaggio donated a beautiful gift basket which was raffled off during the luncheon, raising \$50 to be donated to Hope Mansion,

## YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

a non-profit organization located in Cedar Hill offering a residential group home for women between the ages of 18-35 experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Each member attending the luncheon graciously brought items to be donated to Hope Mansion, ranging from diapers to winter coats. For more information, their website address is [www.hopemansion.com](http://www.hopemansion.com).

The Yellow Rose Chapter meeting on February 5 was scheduled to be hosted by the City of Mesquite.

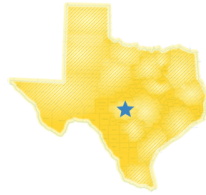
Names were drawn for door prizes and everyone went away from the luncheon with holiday gifts provided by the chapter and some of the chapter members.

For those wishing to join the Yellow Rose Chapter, please contact President Vicki Collins, TRMC, at [vicki.collins@mansfieldtexas.gov](mailto:vicki.collins@mansfieldtexas.gov). Our meetings are held bi-monthly at 11:30 a.m. We welcome you to come and visit us. ★



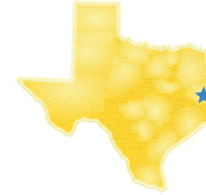
Each member of the Yellow Rose Chapter brought items to donate to Hope Mansion.

# TMCA Chapters



## HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

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City Secretary, Kerrville  
830-258-1117  
[brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov](mailto:brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov)



## PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

Kara Atwood, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Lufkin  
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## ALAMO CHAPTER

Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Leon Valley  
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## LONE STAR CHAPTER

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[tmcalonestarchapter.com](http://tmcalonestarchapter.com)



## RED RIVER CHAPTER

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## BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

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Assistant City Secretary, Breckenridge  
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## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

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City Secretary, Alton  
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[www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries](http://www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries)



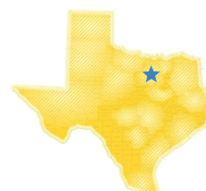
## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Lee Woodward, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Huntsville  
936-291-5403  
[lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov)



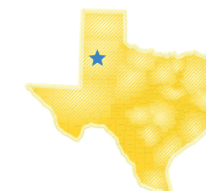
## CAPITAL CHAPTER

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Brenham  
979-337-7567  
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## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

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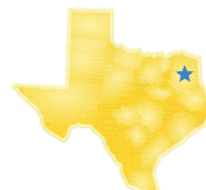
## SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

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806-266-8850  
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## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

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## NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

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903-759-3936  
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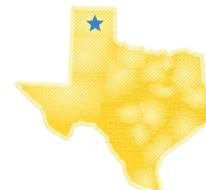
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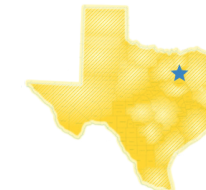
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# 2015 TMCA Officers & Committees

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Mgmt. Committee Chair Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Sec., Odessa; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Dir.; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Dir.*

Committees

### Advisory Management Committee

**Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo**, Odessa, Past President, Chair  
**Art Camacho**, Haltom City, Immediate Past President  
**Sherry Mashburn**, College Station, President  
**Cheryl Salgado**, Spearman, President Elect  
**Shelley George**, Allen, Certification Committee Chair  
**Peggy Burnside**, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.\*  
**Amy Holt**, TMCCP/TMCA Education Director\*

### Audit Committee

**Pauline Small**, Webster, Chair  
**Teresa Herrera**, Palestine  
**Janelle Williams**, Galveston  
**Art Camacho**, Haltom City, Board Liaison

### Historian

**Brenda Craig**, Kerrville

### Membership Committee

**Alice Holloway**, Pilot Point, Chair  
**Jana Lewellen**, Belton  
**Stella Sauls**, Borger  
**Christi Shivers**, Mexia  
**Karen Wilkerson**, DeLeon  
**Kim Sutter**, Eules, Board Liaison

### Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee

**Jenny Page**, Frisco, Chair  
**Barbara Boyd**, Center  
**Maria Gonzalez**, Missouri City  
**Kathy Hoover**, Gilmer  
**Baudelia Rojas**, Alton  
**Aimee Nemer**, Richardson, Board Liaison

### Nominating Committee

**LeAnn Gallman**, Muleshoe, Chair  
**Peggy Cimics**, Cibolo  
**Gretchen Mercer**, Canyon  
**Alicia Richardson**, North Richland Hills  
**Angela Stutts**, Onalaska  
**Sherry Mashburn**, College Station, President  
**Cheryl Salgado**, Spearman, President Elect

### Open Records Steering Committee

**Jannette Goodall**, Austin

### Resolutions Committee

**Linda Byers**, Vernon, Chair  
**Dorothy Brooks**, Forney  
**Toni Milam**, Llano  
**Crystal Roan**, Webster  
**Teresa Valdez**, Rockport  
**Scarlet Swoboda**, Victoria, Board Liaison

### Retirement Committee

**Cara McPartland**, Wimberley, Chair  
**Brenda Shaw**, Morton  
**Christi Wynn**, Brownwood  
**Melba Haralson**, Gladewater, Board Liaison

### Scholarship Committee

**Ron Gonzales**, Fort Worth, Chair  
**Kara Atwood**, Lufkin  
**Jeana Bellinger**, Brenham  
**Kristi Gilbert**, Argyle  
**Susan House**, Mesquite  
**Saundra Passailaigue**, Leon Valley  
**Sherry Reeves**, Grandview  
**Sherry Roberts**, White Oak  
**Kim Sutter**, Eules, Board Liaison

### Technology Committee

**Patrice Fogarty**, La Porte, Co-Chair  
**Melinda Welsh**, Friendswood, Co-Chair  
**Jannette Goodall**, Austin

### TML Booth Committee

**Leticia Vacek**, San Antonio, Chair  
**Shelley Goodwin**, Garden Ridge

### TML Representative

**Lydia Lopez**, Hewitt, President Elect

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Sherry Mashburn, TMCA President; Cheryl Salgado, TMCA President Elect; and Art Camacho, Immediate Past President*

\*non-voting member