

# TMCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION, INC.



JUNE 2007  
Vol. XVIII No. 2

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## President's Message

### Where Are We?

I contemplated what I should write about that would be beneficial to those who read this article. It was not an easy beginning. Our time seems to be filled with so many things that need to be accomplished, and we just cannot find enough time to do it all. We need to look at where we have been and where we are.

In keeping with the theme of our past and future, I thought about the accomplishments since my last article and enumerated them with deep sighs of pride and some relief. These accomplishments happened because of you, the members of TMCA, Inc., and TMCCP.

We had a successful Office Administration Seminar in Beaumont with a record turn out. Dr. Joe Jernigan did his usual excellent educational presentation and many of you vowed to return ready to implement his ideas and suggestions. You learned from Joe and from each other.

Elections have been completed and canvassed. Many of us will see a change in our councils with newly elected members and possibly charter amendments. We will have to adapt and be flexible, skills in which we are well trained. For the most part, elections were successful and we were all grateful for those manuals, code books, handbooks, and our seasoned peers who



TMCA President  
Lydia Ozuna, TRMC

## President's Message

saw us through when we did not have the answer. The **Texas Municipal Clerks Yahoo! Group** was busy this election season; however, I noticed that there were fewer election questions, and I attribute that to those who have obtained and/or are working on their TRMC. What a difference it makes! I believe the manner in which we conducted our elections is the reason for these successful and ethical elections. Pat yourselves on the back—well deserved!

Some of us will be conducting runoff elections which I have labeled as "Do it Again, Sam" elections. I think runoff elections are a time to reflect on what can or should be changed to improve areas that are lacking or need streamlining. The City of Wichita Falls is making history in that this will be the first time a runoff has ever been held in our city. I am heading into it with a positive attitude. My hat is off to all of you who have been conducting runoff elections for years!

These past three months have brought exciting scholarship news! We will have seven vendors that will be providing scholarships this year, and this merits mentioning their names: Municipal Code Corporation, Municipal Code Corporation Innovations, Franklin Legal Publishing, Laserfiche, Questys Solutions, American Legal Publishing, and Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. These vendors were so generous in donating funds for these scholarships and we should take every opportunity to express our gratitude for their generosity. In addition, we need to take advantage of applying for these scholarships because they are an excellent financial resource to attend seminars and continue our education.

I also thought about what we have planned for the next three months.

The **Municipal Finance Seminar** will be held in Amarillo in June with **Dr. Arlita Harris**. I would encourage those who are able to attend this seminar to take advantage of the knowledge that Dr. Harris will bring in making her presentations. Sometimes we miss out on what is available



photo courtesy LeAnn Gallman, TRMC

President Ozuna at the IIMC Conference—see photos on page 4.

because it does not sound interesting. When we participate it makes all the difference. We learn and are excited about applying our newly gained knowledge in our municipalities.

Want to know what the legislature has done to our communities this past session? Attend the August **Legislative Update Seminar** in Irving with **Alan Bojorquez**. It is essential to know how to plan and prepare for the changes that will come about as a result of this legislative session. Come and ask questions and make sure you know how your municipality will be affected and return to your cities well informed and equipped to assist your councils and city administrators.

Our jobs are demanding and we have a tremendous responsibility. In order to meet these demands and take on these responsibilities, we must seek methods to improve ourselves professionally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Sometimes we mess up or make mistakes, and we should learn from those "mess ups" and create opportunities for improvement. Take time to think about where you are and where you want to go from here and launch your plan.

Don't forget to celebrate your accomplishments while looking for future opportunities.

Wishing each of you a fabulous summer!

Lydia Ozuna, TRMC  
2007 TMCA, Inc., President

## TMCCP Seminars

### Municipal Finance

TMCCP Course 3 or 4 Seminar Credit

Speaker: **Dr. Arlita Harris**

**Amarillo, June 7-8**

Seminar Hotel: Ashmore Inn & Suites

### Legislative Update

TMCCP Course 1 Seminar Credit

Speaker: **Alan Bojorquez**

**Irving, August 9-10**

Seminar Hotel:  
Sheraton Grand, 972-929-8400

### Graduate Institute: "The Leadership Challenge"

TMCCP Course 2 Seminar Credit

Speaker: **James Dodson**

**Fredericksburg, October 11-12**

Seminar Hotel:  
Inn on Barons Creek, 830-990-9202

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## TMCCP Seminar

# Legislative Update Seminar

August 9-10, 2007, Irving, Texas



Alan J. Bojorquez will serve as the moderator for the 80th Texas Legislative Update seminar sponsored by the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Alan is the co-founder and a partner of the law firm of **Bovey & Bojorquez, LLP**, which primarily represents municipalities.

Alan has served as a TMCCP speaker for previous legislative updates and for the TMCCP Election Law Seminars. He is also the esteemed author of the *Texas Municipal Law and Procedure Manual*, 5th edition, and of all the annual supplements to the manual.

Alan will also invite additional expert speakers to present the new legislative bills that pertain to and impact municipalities.

The Sheraton Grand hotel is located near the Grapevine Mills Outlet Shopping Mall and the Bass Pro Shop. The Sheraton provides shuttle transportation to these locations for a small fee.

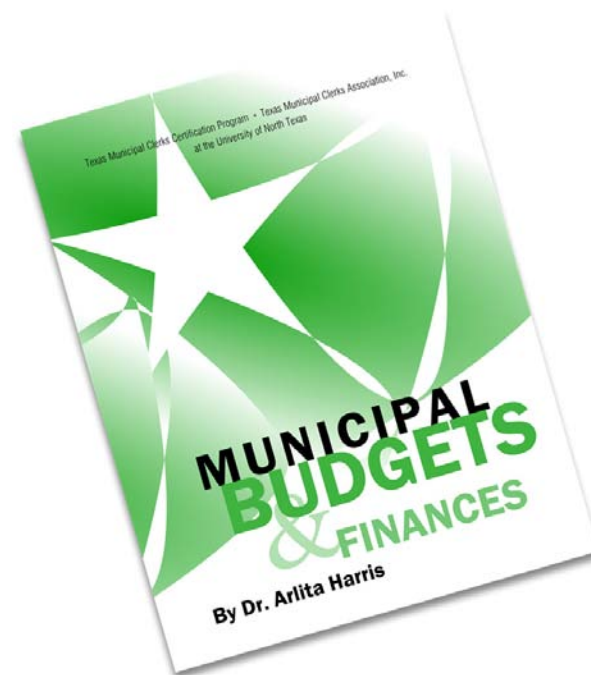
TMCCP enrollees who attend will receive Course 1 seminar credit for this class. **Anyone is welcome to register to attend the legislative update.**

**Seminar Begins at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, and ends at noon on Friday.**

## TMCCP Publication

# Municipal Budgets & Finances

By Dr. Arlita Harris



### **ORDER NOW**

*TMCCP has a new book!*

The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program has adopted Dr. Harris' new text for the Municipal Finance or Course 3 component of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification (TRMC). The text includes website sources, charts, examples, and forms.

As a comprehensive source of municipal finance information, this textbook is an outstanding addition to the professional libraries of all Texas municipalities. To order a copy of the book or to read about the chapter topics and Dr. Harris' qualifications, [click here](#).



## IIMC 2007 Conference

The IIMC Conference in New Orleans, May 21-26, 2007, was a great success because of outstanding educational sessions and exciting changes for the future of the organization. Texas clerks who attended the event (*photo at right*) attended the Region IV session with clerks from the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.

Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood, was honored with the Quill Award. (see *related story, page 5*)

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, was elected as IIMC's Vice President. (see *related story, page 5*)

Municipal Clerks from all over the world celebrated IIMC's Members Win with Mary Lynne at an outstanding reception held at on the top floor of the historic Jackson Brewery Millhouse with a panoramic view of the Mississippi River and the French Quarter. Mary Lynne was honored by Bryan's mayor and councilman who attended the event. The City of Bryan provided cameras with the slogan "Picture a Bright Future for IIMC with Mary Lynne" imprinted on the covers. J.J. Stratta, Mary Lynne's husband, (see *third photo below, second from left*) was able to attend and enjoy the many congratulatory events honoring Mary Lynne.



photo courtesy of Toni Wilison, TRMC



photo courtesy LeAnn Gallman, TRMC



photo courtesy Sharon Cassler



photo courtesy Sharon Cassler



photo courtesy Sharon Cassler

## IIMC 2007 Conference

### Deloris McKenzie Honored With IIMC Quill Award



Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, CMC, was awarded the prestigious Quill Award from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks during the Conference held in New Orleans, May 21-26, 2007. The Quill Award recognizes IIMC members who have made significant and exemplary contributions to their community, state or province and IIMC. The nominee must support the goals and philosophies outlined in IIMC's Code of Ethics. The criteria include: length of service; strength and extent of participation in IIMC; service in teaching fellow municipal clerks; involvement with the initiation or administration of an IIMC approved training institute or program; or any other activity that enhances the professionalism of IIMC members.

City Secretary McKenzie began her outstanding career in 1977 as city secretary for the City of Manvel. She has been employed by the City of Friendswood since 1984. In July 2007, Deloris will

### Mary Lynne Stratta Elected Vice President of IIMC



Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC, city secretary, City of Bryan, was sworn in as Vice President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks during the annual IIMC Conference held in New Orleans, May 21-26, 2007. With resolutions of support from over 20 states; numerous personal endorsements from former IIMC leaders and members; and no opponent for the office, Mary Lynne won the election via unanimous acclaim from the membership!

Hundreds of IIMC members voiced their choice early in the campaign, and the slogan of IIMC members, *Win with Mary Lynne*, was the common denominator of cohesiveness among the many states and the Region 11 international members. To read more about Mary Lynne's qualifications and the outstanding messages of support, please visit her [campaign website](#).

Throughout the week of the conference, members celebrated Mary Lynne's leadership, integrity, energy, knowledge, and dedication to the municipal clerk's profession.

Ranette Larsen, TRMC, MMC, city secretary (ret.), and former IIMC President (2001), stated early in the campaign, "We have the



## McKenzie Awarded Quill

celebrate 30 years as a professional city secretary.

Ms. McKenzie became a member of IIMC in 1984. She obtained the Certified Municipal Clerk Certification in 1986 and was accepted into the Master Municipal Clerks Academy in 2004. She has served on numerous IIMC committees since 1987; coauthored an article on Mentoring for the IIMC News Digest; and served as an instructor during four IIMC Annual Conferences.

Deloris earned the Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification, No. 89, in 1984 and completed the requirements for four recertifications. She served as president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association in 1994 and has served on numerous committees both prior to and after her term as state president. She is a regular instructor for the prestigious Step by Step session for TMCCP's Annual Election Law Seminar and has co-taught that class since 1996. In 1997, the statewide membership selected Deloris as the Texas Clerk of the Year.

As an active professional, Deloris has been a member of the local Salt Grass Chapter since 1977. She has served on all the chapter committees and was chapter president in 1982. In 1982 and 1992, the chapter members elected Deloris as the Outstanding Municipal Clerk of the Year. In addition, she has served as an instructor on Texas Election Laws for the Houston Galveston Area Council from 1993 to the present. She has also served on several Texas Municipal League Committees; provided election services for the Clear Creek Drainage District and the Friendswood Independent School District.

Deloris served on the Texas Open Records Steering Committee with other state officials for almost four years and represented city secretaries' statewide as the committee developed procedures for open records policies.

The Deloris McKenzie Scholarship for municipal clerks was founded in 2002 to assist municipal clerks in the Salt Grass Chapter who are pursuing their educational goals through TMCCP. As a personal example of the value of educational and professional development, Ms. McKenzie is currently working toward a four-year degree in business management.

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, compiled the information for IIMC and states in the nomination letter, "Deloris exemplifies professionalism and commitment to the municipal clerks' profession throughout Texas and throughout the international organization. Her mentoring philosophy is the zeal behind her service, inspiring new clerks and invigorating tenured clerks. She is an immeasurable resource for her peers and sets the benchmark for the highest professional standards of municipal clerks everywhere."

IIMC Quill Award winners from Texas include: Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, MMC, city secretary, San Antonio, 2005; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC, city secretary, Bryan, 2003; Alyce Deering, TRMC, city secretary, Hurst, 1998; Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Lewisville, 1997; Ranette Larsen, TRMC, city secretary, Garland, 1996; Alice Church, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth, 1992; Wilma Thomas, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls, 1990; and Tiva Sanchez, TRMC, city clerk, McAllen, 1989. ★



Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood, is presented the Quill Award by IIMC President Marcella O'Connor, municipal clerk, Uralla Shire, Australia.



Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio, gave the oath of office to IIMC Vice President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

## Stratta Elected VP

opportunity to elect the best! Let's do it!"

Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, MMC, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio, and former IIMC President (1994), had the honor of giving the oath of office to Mary Lynne at the conference in New Orleans.

Texas municipal clerks know Mary Lynne as a steadfast friend, wise mentor, astute instructor, and outstanding leader. Now, we have the opportunity to support her as she shares her many talents, strengths, and abilities with clerks all over the world.

When asked about her election to the office of IIMC Vice President, Mary Lynne said, "There are no words to express my appreciation and deep gratitude to all of our Texas clerks for your support, encouragement, contributions and hard work to make this goal a reality. There is still much work to do to get IIMC back on the right track. I will be counting on the continued involvement and support of all Texas clerks as we work together to bring IIMC to a new level of excellence and service to its members. Please volunteer to serve on IIMC committees later in the year when the application form is published in the *IIMC News Digest*. Again, many thanks to all of you for your confidence, support and friendship. Texas clerks are absolutely the best, and I love you all!" ★





## Texas Municipal League News

By TML Representative Patricia Ervin, TRMC



### Texas Municipal League New Member Orientation Friday, March 23, 2007, Austin, Texas

The meeting convened with board member introductions.

President Carol Alvarado presented proposed legislation relating to the following:

- Letter from Mayor Bill White seeking Legislation of giving the Public Utility Commission more power to protect Texas cities of increased rates. The TML Board voted favorably to support legislation that would allow the Public Utility Commission to protect against the development of market power within functional retail electric markets and require electric rates that would more accurately reflect fuel costs.
- An ordinance passed by the City of Houston relating to scrap copper. If there is a problem in your city of theft of copper from a/c units from churches, office buildings, hospitals, etc., you may benefit by the ordinance passed by the City of Houston. For a complete copy of the ordinance, you may contact the City of Houston.

Frank Sturzl, Executive Director and TML staff gave brief reports on actions, recent court cases, attorney general opinions, and thorough legislative updates on proposed house bills.

A copy of the proposed legislation can be accessed on the TML web site or available upon request.

I was also asked to serve on the 2007 Budget and Audit Committee. The Committee met on Friday, May 18, at the TML office in Austin.

The next TML Board Meeting will be Friday, June 15, in Houston, Texas. ★

## Recognition of 2007 Retirees

By TMCA Retirement Committee Chair Martha A. Gillett, TRMC



It is hard to believe another year has passed and it is time to honor those who have mentored us along the career journey we have chosen. Many of us have gained lifelong friends through the people we have met in our profession. **Please help us in gathering the names of individuals who have recently retired or will retired in the year 2007.**

We are gathering information on these individuals through each TMCA chapter president to prepare for their recognition at the Graduate Institute in October in Fredericksburg. They will be recognized at the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute.

Chapter presidents have been requested to provide the committee with the information on each retiree. Please feel free to contact the Retirement Committee chair at any time for additional information.

2007 Retirement Committee members are as follows:

#### **Chair Martha A. Gillett, TRMC**

City Secretary, City of La Porte  
604 West Fairmont Parkway  
La Porte, Texas 77571  
281-470-5019  
gillettm@laportetx.gov

#### **Carol Loucks, TRMC**

City Secretary, City of Henrietta  
P.O. Box 409  
Henrietta, Texas 76365-0409  
940-538-4316  
cloucks@cohtx.com

#### **Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC**

City Secretary, City of Victoria  
P.O. Box 1758  
Victoria, Texas 77902-1758  
361-485-3040  
sswoboda@victoriatx.org

#### **Brenda L. Staab, TRMC**

City Secretary, City of Haltom City  
P.O. Box 14246  
Haltom City, Texas 76117-0246  
817-222-7749  
bstaab@haltomcitytx.com

Thank you for your assistance in helping us gather this information. We look forward to seeing you all in Fredericksburg! ★



# CHAPTER NEWS



*From left to right:* The Alamo Chapter's March speaker, John Danner, assistant city attorney, San Antonio; Melinda Uriegas, assistant to city clerk, San Antonio; Amelia Ramirez, senior executive secretary to city clerk; and Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio.

## ALAMO CHAPTER

Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC

The Alamo Chapter met on March 20 at the Artisans' Alley, Apple Annie's Tearoom. Present at the meeting were: Janice Alamia, deputy city secretary, Hollywood Park; Janice Carleton, city secretary, Hill Country Village; Beatrice Cervantez, TRMC, city secretary, Hondo; John Danner, assistant city attorney, San Antonio; Celia DeLeon, city secretary, Olmos Park; Marie Feutz, city secretary, Leon Valley; Linda Gill, city secretary, Castroville; Barbara M. Haddock, TRMC, city secretary, Hollywood Park; Rita Hoya, Castroville; Tiffany Littlepage, city secretary, Bulverde; Barbara L. Martinez, Pleasanton; Sandra Rodríguez, deputy city secretary, Hondo; Judy Tokar, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; Melinda L. Uriegas, assistant to the city clerk, San Antonio; Cindy Urrabazo, city secretary, Pleasanton; Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; and Mary Ybarra, deputy city secretary, Schertz.

President Vacek introduced guest speaker John Danner, assistant city attorney, San Antonio, and he presented several proposed bills introduced by the legislature related to municipal elections and he spoke about the possible impact of each bill. Discussion was held specifically on House Bill 1525 and Senate Bill 694. After the presentation, questions and answers were exchanged. After due consideration, it was agreed that each municipality would send out individual letters in opposition to several specific bills.

Under other business, President Vacek distributed information to the membership on upcoming TMCCP seminars. Application forms were distributed for Municipal Clerk of the Year. Barbara M. Haddock, TRMC, city secretary, Hollywood Park, was selected as the chapter's nominee. Ms. Vacek informed the members that A.I. (Penny) Hieronymous, city secretary, Converse, had resigned as treasurer. A new treasurer will be elected at the next meeting in May. It was announced at the meeting that annual chapter renewal dues were owed and the notices were disseminated.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting of the Alamo Chapter was adjourned. ★

Alamo Chapter clerks at their meeting in March.



# CHAPTER NEWS



*At left:* Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge, administers the oath of office to Bluebonnet Chapter President Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin; Treasurer Virginia Dill, city secretary, Cisco; Vice President Karen Lou Graham, city secretary, Anson; and Secretary Renee Scott, assistant city secretary, Abilene. (Not pictured: Historian Nancy Turnbow, city secretary, Baird.)

*Below:* Karen Lou Graham, city secretary, Anson, received the Bluebonnet Chapter's scholarship for 2006 at their chapter meeting held in Anson on March 14.

## BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

By Nancy Turnbow

The Bluebonnet Chapter met at the 66 Sirloin in Anson on March 14. President Rhonda Williams presided over the meeting. Karen Lou Graham, city secretary, Anson, welcomed those in attendance and introduced Anson City Manager Dowell Matthews.

Those present for the meeting were: Cindi Alldredge, city secretary, Roby; Virginia Dill, city secretary, Cisco; Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin; Karen Lou Graham, city secretary, Anson; Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Pat Martindale, city secretary, Bronte; Jaime McCright, city secretary, Stamford; Billie Pearce, city secretary, Tuscola; Renee Scott, assistant city secretary, Abilene; Kay Torres, city

secretary, Robert Lee; Louetta Wallace, city secretary, Haskell; and Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin.

There was a roundtable discussion for the upcoming May 12 general election. President Williams opened the floor for discussion. Linda Knight, TRMC, briefed the chapter on different manuals and resources for elections. Linda stated that the Texas Municipal League website was a great resource to review the house and senate bills that are being filed and suggested that attendance at the August 2007 TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar would be beneficial in order to receive all of the information on the new bills that will be passed in 2007. ★





# CHAPTER NEWS



*Above:* "All eyes on Sherry Mashburn, President, Capital Chapter" at the head of the table, with welcoming remarks.

*Below:* Capital Chapter members at the March 2007 meeting.



## CAPITAL CHAPTER

By Toni Milam, TRMC

The Capital Chapter held their quarterly meeting March 28 in the host City of Austin, at the offices of Bickerstaff, Heath, Pollan & Caroom, L.L.P. Betty Brown, local government elections specialist, along with the firm, hosted the meeting.

Those in attendance were: Ginette Bejourney, Austin; Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff-Heath; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Christina Buckner, city secretary, Lago Vista; Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, Hutto; Debbie Cody, staff assistant, College Station; Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron; Linda Hambrick, city secretary, Jonestown; Rose Sickel, deputy city secretary, Liberty Hill; Connie Hooks, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Mary Lamoreaux, City of Austin; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave; Toni Milam, TRMC, executive assistant, Buda; Edward Robinson, administrative specialist, Austin; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville; Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; Linda Winn, city secretary, Lakeway; and Jennifer Zufelt, city secretary, Volente.

Claudia Russell, an elections specialist with Bickerstaff, Heath, Pollan, and Caroom, gave an update on the 80th Legislative Session. Of the 6,000 bills filed to date, close to 2,000 could have a direct impact on cities. Some of the topics of these bills include disclosures and reporting, eminent domain, zoning and annexations, appraisals and revenue caps. Most notable to clerks and city secretaries are the bills regarding elections.

Chapter members serving on the membership committee, the Salado Conference committee, and the clerk of the year committee gave reports.

The cities of Wimberley and Point Venture joined the chapter and we welcome them!

The Capital Chapter also met on April 25 in the host city of College Station. Thanks to Connie Hooks, city secretary; Vonn Casares, assistant city secretary; and Debbie Cody, staff assistant, for hosting our meeting and serving up a great lunch and program.

Those in attendance were: Cynthia Bowman (formerly Archibeque), assistant to city secretary, Bryan; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Jodi Chaney, Bryan; Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, Hutto; Debbie Cody, staff assistant, College Station; Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron; Connie Hooks, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Denise Melde, city secretary, Thorndale; Toni Milam, TRMC, executive assistant, Buda; Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville; Teresa Val-



# CHAPTER NEWS

Becky Nugent, City of College Station Communications Director, presented a video of "The Interview," and gave the chapter tips on interviewing with the media.



dez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; Ruby White, TRMC, Luling (retired); and guest Glenda White.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ben White greeted the guests and presented Chapter Vice President Teresa Valdez with a very nice proclamation, proclaiming the week of April 25 through May 5, 2007, as Municipal Clerk's Week.

Becky Nugent, communications director, College Station, presented a video of *The Interview* and gave the chapter members tips on interviewing with the media. The chapter also toured the media room where the council meetings are televised in College Station.

The membership committee reported that Carolyn Vallejo and Sherrie Mack from the City of Mustang Ridge joined the chapter. We welcome these members to the chapter.

The IIMC Conference is in New Orleans, May 22-26, 2007. Mary Lynne Stratta announced the Louisiana Municipal League will be providing transportation to shuttle guests to and from the reception. The Texas reception will be held at the Jackson Brewery. A huge thanks to the City of Bryan for providing disposable cameras for the reception. The swearing-in ceremony will take place on Saturday at lunch with a banquet dinner for Saturday evening May 26.

The chapter will meet again in Salado. The dates for the Salado Conference are July 27-28. Make your reservations now. Registration forms will be sent out soon. Our lineup of guest speakers is going to be awesome this year! TMCA President Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls; Sharon K. Cassler, clerk of council, Cambridge, Ohio; James Fisher, city administrator, Bee Cave; Scott Houston, Texas Municipal League; and TMCA Past President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, will be our guest speakers. If you need more information regarding the Salado Conference, contact Teresa Valdez, TRMC, City of Bastrop, by calling 512-321-4520, or Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, City of Bee Cave, by calling 512-767-6440. Every other year the Capital Chapter along with the Central Texas Chapter host this very informative seminar. Oh yeah—and we have fun, too!

The Capital Chapter's remaining 2007 meeting schedule is as follows: September in Bastrop and December in Bee Cave. For further information regarding the Capital Chapter, please contact President Sherry Mashburn at 512-767-6440, or Secretary Toni Milam at 512-312-0084. ★



Above: The Capital Chapter at their April 25 meeting.

Below: Mayor Pro-Tem Ben White (center), City of College Station, presenting Capital Chapter Vice President Teresa Valdez with a very nice proclamation proclaiming the week of April 25 through May 5, 2007, as Municipal Clerk's week.



# CHAPTER NEWS



Top right photo: Central Texas Chapter members at their meeting in April.



Right photo: John Hendrickson, General Manager of Waco Transit Systems, Inc.

## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

By Donna Hawkins

The Central Texas Chapter held their quarterly meeting at the City of Robinson's Council Chambers on April 11.

Chapter members present were: Trish Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Connie Foreman, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Treasurer Lee Garcia, finance director, Hewitt; Kendra Giles, administrative assistant, Robinson; Historian Audra Good, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bellmead; Betty Harrell, city secretary, Hillsboro; Secretary Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills; Acting President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; Patti Paschall, city secretary, McGregor;

Cresandra Polk, Waco; Tanya Ramer, city administrator/secretary, Meridian; Karen Sanchez, Robinson; Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia; and Linda Vranich, city secretary, Robinson.

A fantastic luncheon was served, and John Hendrickson, General Manager of Waco Transit Systems, Inc., gave a presentation on leadership.

Central Texas Chapter members appointed Betty Harrell, city secretary, Hillsboro, to fill the unexpired term of president which was left vacant by Carolyn Martin, TRMC, former city

secretary of Mexia. Ms. Martin had accepted the position of City Manager for Mexia. Linda Vranich reported on the legislative updates which contained many important bills concerning cities. Trish Ervin, TRMC, presented reports concerning the TML Board and TMCA. She informed the group of the three \$500.00 scholarships available from Municipal Code Corporation Innovations (MCCI) for records management and also encouraged the membership to apply for TMCA scholarships and travel stipends.

The next chapter meeting will be held in Hillsboro on June 13. ★

## TMCCP Certificates Earned

The following enrollees 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

- Zanea Carpenter**, Muleshoe
- Lori Carroll**, Boerne
- Tracy Freimarck**, Windcrest
- Amy Harris**, Cameron
- Susan House**, Mesquite
- Sandy McCoy**, Highland Village
- Cynthia Olguin**, Italy
- Vickie Schmid**, Lavon
- Chip Stanley**, Weatherford
- Christi Wynn**, Brownwood

### COURSE 2

- Staci McGinty**, Huntsville
- Cynthia Olguin**, Italy

### COURSE 3

- Meredith Brant**, Seabrook
- Debbie Cody**, College Station

### COURSE 4

- Zanea Carpenter**, Muleshoe



# CHAPTER NEWS

## COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

By Patsy Gibson

The Coastal Bend Municipal Clerks held their quarterly meeting at the Los Cucos Restaurant in Palacios. The meeting was hosted by City Secretary Patsy Gibson with thirteen members in attendance.

Ms. Nanette Pfeister, government information analyst, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Records Management Assistance, was our very informative speaker. Prior to the meeting, Nanette conducted a half-day seminar on the Local Government Records Act and records management principles. Attendance was excellent, with eleven city secretaries and thirteen city and county employees from the surrounding area. During the meeting the chapter adopted a fund raiser called "Happy Bucks" to help fund their newly adopted scholarship program for the Coastal Bend Chapter's city clerks, secretaries and deputies.

Members present were: Esther Arzola, city secretary, Port Aransas; Pat Brown, assistant city secretary, Rockport; President Patsy Gibson, city secretary, Palacios; Pam Hatzenbuehler, deputy city secretary, Port Aransas; Secretary Rene Marshall, city clerk, Alice; Ada Owens, TRMC, city secretary, Aransas Pass; Vice President Irma Parker, city secretary, Rockport; Kathy Railsback, city secretary, Fulton; Treasurer Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Bonnie Taylor, city secretary, Lakeside; Billie Jo Tennill, city secretary, Odem; Larry Thompson, Jr., city secretary, Ganado; and Betty Wood, city secretary, Sinton.

Applications are now being taken for clerk of the year nomination. ★



*Above and below:* The Coastal Bend Chapter at their meeting in Palacios.



deadline to apply for the

## 2007 TMCA Major Scholarships

is June 15!

[click here!](#)




## Don't forget the 2007 TMCA Membership Contest

win a paid registration fee to a TMCCP seminar!

[learn more here](#)

**August 31 deadline!**





# CHAPTER NEWS

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

By Aimee Nemer, TRMC

In February, the Lone Star Chapter met in the City of Howe with Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland, as our speaker on the topic of elections. There was also a special presentation by President Nemer to the 2007 TMCCP graduates and those who recertified.

In March, the chapter met in the City of Ladonia and conducted our first “Roundtable” discussion covering many topics including office policies and procedures.

On April 4, the Lone Star Chapter met in Lavon with the following present: Linda Aaron, Farmersville; Barbara Alavarado, Howe; Linda Ardis, Lavon; Dorothy Brooks, Rockwall; Peggy Burnside, administrative director, TMCCP/TMCA; Beverly Covington, TRMC, McKinney; Bruce Dunn, Saint Paul; Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, Wylie; Sandy Hart, TRMC, McKinney; Jennie Hill, Blueridge; Holly Harmon, McKinney; Nina Jones, Denison; Carole Kuykendall, Greenville; Carolyn Lawhorn, McLendon Chisholm; Julie Lollar, TRMC, Denison; Aimee Nemer, Murphy; Debbie

Newell, Greenville; Cathy Pugh, Tom Bean; Vickie Shaw Davis, TRMC, Ladonia; Carrie Smith, TRMC, Parker; Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, Lowry Crossing; Gayle Walton, Wylie; Christie Wilson, TRMC, The Colony; and Kathy Wingo, TRMC, Lucas.

Our speaker at the April meeting was Peggy Burnside, administrative director, TMCCP/TMCA, Inc. Ms. Burnside spoke about the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program (TMCCP).

Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Lowry Crossing, the chapter’s first scholarship recipient, presented the 2007 Lone Star Chapter Scholarships to Bruce Dunn, city secretary, Saint Paul, and Vickie Shaw Davis, city secretary, Ladonia. Each recipient received \$500.00 to be used for education and travel expenses for the TMCCP. The chapter will not meet in May due to elections, but our next meeting will be June 6, hosted by the City of Lowry Crossing. ★



*At the April Lone Star Chapter meeting: 2007 Lone Star Chapter Scholarship recipients Bruce Dunn (left), city secretary, Saint Paul, and Vickie Shaw Davis, TRMC, city secretary, Ladonia, pictured with 2006 Lone Star Scholarship recipient Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Lowry Crossing, who presented the awards.*

### **Vickie Shaw Davis**

*Fellow TMCA member Vickie Shaw Davis, TRMC, city secretary, Ladonia, passed away in May 2007.*

I met Vickie while I was in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, through a mutual friend of ours, Patty Hachtel—now Patty Rushing—who was the assistant city secretary in Bowie. The three of us, along with Mitzi Wallace, the city secretary of Bowie, became “seminar buddies” during the program, and would always seek each other out during the seminars to sit together. I’ve sat with Vickie many times across the table at lunches or during the seminars. We shared frustration with the course homework and anxiety over each test. Vickie always had a smile on her face, and you knew it wasn’t a surface smile. It was the kind of smile that lit up a room with the light in her eyes. She always had a kind word to say—even before and after those tests. I always remembered Vickie’s name associated with the City of Ladonia even though I had no idea at the time where Ladonia was—and now even though I’ve been there, I’m still not sure where it is. But I do know that anyone who has been there probably knew Vickie, and they would remember her smile like I do. After we started the Lone Star Chapter, I was excited to discover Ladonia was in our region and I would be in touch with a familiar face again.

For those of you who attended our March meeting, you will remember the outstanding hospitality that Vickie showed us with the perfect homemade barbecue spread and all the trimmings that she and her husband made. I have a feeling that is how Vickie did everything in life. Vickie will truly be missed by this chapter and I’m sure by everyone she touched.

—Aimee Nemer, TRMC

# CHAPTER NEWS



Becky Null, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Euless, was the winner of the door prize presented by speaker Karen Wright at the April NTMCA meeting.

## NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION, INC., CHAPTER

By Susie Quinn, TRMC

The North Texas Municipal Clerks met March 14 and April 11. In March, we met in Irving and had 22 members present for a great customer service program presented by David Reed of Customer Centered Consulting Group, Inc., of Frisco. He offered sound tips and suggestions for all of us to use.

In April, NTMCA met in Fort Worth and 18 members listened to a presentation by Karen Wright of Dublin. Ms. Wright brought a fabulous door prize consisting of a pail filled with Dublin Dr. Pepper, a copy of Ms. Wright's book, and other special trinkets. Becky Null, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Euless, won the coveted prize. Ms. Wright discussed the importance of preserving our historic past and not tearing down and rebuilding for the sake of "progress." Many examples were discussed such as the historic stockyards in Fort Worth, the efforts to preserve the underground school built during the cold war in Lake Worth, and several others.

NTMCA does not meet in May, as we try to encourage our NTMCA members to attend the IIMC Annual Conference, which this year was held in New Orleans. Several NTMCA members attended and we had a wonderful time. One highlight of the IIMC Conference was the great reception for Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, held at the Riverview Room in Historic Jackson Brewery Millhouse.



### Clockwise, from bottom left:

Attendees at the April meeting. From left to right: Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; Nelda Mays, TRMC, city secretary, Saginaw; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; and Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, administrative services manager, Carrollton.

Guest speaker Karen Wright of Dublin at the April meeting.

Guest speaker David Reed of Customer Centered Consulting Group, Inc., Frisco, at the March meeting.

Attendees at the March meeting. From left to right: Vicki Collins, city secretary, Mansfield; Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne; Ivy Peterson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Cleburne; Brenda Staab Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## PANHANDLE CHAPTER

by Suzanne Finch, TRMC

The Panhandle Chapter met February 15 at the Amarillo Club with nine members present for the bimonthly meeting. The program was a retirement luncheon for Phyllis Jeffers, city secretary, Pampa.

The next meeting was held April 19 at the Amarillo Club with twelve members in attendance. Connie McKiernan, city secretary, Panhandle, presided over the meeting. This meeting was attended by Secretary Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford; Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary,

Spearman; Historian Janice Henson, TRMC, city secretary, Perryton; Terri Johnson, TRMC, city manager/city secretary, Friona; Mary Sue Lyles, city secretary, Groom; Kayla McLennan, city secretary, Gruver; Gretchen Mercer, HR director, Canyon; Treasurer Carolee Nance, city secretary, Fritch; Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas; Phyllis Jeffers, Pampa (retired); and Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis.

The group met to discuss ideas and suggestions for a “welcome reception” and door prizes for the TMCCP

seminar to be held in Amarillo on June 7-8. In other business, the group appointed Gretchen Mercer, HR director, Canyon, to fill the unexpired term of Phyllis Jeffers as Chapter Vice President, and selected a nominee from the Panhandle Chapter for our Municipal Clerk of the Year nomination to be completed and submitted by the June 15 deadline.

The chapter is scheduled to meet again June 21 and August 16 at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo. ★

## PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

by Terre Noble, TRMC

The Pineywoods Chapter held their quarterly meeting on March 18 at Center City Hall. The meeting was hosted by President Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center, and Hope West, administrative assistant, Center. Members present were: Secretary/Treasurer Tina Cavazos, city secretary, Diboll; Stacy Corley, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches; Vice President Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil; Cinda Garner, city secretary, San

Augustine; Betsy Gregson, city secretary, Huntington; Laure Ladner, city secretary/office manager, Hemphill; and Jeaneyse Mosby, administrative assistant, San Augustine.

New officers elected for 2007-2009 were: President Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil; Vice President Cinda Garner, city secretary, San Augustine; and Secretary/Treasurer Stacy Corley, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches. ★



The Pineywoods Chapter at their March meeting in the City of Center.



# CHAPTER NEWS



*Left:* Hadassah Schloss, cost rules administrator, Open Records Division, Attorney General's Office, completes her presentation at the chapter's sixth annual Public Information Seminar.

*Right:* Mayor Wayne Riddle and City Secretary Sandra Watkins, TRMC, of Deer Park, welcome attendees to the sixth annual Public Information Seminar.



City of Friendswood's City Secretary Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, and Deputy City Secretary Melinda Welsh are serenaded by a mariachi band at the Salt Grass Chapter's annual banquet.

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

By Michele L. Glaser, TRMC

The chapter held its sixth annual Public Information Seminar on March 21 in Deer Park. This is an all-day seminar that covers the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act. This was our most successful event ever, as more than 90 attended to listen to Hadassah Schloss from the Attorney General's office; Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood; and Janice Poppenhusen, Missouri City police records supervisor. Proceeds from this event go towards the chapter's Deloris McKenzie Scholarship Fund.

Our end-of-the-year annual banquet was also a great success. This event is held to honor our mayors, council members, and city managers; to install our new officers; to honor the Salt Grass Clerk of the Year; and to honor the winner of the Deloris McKenzie Scholarship. Banquet Committee members Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary/director of finance, Bunker Hill Village; Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; and Melinda Welsh, deputy city secretary, Friendswood, planned a wonderful event with a fiesta theme. Mariachis serenaded the diners. Before dinner, members and guests were invited to try their luck at "casino games." Winnings were in the form of tickets that could be placed in boxes with many chances to win lovely prizes and gift certificates to restaurants and stores.



We were honored to have TMCA President Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls, and Alex, her husband, as our special guests for this event. Lydia installed the new 2007/08 Salt Grass officers, who are: President Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Bunker Hill Village; Vice President Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; Secretary Lisa Stavena, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; Treasurer Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy; and Historian Terry Dennis-Williams, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Galveston.

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, is the 2007 winner of the Deloris McKenzie Scholarship.

Jenny Redden, TRMC, city secretary, Morgan's Point, was honored as the Salt Grass Chapter Clerk of the Year. Jenny served as the Salt Grass Chapter President in 2005/06 and is a worthy recipient of this honor, following a long line of distinguished Salt Grass Clerks of the Year.

The banquet concludes our year. The chapter will next meet on August 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Steak & Ale Restaurant on SH 45 near Almeda Mall. We welcome new members at any time. Anyone interested in joining the chapter should contact Yolanda Benitez at [ybenitez@bunkerhill.net](mailto:ybenitez@bunkerhill.net) or any of the other officers. ★

The 2007/08 Salt Grass Officers were installed at the annual banquet. From right to left: Historian Terry Dennis-Williams, senior assistant city secretary, Galveston; Treasurer Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy; Secretary Lisa Stavena, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; and President Yolanda C. Benitez, TRMC, city secretary/director of finance, Bunker Hill Village. (Not pictured: Vice President Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place.)

# CHAPTER NEWS

## SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

By Maria Hatchett, TRMC

The South Plains Chapter met on March 21 at the Lubbock Club in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Susie Williamson, city secretary, Shallowater. President Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown, welcomed members and guests.

Susie Williamson introduced Judge T.J. McAuley. Judge McAuley spoke to us with respect to “Having a Bad Day” and ways to manage it.

Toni Wilson expressed condolences to Susie Williamson for the loss of her father and also informed the chapter members that Janice Henson, TRMC, city secretary, Perryton, had recently experienced the loss of her mother. Debbie Gressett, TRMC, city secretary, Seminole, made a request to keep the Quisenberry family of Seminole in our prayers due to family members undergoing cancer treatments.



Susie Williamson, city secretary, Shallowater, introduces The Honorable Judge T.J. McAuley, the chapter’s speaker at the March meeting.

A consensus of the members present was to offer notary public training in September 2007. A motion was made by LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, and seconded by Brenda Shaw, TRMC, to conduct a training seminar; the motion carried.

The following members were appointed to a committee for chapter training: LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Susie Williamson, city secretary, Shallowater; Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown.

Gloria Espinosa, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls, volunteered to chair the chapter’s municipal clerk of the year committee, with the following members agreeing to help: Chris Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/manager, Morton; and Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton.

Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada, distributed the 2007-2008 chapter directories. Members requested a “thank you” card be sent to Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., Lubbock, in appreciation of his service for the preparation of the new directories.

The next meeting was set for June 20. Jeannie Rogers, city secretary, Tulia, will host.

Members in attendance at the March meeting were: Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Gayla Cowan, city secretary, Amherst; Gloria Espinosa, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Debbie Gressett, TRMC, city secretary, Seminole; Linda Hart, Lubbock; Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa; Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton; Sharon Kerby, Slaton; Vickie Kelley, city secretary, Earth; Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada; Jeannie Rogers, Tulia; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/manager, Morton; Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Chris Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland; Wilma Williams, city secretary, Denver City; Susie Williamson, city secretary, Shallowater; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown. ★

# TMCA, INC., CHAPTERS



**ALAMO CHAPTER**  
 Leticia Vacek, TRMC, President  
 PO Box 839966, San Antonio, TX 78283-3966  
 210-207-7253; 210-207-7032 Fax  
[lvacek@sanantonio.gov](mailto:lvacek@sanantonio.gov)



**COASTAL BEND CHAPTER**  
 Patsy Gibson, President  
 PO Box 845, Palacios, TX 77465-0845  
 361-972-3605; 361-972-6555 Fax  
[pgibson@cityofpalacios.org](mailto:pgibson@cityofpalacios.org)



**NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOC. CHAPTER**  
 Susie Quinn, TRMC, President  
 PO Box 99, Rowlett, TX 75030-0099  
 972-412-6109; 972-412-6118 Fax  
[squinn@ci.rowlett.tx.us](mailto:squinn@ci.rowlett.tx.us)



**RED RIVER CHAPTER**  
 Patricia "Trish" Holley, TRMC, President  
 501 Sheppard Rd, Burkburnett, TX 76354  
 940-569-2263; 940-569-4192 Fax  
[tholley@burkburnett.org](mailto:tholley@burkburnett.org)



**BLUEBONNET CHAPTER**  
 Rhonda Williams, President  
 213 E Blackjack St, Dublin, TX 76446-2303  
 254-445-3331; 254-445-3727 Fax  
[dublintx@earthlink.net](mailto:dublintx@earthlink.net)



**HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER**  
 K. Vivian Saiz, President  
 730 Main St, Junction, TX 76849  
 325-446-2622; 325-446-3003 Fax  
[vivian.saiz@cityofjunction.com](mailto:vivian.saiz@cityofjunction.com)



**NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER**  
 Donna Sickel, President  
 PO Box 400, Carthage, TX 75633-0400  
 903-693-3868, ext. 15; 903-693-3882 Fax  
[dsickel@lycos.com](mailto:dsickel@lycos.com)



**SALT GRASS CHAPTER**  
 Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, President  
 3800 University Blvd, West University Place, TX 77024; 713-662-5813; 713-662-5305 Fax  
[kayh@westu.org](mailto:kayh@westu.org)



**CAPITAL CHAPTER**  
 Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, President  
 13333-A Hwy 71 W, Bee Cave, TX 78738  
 512-767-6641, ext. 13; 512-263-8317 Fax  
[smashburn@beecavetexas.com](mailto:smashburn@beecavetexas.com)



**LONE STAR CHAPTER**  
 Aimee Nemer, TRMC, President  
 206 N Murphy Rd, Murphy, TX 75094  
 972-468-4011; 972-468-4012 Fax  
[anemer@murphytx.org](mailto:anemer@murphytx.org)



**PANHANDLE CHAPTER**  
 Connie McKiernan, President  
 PO Box 129, Panhandle, TX 79068  
 806-537-3517; 806-537-5049 Fax  
[cmkpanhandle@cableone.net](mailto:cmkpanhandle@cableone.net)



**SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER**  
 Toni Wilson, TRMC, President  
 PO Box 600, Sundown, TX 79372-0600  
 806-229-3131; 806-229-2161 Fax  
[toni@sundowntx.com](mailto:toni@sundowntx.com)



**CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER**  
 Betty Harrell, President  
 PO Box 568, Hillsboro, TX 76645-0568  
 254-582-3271; 254-582-0112 Fax  
[bharrell@hillsborotx.org](mailto:bharrell@hillsborotx.org)



**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER**  
 Estela Von Hatten, President  
 PO Box 911, Brownsville, TX 78522-0911  
 956-548-6001; 956-546-2130 Fax  
[estelavh@cob.us](mailto:estelavh@cob.us)



**PINEYWOODS CHAPTER**  
 Carrie Edwards, President  
 PO Box 144, Colmesneil, TX 75938-0144  
 409-837-5211; 409-837-2502 Fax  
[cityofcolmesneil@valornet.com](mailto:cityofcolmesneil@valornet.com)



**WEST TEXAS CHAPTER**  
 Laura Barragan, TRMC, President  
 PO Box 517, Van Horn, TX 79855-0517  
 432-283-2050; 432-283-2839 Fax  
[tvh-lb@telstar1.com](mailto:tvh-lb@telstar1.com)