



# TMCA NEWS

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## President's Message

Where has the time gone? We are already halfway through 2009, and there are still lots of challenging things to do! How time flies!

### *Our Code of Ethics*

Are you familiar with the TMCA Code of Ethics? Do you have it readily available? Have you actually taken the time to read your Code of Ethics?

The TMCA Code of Ethics begins:

**Recognizing our responsibilities to the people, desiring to inspire public confidence and respect for government, and believing that honesty, integrity, loyalty and courtesy form the bases of ethical conduct... which will govern the personal professional conduct as a municipal clerk.**



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TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The principles and standards outlined in the Code of Ethics help us to remember our role in municipal government. I personally have a framed copy hanging in my office that I refer to from time to time, just to be reminded and assured that the affairs of my office shall be performed in a manner that is above reproach, and merit public confidence in our community. Our Code of Ethics is printed in the sidebar at right. If you don't already have a copy, feel free to download the PDF of the **Code of Ethics**.

## Legislative Updates

This is a legislative year. Our legislators are in session reviewing bills and making decisions on senate and house bills that could impact so many of us.

Although TMCA cannot lobby on issues, I encourage you to take the following steps: first, review the bills.

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Vol. XX, No. 2, June 2009. **Co-Editors:** Alexandra Burke; Peggy Burnside, TRMC; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC; Joyce Snay, TRMC.

Submission deadline for publication in **September** issue: **July 27**. Send articles to: [alexandra.burke@unt.edu](mailto:alexandra.burke@unt.edu)

# TMCA Code of Ethics

*Recognizing their responsibilities to the people, desiring to inspire public confidence and respect for government, and believing that honesty, integrity, loyalty and courtesy form the basis of ethical conduct, members of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., do hereby subscribe to the following principles and ethics which will govern the personal and professional conduct as a municipal clerk:*

*To uphold constitutional government and the laws of my community;*

*To conduct my public and private life as to be an example to fellow citizens and co-workers;*

*To never disclose confidential information gained by reason of my position nor use such information for personal gain;*

*To be ever mindful of my neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all and to extend the same treatment I wish to receive myself;*

*To impart to my profession those standards of quality and integrity that the conduct of the affairs of my office shall be above reproach and to merit public confidence in our community;*

*To record that which is true and preserve that which is entrusted to me as if it were my own; and*

*To strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of my office through independent study, courses, meetings and seminars, and through sound management practices to produce continued progress and so fulfill my responsibilities to my community.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TML distributes a Legislative Update that describes each bill, and the bills can also be accessed online at [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us). Second, if there is a bill that you feel strongly for or against, you can express your comments to the respective TML staff and your local representative. TML speaks and represents cities during this legislative time. You may also email the designated legislative committee members that will be responsible for recommending bills for approval/disapproval.

On **August 20-21** attorney and *Texas Municipal Law and Procedure* author Alan Bojorquez will provide information and explain legislative updates at the TMCCP seminar in **Irving**. You do not want to miss the updates. Make plans to attend! [[coverage on page 5](#)]

### *Our Past President Takes the International Stage*

Serving as your state president is a definite honor. However, serving as the president of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks



TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, representing Texas at the Parade of Flags at the May IIMC Conference in Chicago. See more IIMC Conference coverage on [page 9](#).

(IIMC) is an even greater honor. Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, was sworn in as the president of IIMC on May 23. [[coverage on page 9](#)] Witnessing this event made me proud to be a Texan. She shared this prestigious honor with her colleagues, family, and municipal clerks from across the nation by her side in Chicago at the IIMC Annual Conference. Congratulations, Mary Lynne. You know you can count on us!

### *IIMC Region IV Meeting in Texas*

On December 3-5, 2009, Texas will host the IIMC Region IV meeting in San Marcos. The Region IV states include Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Additional information about this meeting will be provided. Be sure to save the dates!

### *TMCCP Educational Opportunity This Month*

The City of Waco and the TMCA Central Texas Chapter are elated to host the TMCCP **Municipal Finance Seminar** June 18-19. I hope those of you planning to attend will learn a great deal, have an op-

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

portunity to shop and dine, and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere. Special thanks to the Central Texas Chapter for their contributions!

### *In Closing*

Our state is fortunate in its leadership and stability. Many of our small Texas cities are experiencing an increase in economic growth and development. Not only are we maintaining a stable economy, the Texas housing market continues to hold its own. The Texas foreclosure rates are drastically low compared to other states in our nation. This is all evidence that Texas leadership and collaborative partnerships are the backbone of our success. Partnering with surrounding sister cities and entities that want to see continued success will sustain us, and help us all overcome these hard economic times! I applaud you and your city for your creative thinking and determination!

As your state president, I stand available to assist you at any time!

*Trish*

Patricia Ervin, TRMC  
2009 TMCA President



*Above:* Seminar attendees in a small group work session

*Now Online:*

*Photos from the TMCCP April seminar in McAllen!*

*Below:* Seminar attendees took part in speaker David Reed's teambuilding exercises



## TMCCP SEMINAR

# Legislative Update

*Featuring New Legislative Bills Relating to Municipalities from the 81st Texas Legislature*

*August 20-21, 2009, Irving, Texas • Early Registration Deadline: August 5*



Alan J. Bojorquez will serve as the moderator for the **Texas Legislative Update Seminar** presented by the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Alan is the co-founder and owner of **Bojorquez Law Firm, PLLC**, which primarily represents municipalities.

Alan has served as a TMCCP speaker for previous Legislative Update Seminars and the annual 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 can receive Course 2 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. Make your room reservation at the **Sheraton Grand Hotel** now—ask for a room in the Texas Municipal Clerks Seminar room block: **972-929-8400**.

VOLUNTEER: 2010 TMCA COMMITTEES

# YOU are Needed By OUR Professional Organization

By TMCA President Elect Pamela Schmidt, TRMC



Wow! Half the year has already passed and it's time to begin preparations for a fantastic 2010. The way to make 2010 the best year it can be is for YOU to express your dedication to our organization and profession by volunteering to share your knowledge and skills for the betterment of Texas clerks throughout the state.

Each year it is the President Elect's responsibility to make appointments to fill the positions on the following 11 TMCA, Inc., committees for the next year: **Nominating Committee, Scholarship Committee, Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, Certification Committee, Local Government Records Committee, Resolutions Committee, Retirement Committee, TML Booth Committee, Membership Committee, Technology Committee, and Audit Committee.**

Service in this capacity is a terrific way to get to know your colleagues and learn more about our organization. Let me underscore that most of the committees deliberate by phone, fax or email, so don't let lack of funding for traveling to a committee meeting deter you from submitting a form. If you have questions about the various committees, please feel free to contact me at 972-744-4290 or the executive staff at 940-565-3488.

It is the goal of TMCA, Inc., to have representation from every chapter in the state on these committees. I encourage you to **read the TMCA Committee Criteria Policy**, which includes a short description about the responsibilities for each committee, and then **complete and submit the Committee Interest Questionnaire**. Please list your preferred areas of service and be assured that I will do all that I can to place you as requested. The questionnaire must be submitted no later than **September 1, 2009**, to Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Richardson, PO Box 830309, Richardson, Texas 75083-0309, or via email to [pamela.schmidt@cor.gov](mailto:pamela.schmidt@cor.gov) or fax to 972-744-5803.

I look forward to working *with* you and *for* you in 2010.

Yours in Service,

*Pam*

download the

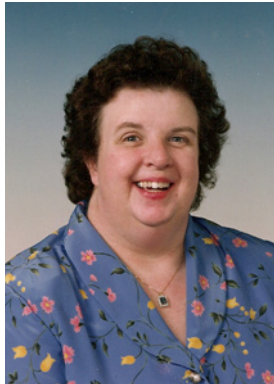
**COMMITTEE INTEREST  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Deadline:**

**September 1, 2009**

# Recognition of 2009 Retirees

By TMCA Retirement Committee Chair Michele L. Glaser, TRMC



The Retirement Committee is in the process of gathering information on retirees through each TMCA Chapter President and the TMCA office. Our wonderful retirees who have served as mentors throughout the years will be honored at the **Annual Graduate Institute Awards Banquet** this **October** in **San Antonio**. A **2009 Retiree Data Sheet** is available to download. If you know of a retiree, please have her or him complete the sheet and return it to any of the Retirement Committee members. We do not want to miss anyone! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks for your assistance in honoring our retirees. Retirement is a reward that we all look forward to some day. The Retirement Committee would like to make it special for this year's retirees.

Download the **TMCA 2009 Retiree Data Sheet**.

*Your 2009 Retirement Committee members are:*

Chair **Michele L. Glaser, TRMC**  
City of Seabrook  
281-291-5663 phone  
979-532-0181 fax  
**mglaser@ci.seabrook.tx.us**

**Toni Milam, TRMC**  
City of Buda  
512-312-0084 phone  
512 312-1889 fax  
**TMilam@ci.buda.tx.us**

**Lisa Olmeda, TRMC**  
City of Wharton  
979-532-2491 phone  
281-291-5790 fax  
**lolmeda@cityofwharton.com**

# Enter Our Membership Contests

*Current TMCA members:  
Win a \$50 Visa gift card!*

#### CONTEST INFORMATION FOR CURRENT TMCA MEMBERS:

If a current TMCA member submits the name of a **newly hired municipal clerk/city secretary** to the TMCA Membership Committee Chair, the current member's name will be entered into a contest to be awarded in December 2009! If the new clerk subsequently **joins TMCA**, the current member's name will be entered again!

To be eligible for this contest, the name (and current contact information) of the new clerk must be provided to: **Membership Committee Chair Jennifer Canady**, [jcanady@woodway-texas.com](mailto:jcanady@woodway-texas.com).

Only the first person who submits the name of the new clerk will be entered into the drawing; however, if a member provides several names during the year, their name will be entered for each name provided.



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Dreamstime.com

# Help Our Membership Grow

*New TMCA members:  
Win a TMCA seminar registration fee!*

#### CONTEST INFORMATION FOR NEW TMCA MEMBERS:

If the name of a newly hired municipal clerk/city secretary is submitted to TMCA Membership Committee Chair **Jennifer Canady**, and the new clerk joins TMCA, the new clerk's name will be entered into a contest to be awarded in December 2009!

To be eligible for this contest, the new member's name must have been referred by a current TMCA member.

#### CONTACT:

*Membership Committee Chair Jennifer Canady, TRMC  
[jcanady@woodway-texas.com](mailto:jcanady@woodway-texas.com)*

#### DEADLINE & DATE OF DRAWING:

*December 31, 2009*





# IIMC 2009 Conference

*2005 TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, was sworn in as the 2009-2010 President of IIMC during the IIMC 63rd Annual Conference in Chicago this May. Congratulations, Mary Lynne!*

*TMCA presented a check to IIMC's Municipal Clerk Education Foundation in the amount of \$2800 in honor of Mary Lynne Stratta's presidency.*



Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC  
2009-10 IIMC President

*For those of you who were able to attend the annual conference in Chicago, you enjoyed a wonderful experience with outstanding educational sessions, networking opportunities and a beautiful venue in which to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances. I want to again thank the Illinois clerks, our host clerk and the IIMC staff for your hard work. Chicago was an outstanding conference and we thank you for the labor of love that made it possible.*

*The following are comments I shared at the annual business meeting at the Chicago conference:*

Two years ago, IIMC Executive Director Chris Shalby met with Past President Reese and me and asked us both to commit to a two-year strategic planning process for IIMC. We agreed, and the Board began the process last year at the annual conference in Atlanta. That process will culminate at the annual conference in Reno next year with the adoption of IIMC's first true membership-driven long-range



1993-94 IIMC President Norma Rodriguez, TRMC (left), city clerk emeritus, San Antonio, administers the oath of office to 2009-2010 IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC (right), city secretary, Bryan; Mary Lynne's husband, JJ Stratta, at center, looks on.

Photo courtesy of Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC

## IIMC 2009 CONFERENCE

strategic plan. This plan will incorporate our members' needs and suggestions that were borne from the membership survey that was conducted last fall. The plan, with our members' input, will serve as a roadmap for the future course of our organization and has long been needed. The strategic plan will address five key result areas as identified by the Board of Directors: Education, Membership, Communication Technology, Board Development, and Finance.

It is now time we turned our main focus to our mission of professionalism in local government through education.

With the approval of the Board of Directors, a committee focused solely on IIMC's main purpose – education – has been recreated. The new Education and Professional Development Committee will exist to ensure IIMC provides excellence in professional education and development programs by serving as the sounding board for the Education Department, work in conjunction with IIMC in suggesting programs and outreach areas of education for Clerks, be the advocate in our members' professional growth, and continually vision IIMC's overall educational philosophy from a global perspective.

We must and will complete the process of correcting remaining issues with certification procedures and guideline requirements to simplify application processes, and accurately reflect recognition for clerk education that is meaningful, achievable, affordable and of value to the clerk and the municipality they serve. We will truly partner with our institute directors and state/provincial education committees by recognizing that clerk duties vary across the spectrum of our diverse membership and respecting a decentralization of educational offerings that are relevant to the municipal clerks in that particular area. We will also continue our quest to expand our educational offerings that are beneficial to our international members.

This next year, with the Board's approval, the Conference Education and Conference Policy Committees have been combined to form a new Conference Committee that will address all issues relative to the annual conference. It is by far our largest venue of the year and we must insure that the educational/networking program offered at the conference is of the highest quality possible. Also, the Program Review and Certification Committee has been charged with reviewing the point structure for attendance at the annual conference so that we have consistency from year to year.

As I have had the opportunity to visit with our members throughout our various regions, I have heard



### MARY LYNNE STRATTA'S IIMC ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

*...As our city's municipal clerk, we cannot afford to stop learning. When you think of our city organizations, right at the center, the hub if you will, is the municipal clerk's office. There isn't anything that occurs within our municipal organizations that we are not a part of – we either record it, archive it, prepare it, post it, publish it, engross it, enroll it, report it, facilitate it, organize it, handle it, manage it, or lead it. We are the oil that keeps our city machine operating smoothly."*

[\[read more\]](#)

## IIMC 2009 CONFERENCE

repeatedly about the unique challenges facing our small city members. In response, we have appointed a Small Cities Task Force that has been charged with gathering data and relevant information from small city clerks in order to recommend programs and benefits that will make IIMC membership more meaningful and of value to these clerks and the small cities and villages they serve.

The Policy Review Committee will continue its comprehensive review of existing policies and recommend new policies needed to ensure that IIMC functions from a policy perspective in the most efficient, ethical manner possible. The Membership Committee will oversee a new “region of the month” initiative. Of course, the Program Review and Certification and Education and Professional Development Committees will be heavily engaged in recommending revisions to the education/certification guidelines as needed, following input from our members, state/provincial education committees and institute directors.

All of our committees will be very busy this next year with an aggressive agenda of goals and objectives. Our committees are the heart and soul of IIMC, and we thank all of our committee members for their dedication to IIMC.

I love IIMC. My hope and dream is that through these and other ongoing efforts, IIMC will continue to grow and flourish onward, upward and outward:



On behalf of the TMCA membership, TMCA President Patricia Ervin (right) presented IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta with a bouquet of yellow roses in an engraved crystal vase.

Onward, by adopting our first member-driven long-range strategic plan that will guide IIMC on a brighter course for excellence in its services to all of our members and our profession.

Upward, by continuing to raise the bar for clerk education through expanded educational offerings, diversification of education, additional distance education opportunities and unique programs of relevance for our international members.

Outward, by continuing to grow our membership in all regions and expanded outreach in recognition of the first “I” in IIMC, and by IIMC’s continuing efforts to promote the municipal clerk profession globally.

I look forward to working with you, the membership, this next year as well as the Board of Directors, our committees and staff. We have an excellent staff, all of

whom are very dedicated to clerk education and certification. Thank you all for your hard work.

Together, we will see IIMC reach new heights of success – onward, upward and outward.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your 2009-2010 IIMC President.

*Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC  
IIMC President*

## *Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC, City of Bryan, Texas*

- City Secretary for City of Bryan, Texas, since 1990, with all traditional duties of the Municipal Clerk, including serving as Chief Election Official, Local Registrar, Records Management Officer, and Parliamentarian for the Bryan City Council
- Also serves as Director of Legislative Services for the City of Bryan, with responsibility for the Public Information Office, Municipal Court, City Marshals Office, Neighborhood/Youth Services, Council Services and City Hall Lobby Operations
- Twenty-seven years of experience in local government in clerk position

### *Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.*

- President, Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. (TMCA)-2005
- Past President, TMCA-2006
- President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Trustee - TMCA Executive Board - 2000-2004
- Texas Registered Municipal Clerk #270 - Graduate of Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
- Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year-2002
- Chaired and/or served on all TMCA Committees
- President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and Past President of the Capital Chapter of TMCA
- Chaired and/or served on all TMCA Capital Chapter Committees
- Municipal Clerk of the Year for TMCA Capital Chapter - 1993, 1997, 1999 and 2002
- Co-authored chapters in the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook* - Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Editions
- Instructor, Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program Annual Election Law Seminar and Open Government Seminar - 2000 to Present
- Presenter/Instructor, TMCA Chapters

### *IIMC*

- IIMC Master Municipal Clerk
- IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk
- IIMC Board of Directors, Region IV Director - May 2003 - May 2006
- IIMC Quill Award Winner-2003
- Chair, IIMC Education/Professional Growth Committee - 2001-2002 and 2002-2003
- Vice Chair and member of Education/Professional Growth Committee
- Member of IIMC Records Management Committee. Records Management

- Award Subcommittee and Records Management
- Technical Bulletin Subcommittee
- Member of IIMC Retired Clerks Task Force and Program Review/Certification Committee
- IIMC Annual Conference 2002 Education Chair and Core Committee Member
- Co-Chair, IIMC Joint Committee on Distance Education and Educational Initiatives
- IIMC Education Summit Participant; hosted 2003 Education Summit II
- IIMC Institute Director Award Criteria Review Committee
- Participant, IIMC Savannah Distance Learning Program
- Participant in IIMC's E-learning Pilot Project-2002
- Instructor/Presenter at IIMC Annual Conferences - 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006
- Convener, IIMC Annual Conferences
- Chair, IIMC Education Colloquium-2001 and 2002
- Attended last 12 IIMC Annual Conferences
- MCEF Contributor

### *Texas Municipal League*

- Texas Municipal League Board of Directors
- Presenter, Texas Municipal League Annual Leadership Institute and Open Government Seminar

### *National League of Cities*

- Panelist, National League of Cities Annual Congress of Cities
- Member, National League of Cities Annual Conference Planning and Evaluation Committees

### *Other Qualifications and Experience*

- Instructor, Texas Secretary of State Election Law Seminar for County Clerks and Elections Administrators
- Appointed by the Texas Supreme Court as Lay Member to the State Bar Grievance Committee
- Appointed by the Texas House of Representatives Interim Studies Committee as Chair of City/County Committee on HAVA Implementation
- Attended Blinn College. Blinn College Education Foundation Member. Texas A&M University; Community of Respect Training (interaction skills and cross cultural training to increase understanding and communication between U.S. and international citizens)

## IIMC 2009 CONFERENCE

There were approximately 30 attendees from Texas at the Annual IIMC Conference, which was held this year in Chicago, Illinois, on Tuesday, May 19 through Saturday, May 23. The educational program included four keynote addresses, including Captain Jim Lovell (“Apollo 13: A Successful Failure”), Monster.com’s Jeffery Taylor, and “Team of Rivals: Lincoln’s Leadership Style,” by the Second City Communications, as well as dozens of concurrent sessions. The all conference event was held at the Navy Pier, with special entertainment by actor Gary Sinise’s Lt. Dan Band. The opening reception was held at the Field Museum of Natural History. The annual business meeting was held Saturday morning—it was here that Mary Lynne Stratta took the oath of office to assume the presidency of IIMC. The chain of office was passed to her Saturday night at the annual banquet.



**Some Texas attendees of the IIMC Conference in Chicago.** *Seated, left to right:* Paula Paschal, town secretary, Flower Mound; Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood; Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls; Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; and Jenny Redden, TRMC, city secretary, Morgan’s Point.

*Standing, left to right:* Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster; Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Shirley Gentry, city clerk, Austin; Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Fate; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos; Connie Hooks, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; and Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano.

## IIMC 2009 CONFERENCE



Photo courtesy of Melissa Brunner, TRMC



Photo courtesy of Janett Conner, Village Clerk, Village of Beecher, Illinois



*Top left:* Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia, and Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath, in front of the Chicago skyline.

*Above center:* At the All Conference Event. Actor and musician Gary Sinise with IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta's nine-month-old grandson, Preston.

*Top right:* At the Annual Business Meeting. Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos; and Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia.



*Middle right:* At the Annual Business Meeting. Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; Paula Paschal, town secretary, Flower Mound; Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney; Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; and Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Fate.

*Lower right:* At the Annual Business Meeting. Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Norma Rodriguez, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio; Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster.



[View Joyce Snay's and Melissa Brunner's photos](#)



*Paula Paschal with her husband Sam at the 2008 Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce Mardi Gras Banquet. Paula was honored as the Citizen of the Year.*

**In 2008 the Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce awarded Flower Mound Town Secretary Paula Paschal its Citizen of the Year Award, in honor of her community leadership and her embodiment of the true sense of community spirit. [Read full coverage of the award banquet in the March 2009 *The Light & Truth*.]**

In her application for the IIMC Annual Conference Grant, Paula wrote the following article in which she demonstrates that partnerships and relationships are the keys to success.

---

*Paula has been a member of TMCA since 1988. She earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 1992 and recertified twice. Paula has served on several committees of the North Texas Chapter (NTMCA) of TMCA as well as all its offices, including president. Paula has been a co-author of the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook, a speaker at NTMCA seminars, and a TMCCP seminar convener. She was the 1997 NTMCA Clerk of the Year. Paula has served on several TMCA committees, has served as chair of the Certification Committee, and is a former TMCA trustee, treasurer, and secretary.*

## Partnerships— How Working Together Fosters Successes

By Paula J. Paschal

In 2005 there was an unfortunate financial incident at the Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) and for a period of time almost all communication between the Town of Flower Mound (“Town”) and the Chamber ceased. The Town withdrew almost all of the annual funding that was earmarked for the Chamber, because as we all know, that was taxpayer money. The relationship remained rocky, at best.

Fast forward to January 2007. After several weeks of meetings, representatives and attorneys from both entities came to the table and created a mutual funding and services agreement. The Town recognized that it was essential to the long-term fiscal health of Flower Mound to foster a diversified and regionally competitive economy. In addition, the Town and the Chamber shared a desire to promote a positive business and economic climate in the

## PARTNERSHIPS—HOW WORKING TOGETHER FOSTERS SUCCESSES

community, therefore providing prosperity for the Town's residents and businesses.

The funding and services agreement provided that the Town would provide \$50,000 in annual funding for the Chamber's 2007 and 2008 budget years. The annual commitment was divided between the Chamber's General Fund (\$30,000) and a special "Designated Fund" (\$20,000). The \$30,000 represented a \$10,000 Diamond Membership for the Town (including all benefits associated with that level), and \$20,000 was placed in the Chambers General account—to be used to promote the Chamber's general business and activities. The \$20,000 in Designated Funds was placed in a separate account for specific Town-related projects including, but not limited to, business development and retention programs, small business workshops, quarterly luncheons where new businesses were recognized, active participation in the "Shop Flower Mound" Program, partnering with the Town in a "signature" community event, supporting the Town's vision of "Community Unity" (for the promotion of not-for-profit opportunities), and supporting the Town in its efforts to create a Major Employers recognition luncheon. Additionally, the agreement stipulated that the Town would hold one voting position on the Chamber Board of Directors and one non-voting position on the Executive Committee. I was lucky enough to be selected by the Town Council and Chamber to hold the position on the Executive Board, and our Economic Development Director sits with me on the full Board. Success was realized in a rejuvenated, mutually-beneficial partnership.

In January 2008, a new two-year agreement was presented for the Chamber's 2009 and 2010 budgets. The major difference from the previous agreement was that the funding level was approved at \$40,000. The Designated Funds section was reduced by \$10,000 as the Town and Chamber agreed that the Town would actually sponsor, manage and control the signature event for 2009. The Chamber's role is to organize the Business Expo portion of the event and assist the Town with providing volunteers.

Flower Mound's population is about 64,000, and the Chamber boasts an incredible membership of 750 (and growing). Flower Mound has over 1,030 businesses, including 102 restaurants in which to greet, eat and meet! Additionally, there are many home-based businesses that join the Chamber. Since Flower Mound is just less than 50% developed, the potential for growth is incredible. We tell everyone to "Shop Flower Mound"—those sales tax dollars can really add up.

I thoroughly enjoy working with the Chamber toward mutual goals of attracting and retaining quality businesses in Flower Mound. The Mayor and members of the Town Council typically join me in attending monthly luncheons, ribbon cuttings, mixers, and new member orientations. It is such a reward to meet the owners of new businesses, welcome them to the Town, and offer a simple business card and phone number so they can call with any concerns. As per Chamber President Katy Taggart, "An improved relationship between the Chamber of Commerce and Town Council, Town Executive staff



## PARTNERSHIPS—HOW WORKING TOGETHER FOSTERS SUCCESSES

and the Town's economic development staff has been the cornerstone of the recent growth of the Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce."

Several Board members recently formed a new committee titled Leaders Encouraging Active Participation (LEAP). We want to offer every opportunity to the members to get involved, make more contacts, grow their businesses, and share their successes with others. With the present economy we want to ensure that the Chamber and Town are there for support during the good times, and the not so good times.

Partnerships and relationships are the keys to success for most community entities. And for the Town and Chamber, the success is presented in the form of a unified supportive front to our businesses and residents. Contact your Chamber today and make successes happen in your community.

For additional information, please contact Paula Paschal at 972-874-6076 or [Paula.Paschal@flowermound.com](mailto:Paula.Paschal@flowermound.com). ★

*The Light and Truth's coverage of Paula Paschal's 2008 Citizen of the Year Award (PDF)*



# Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative Mary Kayser, TRMC



Mary Kayser, TRMC

The TML Board of Directors met Friday, March 27, at the Texas Municipal Center in Austin.

The majority of the meeting was spent on legislative updates. TML Executive Director Frank Sturzl and staff members briefed the board on numerous bills and trends that are important to municipalities. TML is spending the bulk of its time fighting bad bills. They have read all the bills that impact cities and are marshalling their resources to the bills that will have the most impact on cities, positive or nega-

tive. They frequently testify before committees and work with legislators to try to defeat bad legislation or to mitigate the damage to cities. Some of the bills they are following are listed below.

This session there are several property tax/tax cap bills proposed at the time of the board meeting; many had not had a hearing.

HB 2268 is of concern since it would put severe restrictions on lobbying by municipalities and participation by municipalities in an association such



"Austin Skyline" by flickr user [Andreanna](#).

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## TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE REPORT



"Austin Capitol Building" by flickr user [The Brit\\_2](#).

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as TML that lobbies. Both of these activities would be prohibited by this bill. This bill is currently in committee. If passed it would severely limit cities' voices in Austin.

There are several collective bargaining bills (HB 2678, HB 3434, HB 4123) proposed that anticipate the passage of the federal collective bargaining legislation. TML is recommending that cities wait to see what passes at the federal level and then proceed with statewide legislation.

The statewide smoking ban (SB 544) is supported by many cities since it will level the playing field for restaurants and cities. This bill has been left pending in committee.

There is a lot going on in Austin. We can help our cities by keeping our fingers on the pulse of the action in two ways: 1) to follow bills that are important to you and your city go to Texas Legislature Online ([www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us)) and use their tracking tools; 2) TML often puts notes on the bill summaries in the legislative update noting that certain individuals should closely read a certain bill; forward that information to the appropriate individual in your city. If you need information on any bill, you can contact TML or email me at [mkayser@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:mkayser@ci.garland.tx.us).

On an exciting note, TML made a \$25,000 contribution to the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund. The donation was made in recognition of city firefighters throughout our state whose professionalism is exemplified by the Austin Fire Department's quick and effective response that prevented the total destruction of this state landmark so that it can be restored.

The next meeting will be June 18-19 in El Paso. ★

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Yolanda Benitez, TRMC**  
*City Secretary/Director of Finance, Hondo*

The Alamo Chapter held its second bi-monthly meeting of the year at the Pico De Gallo Restaurant in San Antonio.

President Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, administered the oath of office to Treasurer Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights.

After the approval of the minutes and the treasurer's report, Treasurer Reyna introduced guest speaker Norma Rodriguez, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio.

Ms. Rodriguez was warmly welcomed by the membership. She presented a motivational speech regarding the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and the Municipal Clerks Education Foundation. Ms. Rodriguez strongly recommended that the membership be as involved as possible and that they seek the scholarships available through these programs. President Benitez presented Ms. Rodriguez with a gift bag containing City of Hondo memorabilia.

President Benitez opened the discussion regarding the establishment of an Alamo Chapter Scholarship Fund in



*“The membership unanimously approved the Alamo Chapter Scholarship Fund in honor of Norma Rodriguez.”*

## ALAMO CHAPTER

honor of Norma Rodriguez. Recommendation was made by Leticia Vacek for the establishment of a scholarship committee and guidelines, and Ms. Vacek volunteered to assist in the process. The membership unanimously approved the Alamo Chapter Scholarship Fund in honor of Norma Rodriguez.

President Benitez appointed the following to the Bylaws Review Committee: Chair Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; Saundra Passailaigue, city clerk, Shavano Park; Leticia Saenz, deputy city clerk, San Antonio; and Peggy Cimics, city secretary/HR, Cibolo.

The membership approved the nomination of Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio, to represent the Alamo Chapter for the TMCA Clerk of the Year award.

President Benitez announced that the TMCCP Graduate Institute will take place in San Antonio on October 8-9 and asked for recommendations to host an activity. Mary Ybarra volunteered to chair a committee to plan a welcome reception, silent auction, and other activities.

Leticia Vacek, TRMC, volunteered to host the May 22 chapter meeting in San Antonio and conduct a tour of San Antonio's records facility. ★



*Congratulations to Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio, Alamo Chapter TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee!*

The following members were present at the March meeting:

Janice Alamia, assistant city secretary/HR, Hollywood Park

Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary/dir. of finance, Hondo

Janice Carleton, bookkeeper/court clerk, Hill Country Village

Peggy Cimics, city secretary/HR, Cibolo

Celia DeLeon, Olmos Park

Sheila Edmondson, Cibolo

Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights

Debby Goza, city secretary, Live Oak

Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville

Saundra Passailaigue, city clerk, Shavano Park

Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights

Leticia Saenz, deputy city clerk, San Antonio

Judie Surratt, deputy city secretary/HR manager, Alamo Heights

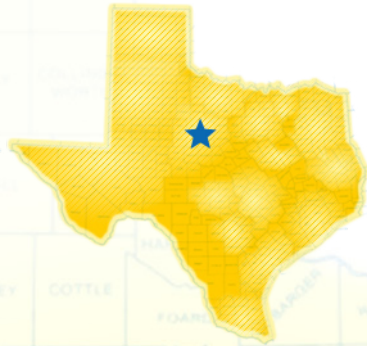
Sandra Torres, deputy city secretary, Hondo

Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio

Mary Ybarra, deputy city secretary, Schertz

Guests present included: Manuel Longoria, city manager, Shavano Park, and Guest Speaker Norma Rodriguez, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Bluebonnet Chapter

By **Nancy Turnbow**  
*City Secretary, Baird*

The Bluebonnet Chapter met at the Stephenville City Hall Meeting Room on March 11. President Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland, presided over the meeting. Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville, introduced the city administrator and staff members.

Lunch was served following the invocation.

President Stuart introduced the meeting's guest speaker, TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. President Ervin talked about her duties as president, and how honored she is to serve as president of TMCA and to visit each chapter. She also discussed the different scholarships that are available through TMCA, talked about the TMCA/TMCCP website, and encouraged chapter members to reach out to their neighboring cities. President Ervin also announced that the City of Lott is looking for a city secretary. ★

Those present at the March meeting included:

Virginia Dill, city secretary, Cisco

Troy Emery, city secretary, Ranger

Karen Lou Graham, city secretary, Anson

Linda Knight, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Breckenridge

Diane Latham,  
 assistant city secretary, Breckenridge

Pat Martindale, city secretary, Bronte

Alicia Ramirez, city clerk, San Angelo

Cindy Stafford,  
 city secretary, Stephenville

Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland

Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee

Susan Trotter, city secretary, Stamford

Nancy Turnbow, city secretary, Baird

Louetta Wallace, city secretary, Haskell

Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin

Christi Wynn, TRMC,  
 deputy city secretary, Brownwood

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Capital Chapter

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

Chapter President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop, presided over the March 11 meeting held at the Villa Antonio in Jonestown. The lunch was hosted by Jonestown City Secretary Linda Hambrick.

Honorary Chapter Member Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath, LLP, notified the members of important legislative issues that will impact the conduct of local elections.

The Capital Chapter voted to contribute \$500.00 to a scholarship that is being created by the City of Bryan in honor of Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, who was installed as our IIMC President in Chicago in May. Chapter President Valdez also encouraged members visit the Texas Municipal Clerks Association website and apply for the valuable scholarships available.



“The Capital Chapter voted to contribute \$500.00 to a scholarship that is being created by the City of Bryan in honor of Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC.”

## CAPITAL CHAPTER

**The Capital and Central Texas Chapters will host their annual Salado Seminar event on July 24-25 at the Stagecoach Inn in Salado.** Keynote speakers include: Scott Houston, director of legal services, TML; Kathy Moore of Moore Inspire; and TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. A City Secretary Round Table will also be conducted. The seminar will conclude with an entertaining silent auction that you won't want to miss. Watch for "save-the-date" and registration information on the TMCA Yahoo Group as well as the TMCA website. ★



Capital Chapter President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop, presides over the March 11 meeting held in Jonestown.

Chapter members present at the March meeting:

Rachel Austin, deputy city clerk, Liberty Hill	Chapter Historian Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron
Susan Brock, city clerk, Taylor	Dyanne Hester, Cedar Park
Betty Brown, TRMC, local gov./election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath LLP	Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave
Chapter Vice President Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia	Tanya McNutt, deputy city secretary, College Station
Chance Chatham, city secretary/court clerk, Point Venture	Barbara McCoy, Jonestown
Chapter Secretary Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, Hutto	Lisa Oltmann, city secretary, LaGrange
Kathy Clark, city secretary/administrator, Liberty Hill	Brenda Page, city secretary, Smithville
Cindy Crosby, Bickerstaff Heath	LeAnn Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Cedar Park
Christa Deamer, deputy city secretary, Pflugerville	Janet Rogers, city secretary, West Lake Hills
Marilyn DeVere, Staples	Lucy Taylor, College Station
Christy Fath, TRMC, city secretary, Lakeway	Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville
Shirley Garvel, city secretary, Elgin	Shelli Turner, city secretary, Rockdale
Vanessa Gobel, Volente	Chapter President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop
Diane Green, Jonestown	Sara White, city secretary, Round Rock
Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander	Michelle Whorton, asst. city secretary/asst. court clerk, Point Venture
Linda Hambrick, city secretary, Jonestown	Jennifer Zufelt, city secretary, Volente



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Central Texas Chapter

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

The Central Texas Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting on February 18 in the City of Hewitt. Hewitt City Secretary Lydia Lopez, TRMC, provided the lunch.

Mr. Aldamn Miles, assistant city manager, Hewitt, was the guest, and he shared information and concerns of the City of Hewitt.

The chapter held a roundtable discussion concerning 2009 elections. TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, made a presentation concerning her new job as TMCA president and encouraged all members to serve on a committee. Her goal is to increase membership and the number of graduates from the Certification Program. She also encouraged mentoring to nearby cities.

The Central Texas Chapter held their next bi-monthly meeting on April 15 in the City of

Central Texas Chapter members present at the February meeting:

Jennifer Canady, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Woodway

Esmeralda Cuate-Hudson,  
 assistant city secretary, Waco

Patricia Ervin, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Waco

Secretary Donna Hawkins,  
 city secretary, Beverly Hills

Brenda Jackson,  
 city secretary, Groesbeck

Dorothy Jackson, city secretary, Hubbard

President Lydia Lopez, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Hewitt

Vice President Yrene Morgan, TRMC,  
 administrative assistant, Teague

Beth Nemeth,  
 city secretary, Blooming Grove

Christi Shivers, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Mexia

Roshuna Wiley,  
 deputy city secretary, Mexia

## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Groesbeck at the Hawkins House Bed and Breakfast. Groesbeck City Secretary Brenda Jackson provided a wonderful lunch.

Martha Stanton, TRMC, city administrator, Groesbeck, spoke about her past experiences as a new city secretary, and the process of moving into her present position. She appreciated and encouraged the training for city secretaries and all city employees. ★

Chapter members present at the April meeting:

Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway

Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco

Betty Harrell, city secretary (retired), Hillsboro

Secretary Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills

Brenda Jackson, city secretary, Groesbeck

Dorothy Jackson, city secretary, Hubbard

President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt

Sherrill McDaniel, customer service representative, Waco

Vice President Yrene Morgan, TRMC, administrative assistant, Teague

Cresandra Polk, Waco

Kendra Pursche, administrative assistant, Robinson

Karen Warren, city secretary, Hillsboro

## 2009 TMCCP SEMINAR CALENDAR

**1:30-4:30 p.m., June 17, Waco**

### **TEXAS NOTARY LAW & PROCEDURES SESSION**

Speaker:

Dixie Lucey, State Notary Commission

*No TMCCP seminar credit is offered for this session.*

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

**June 18-19, Waco**

### **MUNICIPAL DEBT CREATION & ADMINISTRATION SEMINAR**

Speakers: Specialized Public Finance, Inc.

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 3 or 4 seminar credit*

**August 20-21, Irving**

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SEMINAR**

Speaker: Alan Bojorquez

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 2 seminar credit*

**October 8-9, San Antonio**

### **GRADUATE INSTITUTE SEMINAR**

Speaker: Judy King

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 1 seminar credit*

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Coastal Bend Chapter

By **Irma Parker, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Rockport*

The City of Rockport hosted the March 27 meeting of the Coastal Bend Chapter at the Paradise Key Island Grill on Key Allegro Island. Hosts for the quarterly meeting were Rockport City Secretary Irma Parker, TRMC; Administrative Assistant Pat Brown; and Records Clerk Carolyn Cauley.

A short business meeting was held and members were appointed to the various standing committees. Committee presentations/reports are scheduled for our next quarterly meeting on Friday, June 26. Committee Chairpersons appointed were: Nominating – Esther Arzola; Scholarship – Pam Hatzenbuehler; Finance – Kathy Railsback; and Membership – Becky Miska. Members are asked to contact committee chairpersons to volunteer!

In other news, the chapter selected City of Victoria City Secretary Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, as our Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee. Scarlet has served as city secretary since 2001. As with all city secretaries who wear so many hats, Scarlet also serves as the Local Registrar for Victoria County. So in addition to being selected to represent our chapter, Scarlet also received the 5 Star Exemplary Award. This honor was bestowed on only



*Congratulations to Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria, Coastal Bend Chapter TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee!*

## COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

18 of the local registrars in the state of Texas in 2009. WAY TO GO, SCARLET! We are very proud of your many accomplishments.

Yoakum City Clerk Theresa Bowe, TRMC, will host the Friday, June 26 chapter meeting. We've been waiting for some time to visit Theresa and the City of Yoakum! This is going to be a great meeting. Details regarding the June meeting will be sent to members via the chapter's newsletter. And while talking about Theresa, we can't forget about Edna Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville. Congratulations to both of you for receiving your TRMC Certification at the TMCCP graduation ceremony in January.

Mark your calendar for August 13. This is the date scheduled for installation of officers, and the place to be is Port Aransas. The meeting will be hosted by Port Aransas City Secretary Esther Arzola and Deputy City Secretary Pam Hatzenbuehler, with special guest TMCA President Patricia "Trish" Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. Details will follow! Hope to see everyone in Yoakum and Port Aransas. ★

Members in attendance at the March meeting were:

Esther Arzola, city secretary, Port Aransas

Margaret Bowman, Fulton Convention Center Coordinator

Pat Brown, administrative assistant, Rockport

Carolyn Cauley, records clerk, Rockport

Pam Hatzenbuehler, deputy city secretary, Port Aransas

Edna Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville

Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport

Kathy Railsback, city secretary, Fulton

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Hill Country Chapter

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

The Hill Country Chapter meets every other month in Fredericksburg. Meetings begin at 11:00 with a short business meeting, followed by lunch and lots of networking! The chapter has been active since 1979 and currently has 20 members. Anyone interested in joining the Hill Country Chapter may contact President Vivian Saiz at [vivian.saiz@cityofjunction.com](mailto:vivian.saiz@cityofjunction.com) or Secretary Shelley Britton at [sbritton@fbgtx.org](mailto:sbritton@fbgtx.org).

Our June meeting will be held at The Cabernet Grill, 2805 Hwy 16 S, Fredericksburg. We will be honored with a visit from TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. ★

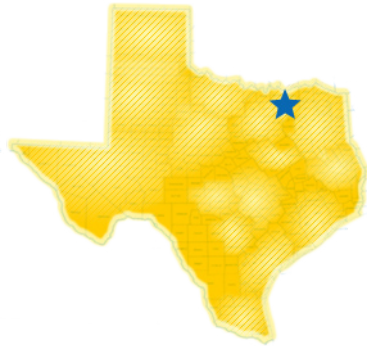


### The Hill Country Chapter.

*Seated:* **Vivian Saiz**, city secretary, Junction; **Karen Kiehne**; **Pat Dildine**, city secretary, Johnson City.

*Standing:* **Vickie Montez**, assistant city secretary, Mason; **Maria Alvarado**, city secretary, Donna; **Shelley Britton**, city secretary, Fredericksburg; **Bobbie Mowery**, city secretary, Blanco; and **Kelly Dix**, city secretary, Burnet.

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Lone Star Chapter

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

At its monthly meeting, the Lone Star Chapter met in the City of Celina on April 1. Mayor Lewis of the City of Celina welcomed members of the Lone Star Chapter to the city.

The meeting consisted of a skit performed by members of the chapter. The skit was entitled “Council Meeting Gone Wrong!” Feedback after the skit referenced TMCA’s *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*, Chapter 11, “Council Meeting Procedures and Parliamentary Procedures,” to determine the correct procedures that should have been used during the mock council meeting.

Participants of the mock skit meeting were: Carole Ehrlich as “Mock Mayor”; Julie Lollar, Bruce Dunn, and Angela Kelly were “Mock Council Members”; Kathy Lucas was the “Mock City Secretary”; and Stephanie Calame, Linda Ardis, and Gayle Walton were “Mock Concerned Vocal Citizens.”

Members in attendance at the April meeting:

Linda Ardis, TRMC, city secretary, Lavon  
 Stephanie Calame, records mgmt. admin., Wylie  
 Bruce Dunn, town secretary, St. Paul  
 Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie  
 Vickie Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina  
 Holly Harmon, records & info. coord., McKinney  
 Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney  
 Angela Kelly, deputy city secretary, The Colony  
 Carole Kuykendall, asst. city secretary, Greenville  
 Julie Lollar, TRMC, city secretary, Denison  
 Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy  
 Debbie Newell, city secretary, Greenville  
 Carrie Smith, city secretary, Parker  
 Alice Snyder, assistant city secretary, Plano  
 Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Fate  
 Lincoln Thompson, dep. city secretary, McKinney  
 Gayle Walton, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Wylie  
 Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secy, The Colony  
 Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas  
 Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano

Special guests were Mayor Jim Lewis, City of Celina; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Joy Hart, administrative assistant, Sachse; and Estella Barrera, senior administrative assistant, Frisco.

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

The Lone Star Chapter started 2009 on a roll and the momentum is steadily growing. We are excited about our newest members: Lisa Stewart, city secretary, Southmayd; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; and Lincoln Thompson, deputy city secretary, McKinney. In addition to these new members, the Lone Star Chapter acknowledges member cities with new faces in 2008 and thus far in 2009:

*City of Frisco – Jenny Page, TRMC, City Secretary*

*City of McKinney – Lincoln Thompson, Deputy City Secretary*

*City of Lowry Crossing – Janis Cable, Interim City Secretary*

*City of Fate – Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, City Secretary*

*City of Forney – Dorothy Brooks, TRMC, City Secretary*

Lone Star Members that have recently completed and earned course certificates in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program:

*Courses 1 and 2 - Sherrie Phelps, City of Ladonia*

*Course 4 – Christel Pettinos, City of Coppell*

*Courses 1, 2, 3 and 4 – Holly Harmon, City of McKinney*

The next meeting of the Lone Star Chapter will be held on June 3 in the City of Tom Bean. Mary Kayser, TRMC,



The Lone Star Chapter members at the April meeting in the City of Celina.

city secretary, Garland, will be the guest speaker and will speak on the topic of networking—“Weaving Our Strands of Knowledge and Building our Bridges of Empowerment.” Several awards will also be given at the June 3 meeting: the 2009 Lone Star Chapter Clerk of the Year Award, 2009 Lone Star Chapter Scholarships, and Honor/Award to retired members.

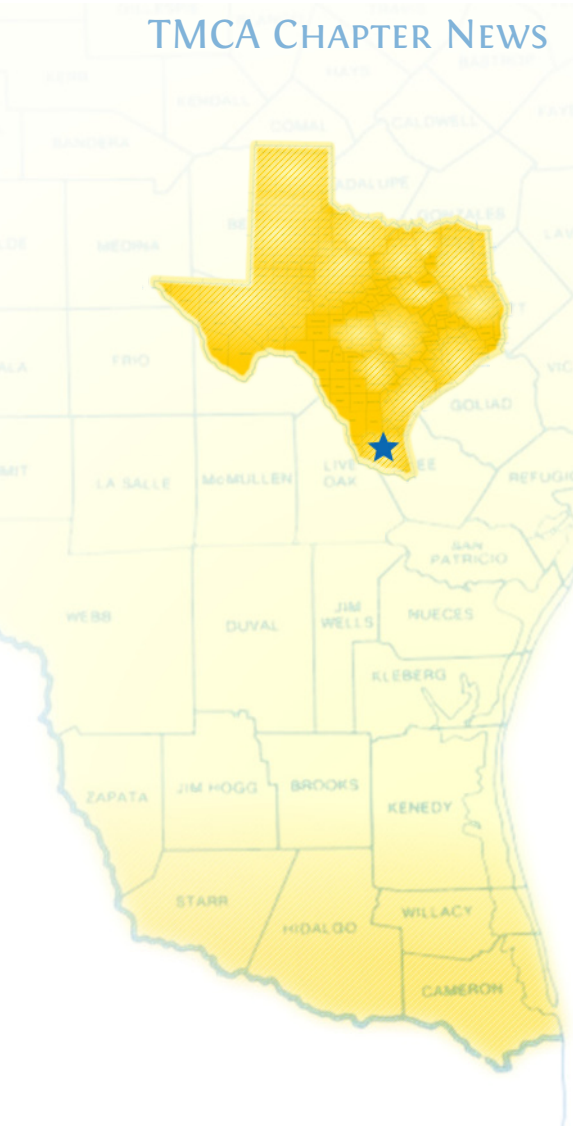
To request more information about the TMCA Lone Star Chapter or to request a New Member Packet, please contact Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas, at 972-727-8999. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Vice President **Perla Zamora, TRMC**  
*Deputy City Secretary, McAllen*

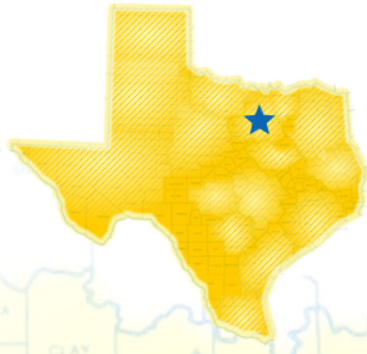
The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter met in March 25 at Victoria Palms in the City of Donna. The chapter hosted a luncheon for Ms. Aida V. Montoya, who resigned from the City of Pharr as City Secretary. She was recognized for her leadership during her tenure to the City of Pharr and as a member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter of TMCA. ★



The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter at their meeting in March in the City of Donna.



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## North Texas Chapter

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

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) Chapter had their professional business meeting in April with Barb Craft as their guest speaker. Barb Craft, owner of Craft Training Center, spoke and gave useful tips to the attendees regarding public speaking.

The next professional meeting is scheduled for June 10. The guest speaker is TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. This meeting will also be NTMCA's annual awards and recognition meeting. ★

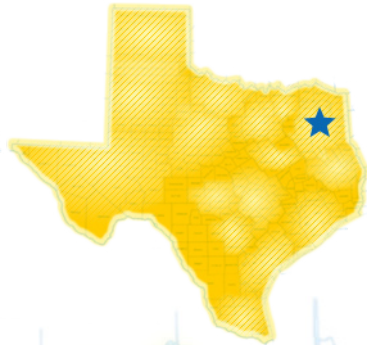


**North Texas Chapter members at their April 8 meeting in Irving.**

*Front row, left to right:* Kathy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Kennedale; speaker Barb Craft; Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne; and Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth.

*Back row, left to right:* Kim Barnes, TRMC, city secretary, Roanoke; Ivy Peterson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Cleburne; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative assistant, TMCA/TMCCP; Pam Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; Laura Bell, deputy city secretary, Carrollton; Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; and Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Melba Haralson, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Gladewater*

The Northeast Texas Chapter met in Tyler on March 20 with fourteen members in attendance. We were very pleased to welcome our new TMCA President and 2008 Municipal Clerk of the Year Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. Trish encouraged our chapter to recruit new members and spoke about the many benefits of TMCA, including the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and available scholarships.



The Northeast Texas Chapter at their March meeting in Tyler.

## NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

A Northeast Texas Chapter Scholarship Fund was established and a criterion was adopted to assist clerks in the certification or recertification program.

A nomination was made for the 2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

The next meeting will be held June 26 in Gilmer; contact Chapter President **Melba Haralson** for details. ★



TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, addresses the Northeast Texas Chapter at their March meeting in Tyler.

## 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

Vickie Brenton, Winnsboro  
Larry Thompson, Ganado

### Course 2

Peggy Cimics, Cibolo  
Lisa Hernandez, Fair Oaks Ranch  
Cara McPartland, Wimberley  
Kerry Meredith, Texarkana  
Daniela Place, Watauga  
Mary Ybarra, Schertz

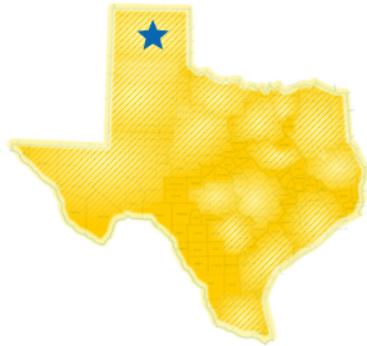
### Course 3

Melissa O'Sullivan, Corsicana

### Course 4

Peggy Cimics, Cibolo  
Stephanie Hunt, Corsicana  
Sherrie Phelps, Ladonia  
Mary Ybarra, Schertz

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



# Panhandle Chapter

By **Kim Rehkopf**  
*City Secretary, Dumas*

The Panhandle Chapter met April 16 for their bimonthly meeting in Amarillo at the Amarillo Club; six members were present. Chapter President Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford, presided over the meeting.

The program was presented by Kirk Cunningham, territory sales manager, and Jon Phillips, regional sales manager, Tyler Technologies, Lubbock. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Phillips presented a Power-Point presentation concerning the current trends in the marketplace and new information concerning INCODE. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Phillips also presented door prizes.

The Panhandle Chapter is scheduled to meet again June 25 in Amarillo at the Amarillo Club. After a brief business meeting, the Panhandle Chapter will honor Chapter Treasurer Carolee Nance, city secretary, Fritch. Ms. Nance will be retiring in July. ★

Members in attendance at the April meeting:

Leslie Bass,  
 assistant city secretary, Fritch

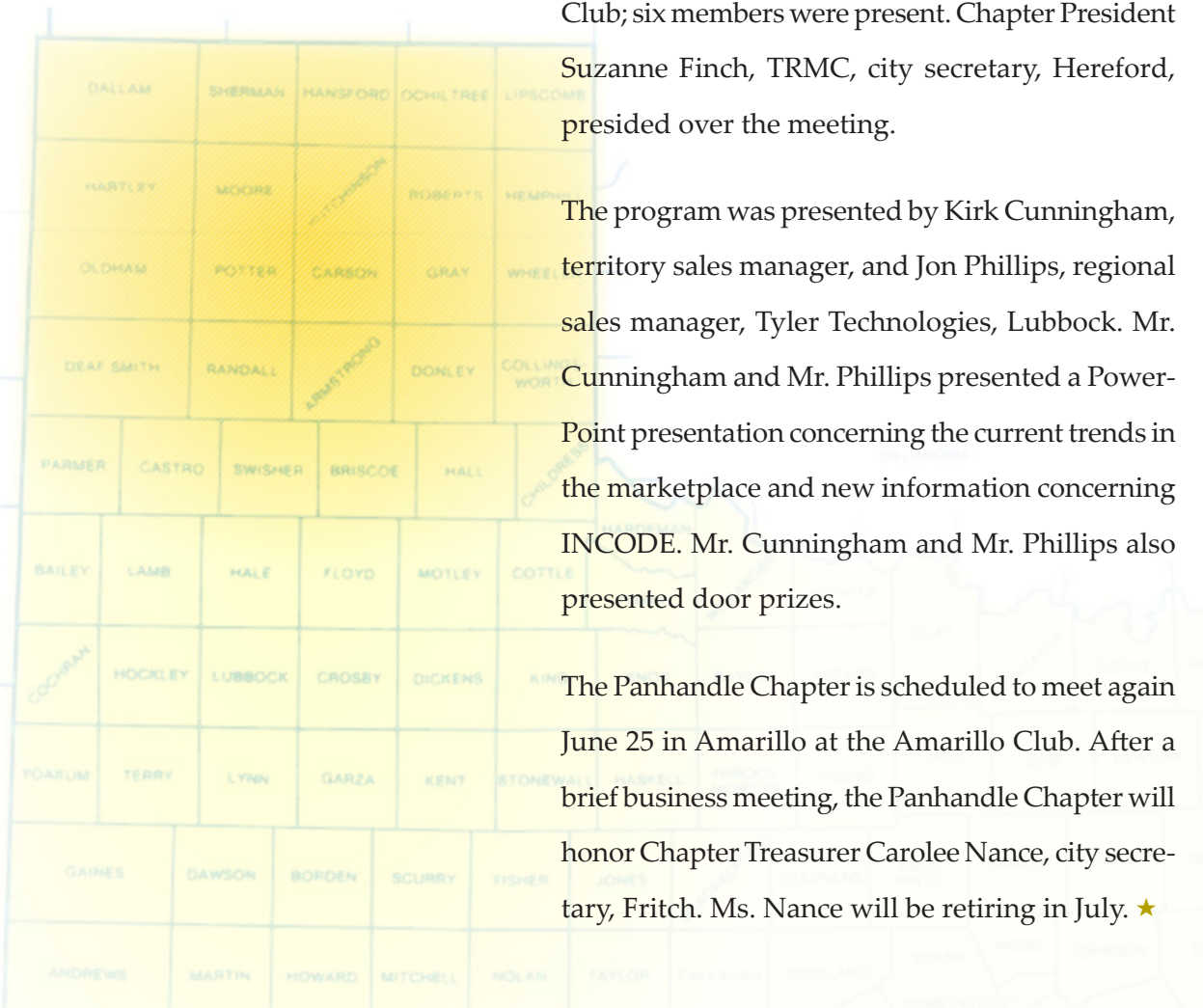
Kelly Daniel, deputy city secretary, Friona

Chapter President Suzanne Finch, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Herford

Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Spearman

Chapter Treasurer Carolee Nance,  
 city secretary, Fritch

Becca Wood, city secretary, Perryton



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



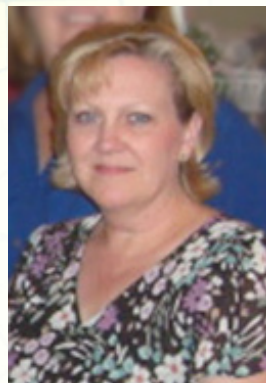
## Red River Chapter

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

The Red River Chapter met on March 18 at Applebee's in Wichita Falls. The group was excited to welcome new members Tammy Edwards, city secretary, Alvord, and Barbara Bowman, city secretary, Cashion, to our meeting, and introduced them to all the benefits that TMCA membership has to offer.

After enjoying a wonderful lunch, the group had a round table discussion of the upcoming general election. The Red River Chapter members then elected their clerk of the year nominee to be submitted for the state wide Clerk of the Year recognition. Red River elected Trish Holley, city clerk, Burkburnett, for the Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year. Trish has been a great leader and inspiration in our group for many years. Congratulations, Trish Holley!!

The next chapter meeting will be held June 17. For more information about the Red River Chapter, please contact President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, at 940-586-1313. ★



*Congratulations to  
 Trish Holley,  
 city secretary,  
 Burkburnett,  
 Red River Chapter  
 TMCA Municipal  
 Clerk of the Year  
 nominee!*

Members attending the March meeting:

Marie Balthrop, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Holliday

Barbara Bowman, city secretary, Cashion

Tammy Edwards, city secretary, Alvord

Trish Holley, city clerk, Burkburnett

Lydia Ozuna, TRMC,  
 city clerk, Wichita Falls

Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Thelma Lenz, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, West University Place*

### FEBRUARY

The Salt Grass Chapter held its monthly meeting on February 11 at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak House in Houston.

Chapter President Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton, called the meeting to order. The speaker for this lunch was Mr. David Olson, attorney with Olson & Olson, who presented information on the role and responsibilities of a Notary Public.

Business of the chapter included approval of the January 21, 2009, Minutes; Approval of the December 2008 Financial Report; finalizing the agenda and speakers for the Chapter's March Public Information Seminar in Deer Park; the Annual Banquet and banquet procedures; proposed Expenditure Policy; and upcoming seminars/events.

Members present at the March meeting:

Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy

Tracy Dutton, TRMC, city clerk, Bellaire

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Yomara Frias, administrative assistant, Missouri City

Maria Gonzalez, deputy city secretary, Missouri City

Carrie Gregg, assistant city secretary, Meadows Place

Pamela Guillory, PW administrative coordinator, Webster

Rose Hamidian, records manager, Webster

Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte

Claudia Harrison, city secretary, Brookshire

Elaine Herff, city secretary, Meadows Place

Phyllis Sockwell, city secretary, Mont Belvieu

Jennifer LeBlanc, court clerk, Morgan's Point

Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place

Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

Stacey Pilkinton, city secretary, Taylor Lake Village

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

Crystal Scott, deputy city secretary, Webster

Kori Schweinle, assistant to city secretary, Mont Belvieu

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park

Sheila Williams, TRMC, city secretary, Brazoria

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

### MARCH

The Salt Grass Chapter held its annual Public Information Act seminar on March 11 at the Courts & Theater Building in Deer Park. The training sessions consisted of:

*Responding to Public Information Requests; Public Information Act: Confidential Records, Police Department Records, Exceptions; and Drafting a Briefing to the Attorney General for a Ruling, by Martha T. Williams, Attorney at Law, Olson & Olson, L.L.P.*

*State Regulations and Charges Concerning Open Records Requests by Hadassah Schloss, Cost Rules Administrator, Open Records Section of the Office of Attorney General*

*Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission Licensing/Permitting by Jo Ann Joseph, Assistant Director of the Licensing Division*

After the seminar, the chapter held its monthly meeting in the Theater Building. President Olmeda called the meeting to order. Business conducted included approval of the February meeting minutes; approval of the January

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*Top right:* Salt Grass Chapter President Lisa Olmeda swears in Maria Gonzalez as the Chapter Historian.

*Right (from left to right):* Deputy City Secretary Crystal Scott, Records Manager Rose Hamidian, and City Secretary Pauline Small, TRMC, all of Webster, enjoy a nice breakfast before the chapter's Public Information Act Seminar begins.



## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

financial report; discussion of the annual banquet and holiday party; and the appointment of Maria Gonzalez, deputy city secretary, Missouri City, as chapter historian.

### APRIL

The Salt Grass Chapter held its final monthly meeting before its summer break on April 8 at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak House in Houston.

President Olmeda called the meeting to order. The program was presented by John Sheffield, Division Chief of Emergency Preparedness in the City of Missouri City. Mr. Sheffield discussed the importance of being prepared for emergencies, training plans, homeland security requirements, grant monies, and the continuity of operations planning. After the presentation, Mr. Sheffield had a question/answer session and the group shared stories and ideas of what they did during Hurricane Ike.

Business of the chapter included approval of the March 2009 minutes, approval of the financial report for February 2009, recommendations for the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year, appointment of a nominating committee, annual banquet and holiday party luncheon, and expenditures policy. The group also congratulated Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park, for receiving a scholarship to attend the IIMC conference in Chicago.

The chapter's next meeting will be in August 2009. ★

The following were present at the April meeting:

Susan Blevins, city secretary, Hilshire Village

Laura Bloss, benefit services, TML IEBP

Meredith Brant, TRMC,  
assistant to city secretary, Seabrook

Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy

Amanda Davenport, TRMC,  
city secretary, Piney Point Village

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook

Maria Gonzalez, deputy city secretary, Missouri City

Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte

Terri Johnson, TRMC,  
city administrator, Piney Point Village

Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University

Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

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

Crystal Scott, deputy city secretary, Webster

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Ann Vernon, city secretary, El Lago

Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park





## South Plains Chapter

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

The South Plains Chapter met on March 18 at the Prairie Ladies Cultural Center, in Crosbyton. The meeting was hosted by the Crosbyton City Secretary Jodie House.

President LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, called the meeting to order.

President LeAnn Gallman introduced Sarah Lambert, a 15-year-old Girl Scout working on her Gold Award. Ms. Lambert gave a presentation on an environmental project she is working on for future generations to enjoy and learn about what the environment gives us.

President Gallman then welcomed members and guests. Guests included: guest speaker Sarah Lambert and her mother, Maureen Lambert, both of Crosbyton; Susan Kerby, President LeAnn Gallman's sister; Kim Perez and Linda Garcia from Ralls; Megan Sue, daughter of Jodie House; and Jacque James of Crosbyton.



Meeting host **Jodie House**, city secretary, Crosbyton, and Girl Scout **Sarah Lambert**. Ms. Lambert gave a presentation to the South Plains Chapter about an environmental project.

## SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

President Gallman read aloud thank you notes from Debbie Gressett and TMCA President Lila Fuller.

A motion was made by Toni Wilson and seconded by Toni Chrestman to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2008 meeting as presented; motion carried.

Pam Rowe asked if the \$1,000.00 donation had been made to the TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd and Dr. Joyce Snay scholarships. Toni Chrestman stated that the donations had been made during the transition of officers and should show on the next treasurer's report. Motion was made by Pam Rowe and seconded by Patricia Phipps to approve the treasurer's report as presented; motion carried.

Committee Chair Pam Rowe presented Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton, as the South Plains Chapter Clerk of the Year and LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, as the chapter's 2009 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee. The Nominating Committee decided to have plaques made for the selected clerks this year, and Toni Chrestman was presented with a South

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*Top right:* **Toni Chrestman, TRMC**, is presented the South Plains Chapter Clerk of the Year plaque by Committee Chair **Pam Rowe, TRMC**.

*Right:* **LeAnn Gallman, TRMC**, is presented a plaque by Committee Chair **Pam Rowe, TRMC**, in recognition of being the South Plains Chapter's 2009 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee.



## SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Plains Chapter plaque and LeAnn Gallman was presented with a Texas Municipal Clerk Association plaque. Motion was made by Toni Chrestman and seconded by Beth Walls to approve the expenditure for the plaques. Motion carried.

The Committee for Annual Chapter Seminar for 2009 will report at the June meeting. Members gave suggestions on possible topics for the seminar.

Other business considered included discussion of scholarships. Becky Garza of the TMCA Certification Committee encouraged members to apply for scholarships. President LeAnn Gallman gave list of all the scholarships that are available and also encouraged members to apply.

President LeAnn Gallman also advised members that beginning with the TMCCP seminar in McAllen, TMCCP signup sheets will no longer be used; instead, your name badge will be scanned and attendees will be allowed a maximum of 30 minutes to be out of class during the entire seminar in order to receive credit for the seminar.

The next chapter meeting was set for June 17. Bonnie Scaff, TRMC, city secretary, Bovina, will host the next meeting. ★

Members and guests attending were:

Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton

Christy Forbes, city secretary, Ralls

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe

Linda Garcia, clerk, Ralls

Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock

Nancy Hale, TRMC, city secretary, Spur

Margot Hardin, city administrator, Crosbyton

Thomas Harris III, deputy city secretary, Lubbock

Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa

Belinda Hinojosa, city secretary, Plainview

Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton

Kim Perez, deputy city secretary/court clerk, Ralls

Patricia Phipps, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friona

Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains

Brenda Shaw, TRMC,  
city secretary/manager, Morton

Jody Taylor, city secretary, Dickens

Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal

Beth Walls, city secretary, Levelland

Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown

Guests included: guest speaker Sarah Lambert and her mother, Maureen Lambert, both of Crosbyton; Susan Kerby, President LeAnn Gallman's sister; Kim Perez and Linda Garcia from Ralls; Megan Sue, daughter of Jodie House; and Jacque James of Crosbyton.

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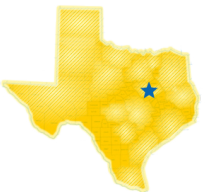
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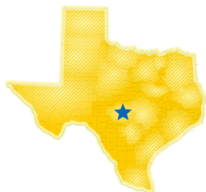
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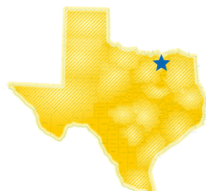
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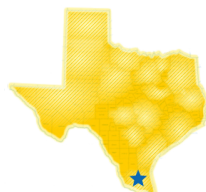
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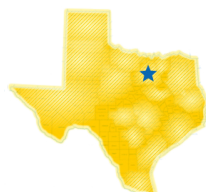
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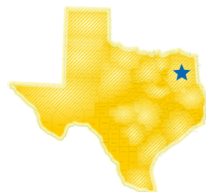
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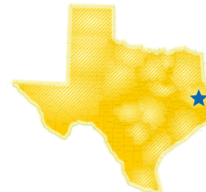
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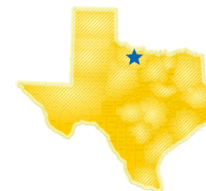
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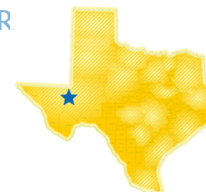
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