



TMCA NEWS



TMCA President
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC
City Secretary, Odessa

President's Message

PREPARE, SET, EXECUTE!

Elections are over! I hope there are not too many of you who have a run-off. For those who held their first election: congratulations! You made it and survived.

Now that this legislative year is over, we must continue to educate ourselves about the new laws that will affect not only our profession but also our cities. A great opportunity to do this will be to attend the TMCCP Legislative Update seminar in San Marcos on August 15-16. Attorney and *Texas Municipal Law & Procedure Manual* author Alan Borjorquez and his team of experts will summarize the new laws that have passed during this legislative session.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During this year's journey, **we talked about** being yourself and trusting yourself; the impact of your attitude; and willingness to change and be accepting of change. The next three topics are 1) be happy/have fun; 2) aim high and produce results; and 3) continue to grow.

Be happy/have fun in your one and only life. Enjoy where you are going. We only get one chance at life, and each of us should make it a priority to experience true happiness on this journey.

Identify what makes you happy. Surround yourself with others who are happy and weed out negative influences. Take time to enjoy what you are doing at the moment. For instance, I make a point not to bring my phone when having lunch with someone: that time should be focused on the person in front of you instead of on texts to others. Enjoy today and embrace tomorrow.

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Send articles to: alexandra.burke@unt.edu



TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, represented Texas during the Parade of Flags at the IIMC Annual Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in May. **See more photos from the conference.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aim high and produce results. It's just not good enough to produce results, but to produce good results. We are a direct reflection of our cities and our city councils.

Goals are essential. Aiming high will push you to raise your standards both for the betterment of yourself and those you work for and with. Without goals, we may feel like we're treading water. Excuses hold us back or keep us at a standstill and lead to unproductive lifestyles.

Make the most out of each day—it will make you feel a sense of accomplishment. Take a moment to see the sun: look at the sunrays beaming down. Think of your goal as the sun: catch a ray, look up and climb up toward the sun. It's brilliant and keeps on shining. Once you're there, swing on the sunray to enjoy your accomplishment.

Goals can be for personal growth or for your professional career. They give you the op-

portunity to improve yourself, whether it is completing a TMCCP module, dealing successfully with a challenging person, or reading for enjoyment.

Continue to grow. Goal-setting is a way to grow. Remember, growth is your responsibility, and your growth today will provide a better tomorrow. Continuous learning will help you replace what's out of date.

Take advantage of all opportunities to make that first step to continue your growth professionally, spiritually, or personally. Even small moments in time, such as waiting for an appointment or flight connection, could provide you that opportunity. As you grow and your knowledge increases, you will prove your value. You should aim high remembering that when you challenge yourself to reach higher you will often accomplish more. The sky is the limit. By focusing on growth you become wiser, and knowledge is the key to credibility

and the ability to influence others. Growth is an investment in yourself for tomorrow.

I hope you have focused on being yourself and have worked on having a consistently positive attitude. Our willingness to change and have fun will enhance our ability to enjoy all areas of our life and make great memories. Aiming high and producing results will give you a sense of satisfaction in doing the best you can as you look back over your career of achieving excellence.

Enjoy your summertime and get some fun in!

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC

2013 TMCA President

ngrimaldo@odessa-tx.gov

In Memoriam



In honor of Joey Pustejovsky Jr., **the fallen West City Secretary**, on behalf of all TMCA members, TMCA has sent a memorial donation to the Education Fund at Pointwest Bank in West for Joey's children. With Joey being one of us, I thought it was only fitting. Joey's obituary is **available here**.

—TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo

Calendar of Events

July 11 • McKinney

*The Lone Star Chapter's **Records Management Workday***

July 26-27 • Salado

*The Capital Chapter hosts the **Annual Salado Seminar: "Hot, Hot, Hot Topics"***

August 15-16 • San Marcos



Speaker **Alan Bojorquez**, principal, **Bojorquez Law Firm, PC**, and author of the *Texas Municipal Law & Procedure Manual*, will moderate a panel of speakers for our popular **TMCCP "Legislative Update" Seminar** on August 15-16 in San Marcos. **Register today.**

September 13 • Port Aransas

Athenian Dialogue:

"The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson"

October 8-11 • Austin

TML Conference

2014 TMCA COMMITTEE SERVICE

Did You Know?

By President Elect **Art Camacho, TRMC**

City Secretary, Haltom City



Art Camacho, TRMC

Did you know that some particles from a sneeze can travel at a speed of nearly 100 mph? Did you know that a hummingbird's wings flap at nearly 50 times per second? Did you know that there are approximately 40 positions available for service on TMCA committees? Well, now you know!

Have you ever considered serving on a TMCA committee? Soon after I received my certification in 2003, I was given the opportunity to serve on the Certification Committee. It was not only an opportunity to serve, but even a greater opportunity to learn more about the additional detailed functions of TMCA, which is something a majority of clerks will never experience. I soon met many clerks throughout the state and was able to glean a lot of wisdom from their know-how, while also forming a friendship with them—just by serving on a committee.

Volunteerism in TMCA is vital to our progress and efficiency. There is simply no way that this organi-

zation would be able to operate effectively without individuals giving of their personal time in performing the numerous tasks that accompany this group's operations. There is also a variety of volunteer services that can appeal to the many different career talents available in the state, such as the following:

- Scoring scholarship applications on the Scholarship Committee and awarding funds for the continuing education of our clerks;
- Scoring Municipal Clerk of the Year nomination forms as a member of the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee;
- Composing the resolutions of the Resolutions Committee that highlight the accomplishments made by members and friends of our association;
- Serving on the Retirement Committee to recognize and celebrate with our retirees for their many years of dedication given to our profession;

2014 TMCA COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Reviewing and revising educational policies in serving on the Certification Committee;
- Assisting in the selection of the future leaders of our Association with the Nominating Committee;
- Showcasing TMCA as you work with fellow TML Booth Committee members;
- Ensuring the financial accountability of our Association by offering service on the Audit Committee; or
- Recruiting new members through the efforts of the Membership Committee.

With the variety of opportunities available, surely there is a committee that can use your willingness, talent, and participation. Without your volunteerism, these committees will be hindered in their productivity and contribution to TMCA.

September 1 is the application deadline—**apply today!**

Don't let this opportunity slip by—you now know what is needed! Let's make 2014 the best year for the TMCA committees. Fill out the **Committee Interest Questionnaire** and note your preferred choices of committee service. If you have any questions, please call me at 817-222-7749, and I sincerely thank you for your volunteerism. ★

Honoring 2013 TMCA Retirees

By Retirement Committee Chair **Maria Gonzalez, TRMC**

City Secretary, Missouri City

The TMCA Retirement Committee has recruited each TMCA chapter president to assist with identifying our 2013 retirees and now **we need your help!** If you are a city secretary/municipal clerk or deputy/assistant secretary who plans to retire this year (January 1 to December 31, 2013), please complete the **2013 TMCA Member Retirement Information Form** and return it soon to me or any one of the committee members!

The Retirement Committee is eagerly working to complete our 2013 retiree list before our **October 24** Annual TMCA Awards Banquet in South Padre and we do not want to leave you out! **Consider this recognition as a final farewell to our Association; you will be surrounded by peers, friends, mentors, and those you have guided to walk in your footsteps after your retirement.**

Thank you for leading the way. We wish your retirement to give you full satisfaction and for all of your future expectations to be fulfilled! ★



Contact any committee member about TMCA retirees!



Chair

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC
Missouri City City Secretary



Linda Byers, TRMC
Vernon City Secretary



Annette Villarreal, TRMC
McAllen City Secretary



Christie Wilson, TRMC
The Colony City Secretary

Municipal Clerks Week

44th Annual • May 5-11, 2013



City Secretary Lee Woodward shares a moment with us from her city's Municipal Clerks Week: **Huntsville City Secretary Lee Woodward, TRMC; Mayor Mac Woodward; and Deputy City Secretary Kristin Edwards** after the presentation of the Municipal Clerks Week proclamation.

To celebrate Municipal Clerks Week, TMCA emailed out a downloadable poster to all members advertising the event.



Athenian Dialogue: Failure is Not an Option



A great Athenian Dialogue was held on March 22 in Webster on Gene Kranz's book *Failure is Not an Option: Mission Control from Mercury to Apollo 13 and Beyond*. The day included a private site visit to the original Mission Control with Mr. Kranz, book author and former director of Mission Control. *Read more in the Salt Grass Chapter's article.*



photo courtesy Salt Grass Chapter

photo courtesy Kathy Wingo, TRMC

EDUCATION DIRECTOR DR. HOLT REPRESENTS TMCA



TMCA has been well-represented this spring by Education Director Dr. Amy Holt. In May she and her co-authors were published in the *Journal of Public Affairs Education* (see article at right). And on May 10 she was invited by the Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas to participate in the commencement ceremonies for the Master of Public Administration graduates. The afternoon was filled with excitement as a new group of individuals embarked on their careers in public service.



Dr. Holt was invited by the Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas to participate in the commencement ceremonies for the Master of Public Administration graduates. She administered the Oath to Public Service to these new public servants. The Oath to Public Service, based on the Athenian Oath, encourages the fledgling public leaders to be dedicated to promoting the public good and inspiring in others a sense of public duty. The new graduates of the MPA program at UNT will be joining the ranks of public servants who, like city secretaries, strive to provide fair, equitable, responsive, and ethical service to the citizens in their communities.

TMCA Education Director Dr. Holt Published in the Journal Of Public Affairs Education



Dr. Amy Holt and two faculty members (Drs. Benavides and Dicke) in the Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas recently had an article published in the **Journal of Public Affairs Education** (JPAE). The article entitled, **“Internships Adrift? Anchoring Internship Programs in Collaboration”** appears in the Spring 2013 issue of the Journal. JPAE is dedicated to advancing teaching and learning in public affairs broadly defined, which includes the fields of policy analysis, public administration, public management, public policy, nonprofit administration, and their subfields.

The article describes how experiential knowledge has become institutionalized as “for credit” internships in schools of public affairs and administration. It presents an overview of the history of internships, along with associated research that has been conducted in this area. Following that review, the authors advance a model depicting the interdependent links between students, their university, and a government agency or nonprofit organization that hosts interns. The model offers a simplified tool for understanding the complex activities and collaborations necessary for creating successful internships. ★

TMCCP Municipal Budget Cycle Seminar

April 4-5, 2013, Lubbock, Texas

April's "Municipal Budget Cycle" Seminar in Lubbock was terrific! Speaker Patrick Shinkle, associate director for the Center of Public Management at the University of North Texas, presented excellent, challenging, and enjoyable sessions over "Budget Overview and Legislation," "Budget Players and Budget Cycle," "Budget Types and Components," "Budget Panel," and revenue forecasting and trend analysis in Excel.

Thank you to the TMCA South Plains Chapter for providing awesome door prizes and goodie bags. They also assisted in the wonderful Thursday evening event sponsored by Kirk Franklin, Xcel Energy, and Underwood Law Firm. On the evening of April 4, seminar attendees were transported by trolley to the historic Watson Building in downtown Lubbock for an evening of entertainment by musicians and artists from Cactus Theater. Thank you to the sponsors for this delightful event!

At top right: Speaker Patrick Shinkle addresses attendees at the April seminar in Lubbock.

Near right: The South Plains Chapter—dressed in matching Franklin Legal Publishing t-shirts—at the sponsored event held Thursday night at Lubbock's historic Watson House.



LUBBOCK NIGHT OUT

Attendees had a wonderful Thursday evening at the historic Watson Building in downtown Lubbock in an event sponsored by Kirk Franklin, Xcel Energy, and Underwood Law Firm. There was entertainment by musicians and artists from Cactus Theater, dancing, and fellowship. *Thank you, sponsors!*



From left to right: Audi Sciumbato, Brian Guymon, and Slater Elza, Underwood Law Firm; Sue Castle, Xcel Energy; and Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing.



LUBBOCK NIGHT OUT



Attendees had a wonderful Thursday evening at the historic Watson Building in downtown Lubbock in an event sponsored by Kirk Franklin, Xcel Energy, and Underwood Law Firm. There was entertainment by musicians and artists from Cactus Theater, dancing, and fellowship amongst Texas clerks.



The TMCA Certification Committee held one of its regular meetings in Lubbock the day before the April seminar. The Certification Committee promotes TMCCP and sets the policies and procedures for the operation of the Certification Program. *Back row, from left to right:* TMCA Immediate Past President and Ex-Officio Committee Member LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; TMCA President Elect and Ex-Officio Committee Member Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. *Front row:* TMCA President and Ex-Officio Committee Member Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Certification Committee Chair Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; and Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene.

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

Kimberly Sloat,
Canadian

Course 2

JoAnn Touchstone,
Dripping Springs

Course 4

Christy Badilla, Brady
Kimberly Perez, Ralls
Lindsay Wells, Pantego

Course 3

Kara Atwood, Lufkin
Sherri Bellard, Port Arthur
Terry Blanchard, Rockdale
Leonardo Bonanno, Jr.
Angela Cantu, La Vernia
Patricia Cortes, Cedar Hill
Janelle Dolan, Burkburnett
Paula Favors, Wharton
Blanca Garcia, McKinney
Lyn Hill, Cedar Hill
Sheila Morales,
Copper Canyon
Diana Gordon Offord,
Fulshear
Kimberly Perez, Ralls
Leticia Saenz, San Antonio
Kimberly Sloat, Canadian
Bobbie Jo Taylor, Crandall
JoAnn Touchstone,
Dripping Springs
Lindsay Wells, Pantego
Christe Whitley Smith,
Port Arthur

IIMC Annual Conference

By IIMC Region IV Director **Mary Kayser, TRMC**

City Secretary, Fort Worth

© Paul Traves, P16photo.com



Mary Kayser, TRMC

The following is an update on IIMC activities and the IIMC Annual Conference in Atlantic City. The IIMC board met May 17-18. We had a great “Board Development” session on the seventeenth followed by the board meeting which concluded on the eighteenth. Here are some highlights.

There were 720 delegates present at the conference. New Jersey clerks were offered a one-year membership with a full conference registration. This will hopefully encourage the clerks to stay with IIMC and pursue IIMC certification along with NJ certification. We will continue to offer this at future conferences.

Current IIMC membership as of April 2013 is 9,440. 268 new members have been added through the membership campaign. The membership campaign has exceeded its ROI and this is the fifth year that membership dues have exceeded one million dollars.

This is the sixth year that IIMC has been in the black. This is due to oversight of the budget committee and due to leadership. The headquarters building has been refinanced and that has allowed us to reduce the amount we were paying on the loan and get out from under a balloon payment that was due in 2017.

It has also allowed us to increase the restricted reserve fund by \$21,000 to \$331,000. We are in good shape financially.

We had a report from the Municipal Clerks Education Foundation (MCEF) and their revenues are down. Why is this important? MCEF exists only to provide funding for clerk education. They provide scholarships to clerks and regions. There were many opportunities to support them at the conference: the silent auction, the Hawaii raffle, the live auction at the banquet or with a donation. In Texas we contribute to MCEF every year; it is part of the TMCA budget. At the region meeting I asked that the other states consider making a state contribution to MCEF.

IIMC is really reaching out to Region XI (whose members include Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington). We have hired Nick Randle as the Region XI consultant. Last year we worked on helping Region XI fit their training into the IIMC certification programs. It is still a work in progress. They are working on growing their membership and getting a governing body together and communicating with all the groups and members.

IIMC NEWS

The IIMC committees have been active this year. One of the outstanding results is 13 technical bulletins on records management. These are an outstanding reference for your records management program and are available on the IIMC website.

IIMC is continually working to communicate with its members. The News Digest and E-Briefs are a great way to stay up with what is going on with IIMC. The E-Briefs are now formatted to work on smart phones and tablets. If you do not receive these or have opted out, contact IIMC to get back on the list.

Be on the lookout for information about Captus Press who will be providing a platform for online training. These are

Above right: Texas clerks in attendance at the IIMC Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Front row, from left to right: Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Jannette Goodall, city clerk, Austin; Betty Brown, TRMC, local government election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth. Second row: Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP. Not pictured: Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station.

Near right: Region IV members at the IIMC Conference.



IIMC NEWS

courses designed for those who might need two or three education points and can't justify an entire seminar.

On May 20 we held the Region IV meeting. Region IV membership in IIMC is 598, with 246 Region IV members holding IIMC's CMC designation and 76 Region IV members holding IIMC's MMC designation. The next Region IV meeting will be held in Midwest City, Oklahoma, December 5-7, 2013; [click here for more information](#).

The IIMC conference was outstanding. There were excellent speakers and general sessions. We covered leadership, records management, social media, employee engagement, employee motivation, budgeting, communication ethics, and so much more. The opening ceremony was moving as always. TMCA President Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, carried the Texas flag with pride. You will note in the picture that she wore her cowboy boots (*see photo at right*). Good job, Norma!!

The New Jersey clerks worked very hard on the conference and it was a resounding success. The all-conference event was a beach party indoors with all kinds of shore treats such as cheese steaks, sliders, hot dogs, and sausages. Ice cream, popcorn, and pretzels were there to snack on while we danced and listened to the B-street band. What a treat!!

At the Annual Business Meeting, Monica Martinez-Simmons of Seattle, Washington, was sworn in as IIMC vice president; Brenda Kay Young of Nashville, Indiana, was sworn in as



Above: IIMC inducts its new Athenian fellows into the Athenian Fellowship Society. Texas clerks who earned this honor were College Station City Secretary **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC** (pictured at the left of the group), and Granbury City Secretary **Dee Arcos, TRMC** (not pictured).

Right: At the IIMC Conference's Parade of Flags TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Amy Holt** and TMCA President **Norma Grimaldo, TRMC**, city secretary, Odessa—who represented Texas by carrying the Texas flag in the parade, and even wore her cowboy boots!



IIMC NEWS

IIMC president-elect; and Mark Lemoine of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, was sworn in as IIMC president. We have great leadership on the IIMC board.

At the Annual Banquet our very own Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, played auctioneer again, auctioning off various items donated to raise money for MCEF and raising \$5,000.00 in 15 minutes. That money is put right back into clerk education. There were also envelopes on the tables for contributions to MCEF and that raised \$1,063.73.

All in all it was a great conference. Outstanding education, great networking, and some fun as well. Make plans now for next year: May 18- 22, 2014, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. You don't want to miss it.

During the conference we were all keeping an eye on the weather here in Region IV. We send our thoughts and prayers to the communities of Granbury and Cleburne here in Texas and Moore and Shawnee in Oklahoma.

I am honored to serve as Region IV director. If you have any questions or concerns about IIMC please do not hesitate to contact me. I am at your service.

IIMC Region IV Director Mary J. Kayser, TRMC, MMC
City Secretary, City of Fort Worth
 817-392-6161

IIMC BULLETINS

Congratulations to TMCA members **Dee Arcos, TRMC**, city secretary, Granbury, and **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station, on being inducted into the Athenian Leadership Society during the IIMC Conference! They join fellow Texans Shirley Gentry, city clerk (retired), Austin; Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas; and Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano, as IIMC Athenian Fellows. We're proud of our Texas clerks.

Congratulations to **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, and to **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville, on each receiving the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality.

Carole Vanzant earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification from the TMCCP in 2009 and is enrolled in recertification. She is a longtime and active member of TMCA, and has served on and chaired several TMCA committees.

Lee Woodward earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification from TMCCP in 2012 and is enrolled in recertification. Lee is a longstanding and active member of TMCA, and serves on TMCA committees.

Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**

City Secretary, College Station



Sherry Mashburn, TRMC

TML President John Monaco announced his appointments to the 2013 TML Budget and Audit Committee, of which I am honored to serve with elected officials from throughout the state. We will meet in May and present the proposed budget to the Board of Directors at the June board meeting.

TML Legislative staff provided a detailed presentation about the progress of the 2013 legislative session. 5,693 bills and 192 joint resolutions have been introduced. Staff is closely monitoring bills that could adversely affect cities as they relate to property/sales tax, payday and property tax lending, transparency/open government, utility issues, and land use. TML General Counsel Scott Houston also presented a legal report addressing the conflicts surrounding various court decisions in the operation of TOMA and the First Amendment rights of local officials.

The brief presented to the Supreme Court requested that court “to clarify the appropriate balance between governmental transparency and the First Amendment rights of local officials.”

The TML Board heard a report on the TCMA Advocacy Committee. This committee, with participation by TML President Monaco and TML Executive Director Bennett Sandlin, completed a year-long study to ascertain if a campaign to educate the citizens of Texas about the value of Texas cities could be successful and what form the campaign should take. The board voted unanimously to authorize TML to create the “Local, Texas Foundation” as an independent non-profit organization devoted to promoting the value of Texas cities, with the ultimate goal of positioning the League more favorably with the Texas Legislature, and charged the TML Budget and Audit

Committee to determine an appropriate amount for a one-time contribution of “seed money.”

The 2013 TML Annual Conference to be held in Austin in October is coming together, and once again TMCA, Inc., will be a sponsor for the “Women In Government Breakfast.” Conference sites for future TML conferences are: Houston (2014), San Antonio (2015), Austin (2016), and Houston (2017). An RFP for both 2018 and 2019 will be sent out shortly. Last year’s conference was a financial success, netting \$90,000.

TML membership is at an all-time high with 1,125 member cities and 419 associate members. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**

City Secretary/Assistant to City Administrator, Fair Oaks Ranch

At the February 27 meeting, chapter members received an excellent presentation on “Fraud Prevention in the Workplace and in the Private Life” by Ms. Sandy Sullivan, Frost Bank Senior Vice President, Fraud Department. She spoke on how to take preventative measures in stopping the acts of fraud both at work and in our private lives; provided helpful information on current fraudulent scams; gave tips on how to avoid being scammed; and directed us on what to do if we are a victim of a scam or stolen identity. Chapter members thanked Frost Bank Senior Vice President Jerry Yost for hosting the meeting at Alamo Café, a delicious Mexican food restaurant in San Antonio.

It was noted that two chapter members attended the February TMCCP Election Law Seminar and that three members are currently enrolled in the TMCCP certification/recertification program. Chapter President Vanzant congratulated those in the program and encouraged members to continue with their education.

Our chapter meets every fourth Wednesday, every other month,

starting in February of each year. We invite anyone to join us, either as a member or a guest! For more information on our chapter, our meetings, and how to become a member, please visit alamotmca.org. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By **Kim Kelley**

City Secretary, Stamford

The Bluebonnet Chapter meeting was held on March 13 in Brownwood. Host for the meeting was Brownwood City Secretary Christi Wynn, TRMC.

After a delicious lunch of chicken fried steak and all the trimmings catered by Humphrey Pete's, Christi introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Reece Blincoe, superintendent of Brownwood Independent School District, who presented a program to the group.

Afterwards Chapter President Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin, called the meeting to order. Business of the day started with of the reading of thank you notes from City Secretary Haskell Louetta Wallace on her retirement and from the family of Baird City Secretary Nancy Turnbow.

Maria administered the oath of office to Vice President Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Secretary Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville; Treasurer Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood; and Historian Kim Kelley, city secretary, Stamford. Vice President Diane Latham then administered the oath to President Maria Franco.

The Bluebonnet Chapter unanimously voted to nominate Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, as the 2013 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

The motion was made and enthusiastically passed to donate the proceeds of the silent auction for the June meeting to the City of Baird for updating the playground equipment in honor of Nancy Turnbow. Nancy was the city secretary for the City of Baird for many, many years and recently passed away.

We would love for anyone to come join us as a member or guest at one of our upcoming 2013 meetings. Those meetings are as follows: June 12 in DeLeon, September 11 in Stamford, and December 11 in Eastland. ★



The Bluebonnet Chapter. *Bottom row, from left to right:* Honorary member Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge; Shirley Stuart, city secretary/HR, Eastland; Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville; Brenda Croft, Early; and Heather Robertson, city secretary, Breckenridge. *Middle row:* Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Kim Kelley, city secretary, Stamford; Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood; and Nan Billings, TRMC, city secretary, Bangs. *Top row:* Mary Wells, Ranger; Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin; Carolyn Graston, city secretary, Haskell; and honorary member Billie Pearce, city secretary, Tuscola.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Jessica Graefe, TRMC**

City Secretary, Giddings

December 2012 Meeting

The Capital Chapter held their 2012 Annual Installation Banquet/Holiday Luncheon on December 12 at La Cabana in Smithville. We hope moving our meetings among our membership cities will encourage member participation. We are thankful to our host cities/towns for the wonderful hospitality.

The meeting was hosted by Brenda Page, TRMC, city secretary, Smithville, and Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop. After the welcome from Smithville Public Works Director Jack Page, President Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia, opened the meeting.

Betty Brown, TRMC, local government election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, presented and reviewed several Senate and House Bills.

Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, administered the oath of office to the incoming 2013-2014 officers.

Installation of the incoming officers was based on a bird theme in representation of their duties, and beautiful bird houses were presented



At the December meeting Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, administered the oath of office to the incoming Capital Chapter officers. *From left to right:* Historian **Brenda Page** (and her broken foot), city secretary, Smithville; Treasurer **Jeana Bellinger, TRMC**, city secretary, Brenham; Secretary **Jessica Graefe, TRMC**, city secretary, Giddings; Vice President **Janet Rogers**, city secretary, West Lake Hills; and President **Shirley Garvel**, city secretary, Elgin.

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to the incoming officers. President Shirley Garvel made her acceptance speech and thanked all those who have helped.

An ornament exchange was enjoyed along with a great meal and fellowship.

January 2013 Meeting

The New Year was kicked off with a meeting on January 9. President Shirley Garvel introduced Cathy Fryer, attorney at Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta. Cathy spoke of the importance of understanding what “hostile work environment” is and answered a variety of questions from chapter members.

The chapter’s minutes and financial report were approved.



In January the chapter held a round table discussion with presenter and attorney Cathy Fryer on hostile work environments.

Congratulations to Capital Chapter members who received their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) or Recertification at the TMCCP graduation ceremony held during the January Election Law Seminar.

Certification:

Susan Brock, TRMC, city clerk, Taylor
Angela Burton, TRMC, asst. city secretary/dep. court clerk, Briarcliff
Tammy Cook, TRMC, deputy city secretary, San Marcos
Tina Linder, TRMC, village clerk, Briarcliff
Rachael Lynch, TRMC, city administrator/secretary, Carmine
Dianne Peace, TRMC, utility billing/court coordinator, Jarrell

Recertification:

Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia
Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz
Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave
LeAnn Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Cedar Park
Connie Rodriguez, TRMC, city secretary, Lockhart

CAPITAL CHAPTER

The chapter has determined that our monthly meetings could be improved by focusing on quality and informative guest speakers; this in turn would encourage membership. We average 20 attendees per meeting and we set a goal to increase this average and membership to 35 attendees per meeting. Our 2012-2013 meeting schedules have already been established; cities have volunteered to host and speakers are lined up. This is really a wonderful group!

The appointments for the upcoming year committees were made.

March 2013 Meeting

President Shirley Garvel welcomed the presenters and guest. College Station City Secretary Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, introduced the College Station employees and the presenters from the Public Communications Department. Colin Killian and Lacy Lively gave a very informative program on utilizing social media in your city.

Capital Chapter business was conducted. The January 9 minutes and the treasurer's reports through March 13 were approved.

Chapter bylaws will be reviewed with revisions at the meeting in May.

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, reminded the group that the TMCCP seminar on "Media Relations & Emergency Communications" will be held in College Station on June 6-7.



At the March meeting. *From left to right:* Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville; Colin Killian, College Station, Communications and Marketing Specialist; Lacey Lively, College Station, Marketing Coordinator. Colin Killian and Lacey Lively presented a program on utilizing social media in cities.

CAPITAL CHAPTER

President Shirley Garvel thanked the City of Bryan and College Station for co-sponsoring the chapter's meeting.

The group continues to recognize each member's contribution and encourages all to keep gaining that wonderful knowledge.

We would love for anyone to come join us as a member or guest at our 2013 meetings. This year's meetings are as follows:

July 26 & 27 - Salado

September 11 - Pflugerville

December - (location not yet decided)

For information please contact Chapter President Shirley Garvel at 512-281-5724 or sgarvel@ci.elgin.tx.us. ★



Chapter members at the March meeting. *Front row, from left to right:* **Jeana Bellinger, TRMC**, city secretary, Brenham; **Alexis Bellinger** (future city secretary); **Jessica Graefe, TRMC**, city secretary, Giddings; **Shirley Garvel**, city secretary, Elgin; **Janet Rogers**, city secretary, West Lake Hills; and **Brenda Page**, city secretary, Smithville.

Second row: **Cathy Fryer**, attorney, Bickerstaff Heath; **Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC**, city secretary, Bryan; **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; **Amanda Klehm**, deputy city secretary, Brenham; **Joy Hart, TRMC**, account manager, Franklin Legal Publishing; **Myrna Rios**, support services supervisor, Austin; **Jannette Goodall**, city clerk, Austin; **Teresa Valdez, TRMC**, city secretary, Bastrop; **Carolyn Martin, TRMC**, interim finance director, Elgin.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Jana Faucett**

Deputy City Secretary, Temple

The Central Texas Chapter held a bi-monthly meeting on February 20. The City of Fairfield hosted the meeting at the Fairfield Conference Center. Jana Taylor, city secretary, Fairfield, welcomed everyone, and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by staff.

Opal Oliver, Community Garden Coordinator, spoke regarding the Fairfield Community Garden and provided helpful gardening tips and direction for communities interested in establishing community gardens.

Members accepted Jana Faucett, deputy city secretary, Temple, as the chapter secretary to fill a vacancy of unexpired term. The chapter discussed changes to the current bylaws.

Members also discussed TMCA updates, future chapter meetings, and upcoming seminars.

The Central Texas Chapter held their next bi-monthly meeting on April 17. The City of Mexia hosted the meeting at the Farmhouse Restaurant and a wonderful meal was enjoyed by all.

Members accepted Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson, as the assistant secretary to fill a vacancy of unexpired term and accepted revisions to the Central Texas Chapter bylaws.



The Central Texas Chapter at their April meeting held at the Farmhouse Restaurant in Mexia.

Members also discussed scholarship donations, candidates for Chapter Clerk of the Year and TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year, future chapter meeting, and upcoming seminars.

In other news, the City of Hewitt hosted the TML Region 9 quarterly meeting on January 31; the topic was "Local Texas Cities: The Pioneers of Environmental Innovations." The City of Killeen hosted the TML Region 9 quarterly meeting on April 25; the topic was "Fort Hood: Making the 'Great Place Greater.'"

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

The Capital Chapter will host the Annual Salado Seminar this year. **SAVE THE DATE for July 26-27!** This year's theme is **"Hot, Hot, Hot Topics."** A fun time is expected as always for networking, food, and fun! Topics include: "Investigating Complaints in the Workplace" with Catherine Fryer, attorney, Bickerstaff Heath; "Four E's of Leadership" with Rex L. Phelps, chief of police, Brenham; "End Violence Against Women" with Michael Crumrine, detective, Sex Crimes Unit, Austin; and "Fire Safety" with Jack Page, city fire marshal & public works director, Smithville.

The Central Texas Chapter would like to give a "congratulations" to our newly certified City Secretary Lacy Borgeson, TRMC, Temple, and Assistant City Secretary Ronda Cockerham, TRMC, Italy, and to recertifying City Secretary Patricia Ervin, TRMC, Waco. We are proud of their accomplishments!

The Central Texas Chapter would like to give our deepest condolences to the family of Joey Pustejovsky Jr., city secretary, West, and the entire West Community. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. ★

Chapter members present at the April meeting:

Kaci Allen, public information director, Robinson
 Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson
 Ronda Cockerham, TRMC, city secretary, Italy
 Jana Faucett, deputy city secretary, Temple
 Amber Fuller, city secretary, Hubbard
 Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills
 Brenda Jackson, city secretary, Groesbeck
 Dorthy Jackson, city manager, Hubbard
 Kathy McKenzie, HR director, Robinson

Karen Sanchez, finance director, Robinson
 President Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia
 Jana Taylor, city secretary, Fairfield
 Roshuna Wiley, deputy city secretary, Mexia



Congratulations to Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, on her TRMC Recertification in January!



Congratulations to Lacy Borgeson, TRMC, city secretary, Temple, on receiving her TRMC Certification in January! Temple Mayor William A. Jones, III, was present at the graduation ceremony. Congratulations also to Ronda Cockerham, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Italy, on earning her TRMC.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By **Irma Hernandez**
City Secretary, Menard

The Hill Country Chapter at their February 20 meeting in Kerrville. Front row (*left to right*): Karen Kiehne, Fredericksburg; Vivian Saiz, city secretary, Junction; and Pat Dildine, city secretary (ret.), Johnson City. Back row (*left to right*): Maria Alvarado, Junction; Irma Hernandez, city secretary, Menard; Bobbie Mowery, city secretary, Blanco; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Stacy Castillo, ciity secretary, Johnson City. ★



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Diane Zucco, TRMC**
City Secretary, Plano

Spring has finally sprung in the area covered by the Lone Star Chapter! We're planning our July 11 Records Management Workday, which will feature speakers from the Texas State Library, Texas Attorney General, and City of Plano. Topics will include the new retention schedules, public information, legislation, and customer service. See our flyer at www.tmcalonestarchapter.com and join us for an informative day of networking.

We did not convene in January, so our February meeting included adoption of our mission statement: *The Lone Star Chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association is a network of professionals, providing education and support while*



The Lone Star Chapter at their February meeting.

Attendees of the February meeting:

Donna Bradshaw, P&Z coordinator, Lucas
Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing
Jacky Casey, assistant to the city secretary, Rockwall
Jennifer Faircloth, administrative assistant, Lucas
Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina
Blanca Garcia, assistant city secretary, McKinney
Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen
Kristi Gilbert, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy
Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney
Lisa Henderson, TRMC,
assistant city secretary, The Colony
Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point
Carole Kuykendall, assistant city secretary, Greenville
Julie Lollar, TRMC, city secretary, Denison
Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson
Debbie Newell, city secretary, Greenville
Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco
Lisa Palomba, city secretary, Garland
Christel Pettinos, TRMC, city secretary, Coppell
Amy Piukana, TRMC, city secretary, Prosper
Vickie Schmid, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Richardson
Stephanie Storm, records analyst, Wylie
Denise Vice, city secretary, Sachse
Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony
Wendy Withers, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Frisco
Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano

Kelli Tharp, guest

Daphne Lee, speaker, Coaching Computers

LONE STAR CHAPTER

promoting the role of the office of the city secretary and contributing to the quality of service delivered to their citizens.

Jacky Casey, assistant to the city secretary, Rockwall, was recognized as winner of the First Annual Membership Drive, and we welcomed three of the new members: Kristi Gilbert, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Denise Vice, deputy city secretary, Sachse; and Lisa Palomba, city secretary, Garland.

Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, provided timely legislative information.

We recognized the following scholarship recipients: Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point; Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas; Jacky Casey, assistant to the city secretary, Rockwall; Vickie Schmid, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Richardson; Jennifer Faircloth, administrative assistant; and Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing.

Our Character First topic of the month was “Forgiveness” (“Clear the records of those who have wronged us and don’t hold a grudge”), and Coaching Computers provided “iPad Tips and Tricks.”

It was stormy during our next meeting in April, but members made their way to the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville to hear a presentation on Social Media Policies provided by SGR. We discussed current legislative trends and received our Character First presentation, “Virtue” (“The moral excellence evident in my life as I consistently do what is right”).



Scholarship recipients Jennifer Faircloth, administrative assistant, Lucas; Jacky Casey, assistant to the city secretary, Rockwall; Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing; Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point; and Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas.



Academic excellence in the Lone Star Chapter: Jacky Casey, assistant to the city secretary, Rockwall, recently passed a TMCCP exam; Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina, earned TRMC Recertification; and Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point, and Wendy Withers, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Frisco, earned their TRMC Certification.

LONE STAR CHAPTER

My thanks go out to all members of the Lone Star Chapter for their enthusiasm and participation. I am particularly proud of our certification recipients Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point, and Wendy Withers, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Frisco; the TRMC recertification

of Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina; and the TMCCP exam success of Jacky Casey, assistant to the city secretary, Rockwall.

If you're interested in joining the Lone Star Chapter, please contact any member. ★



The Lone Star Chapter at their April meeting, promoting their July 11 Records Management Workday.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Secretary/Treasurer **Baudelia Rojas**
City Secretary, Alton

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter held their monthly meeting on December 12 in the City of Alton. Officers for the chapter were sworn in by Immediate Past President Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen. The new officers are: President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr; Vice President Bobby Rodriguez, city secretary, San Juan; Secretary/Treasurer Baudelia Rojas, CPM, city secretary; Historian Ana Cantu, city secretary, Penitas.

After the officers were sworn in, the chapter presented Ms. Zamora with a gift for her service as president for the LRGV Chapter. A Christmas luncheon and gift exchange was held amongst those present.

The LRGV Chapter met on January 23 at the San Juan Library. President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, presented a public speaking workshop proposal from Business Development Solutions which



LRGV Chapter members with gifts at their December Christmas luncheon and gift exchange.



Members of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter were sworn into office in December.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

includes training material and an individual speech video for 15 participants. The workshop would provide proven techniques for conquering presentation nerves to come across confident, calm, and collected. It is a half-day workshop which would be highly interactive and hands-on. After it was presented, the members unanimously voted to approve the workshop which was to be held February 4 at the City of Pharr city hall.

The members congratulated Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC, administrative supervisor, McAllen, for graduating as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk.

The City of McAllen hosted the March 20 meeting which was held at the McAllen Public Library. President Hilda Pedraza introduced guest speaker Eliza Alvarado, AACT Board President, who gave a presentation on the importance of voting. The organization was established to unite various community organizations in an effort to increase voter turnout in South Texas. Their goal is to reach 65% voter turnout in the LRGV to secure greater access in funding for education, healthcare, veterans, and infrastructure.

For Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter membership information, contact Baudelia Rojas, city secretary, Alton, 956-432-0760.



President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC (right), city clerk, Pharr, presented outgoing President Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen, with a gift at the December meeting.



The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter at the San Juan Library in January.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER



The LRGV Chapter at its March meeting at the McAllen Public Library. Guest speaker Eliza Alvarado, AACT Board President, gave a presentation on the importance of voting.

Members in attendance at the March meeting:

Susie Alcocer, city secretary, Port Isabel

Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Harlingen

Arcelia Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes

Elena Garza, assistant city secretary, Harlingen

Nadini Jee, assistant city secretary, Port Isabel

Olga Oberwetter, city secretary, La Feria

President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr

Sandra Ramirez, administrative assistant, San Juan

Vice President Bobby Rodriguez,
city secretary, San Juan

Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC,
administrative supervisor, McAllen

Secretary/Treasurer Baudelia Rojas,
city secretary, Alton

Virginia Singleterry,
administrative assistant, McAllen

Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen

Perla Zamora, TRMC deputy city secretary, McAllen

Guest: Eliza Alvarado, AACT Board President

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Alicia Richardson, TRMC**

City Secretary, Southlake

In the spirit of our wonderful organization... shalom, aloha, hola, greetings, ciao, ellohay, blessings, hello, Kóyo, xin chào!

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter has a great lineup for guest speakers this year. The board's priority is to empower our members at each business meeting.



Scott Murray

In January we traveled to Richardson to hear Scott Murray, noted sportscaster, radio/TV host, and community philanthropist share the "Pyramid of Power." Mr. Murray shared how we can achieve peace, prosperity, and perfection with the Pyramid of Power. At the top of the pyramid is our purpose; in order to build and see our purpose to fruition we begin with the foundation blocks (characteristics) of passion, preparation, perseverance and positivity. We need to nurture our purpose so we reinforce our foundation with our ability to produce solid and professional works that will make us, and those



The North Texas Chapter at their February meeting in Watauga. *Back row:* Shannon DePrater, town secretary, Crossroads; Traci Riggs, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Southlake; Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; Janice England, TRMC, city secretary, Saginaw; Mary Supino, city secretary, Arlington; Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Zolaina Reyes, city secretary, Watauga; Felicia King, assistant city secretary/records manager, Watauga; Jesica McEachern, city secretary, Bridgeport; and Lluvia Tijerina, assistant city secretary, Lewisville. *Middle row:* Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Carol Borges, city secretary, Westworth Village; Sheila Morales, town secretary, Copper Canyon; Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth; Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary, Highland Village; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative specialist, TMCCP/TMCA; Amy Arnold, TRMC, city secretary, White Settlement; Holly Houston, assistant to the city secretary, Euless; Asucena Garcia, office clerk, Decatur; Jeanine Inman, TRMC, assistant city secretary/P&Z administrator, Haslet; and Jodi Brown, city secretary, Grapevine. *Front row:* Dianna Buchanan, city secretary, Haslet; Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless; Leigh Burnham, Grapevine; Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake; Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; April Hill, TRMC, city secretary, Roanoke; and Amy Shelley, city secretary, Colleyville.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

who work with us, proud. We are not alone in the boat, and at times our purpose is shared with others so our partnerships (relationships) with our team members (personal or professional) and our guiding principles are the mortar that holds and keeps our pyramid strong. Sometimes it is not easy doing the right thing, but if we keep our eye on the goal we can achieve our purpose (goal).

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: the November 7, 2012, meeting minutes; the October, November, and December 2012 monthly treasurer reports; and the first quarter treasurer report (October-December 2012).



Marti Miller

In February our chapter met in Watauga where we had the pleasure of listening to Marti Miller present “Motivational Mentoring.” Ms. Miller is no stranger to TMCA, and anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting her can attest to her lively and contagious spirit. She encouraged us to be a champion of leadership. She went on to say that we cannot push someone down and lift them up at the same time. We must never overlook the power of connection.



The North Texas Chapter at their March meeting.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Chapter business considered at this meeting included: January 9 meeting minutes; January treasurer report; and first quarter treasurer report (October-December 2012).



Lisa Carver

Our Professional Seminar was held on March 27 at the Texas Star Golf Course and Conference Center. Our guest speaker Lisa Carver was spunky, entertaining, and dynamic in delivering her topics: “Managing Multiple Priorities: Work Smarter, Not Harder” and “Competent Leadership Through Confident Conversations.”

This full-day seminar provided attendees with a great deal of information as well as techniques to assist them in their profession. Ms. Carver provided us food for thought and methods to sharpen the tools in our toolkit.

Below are my personal seeds of information I will sow:

- The Law of Slight Edge: small improvements over time can make a big difference
- Do not be a barrier to your own enjoyment
- I will not allow others to put undue stress on me;



NTMCA Chapter members at their April meeting. *Back row:* Mary Supino, city secretary, Arlington; Sheila Morales, town secretary, Copper Canyon; Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano; Jessica McEachern, city secretary, Bridgeport; Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative specialist, TMCCP/TMCA; Peggy Burnside, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; Aimee Neimer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; Christine Loven, assistant city secretary, Colleyville; Shelley Major, city secretary, Hudson Oaks. *Middle row:* Veronica Lomas, assistant city secretary, Coppell; Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Holly Houston, assistant to the city secretary, Euless; Laura Bell, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Carrollton; Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Yvette Ruiz, records Clerk, Southlake; Sarah Jacobson, Texas State Library Archives & Commission. *Front row:* Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless; April Hill, TRMC, city secretary, Roanoke; Julie Heinze, city secretary, Lewisville; Tara Brooks, assistant city secretary/records manager, Grapevine; Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake; and Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur. *Not pictured:* Traci Riggs, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Southlake.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

I will find strategies to deal with the stressors

- To develop a habit you must have knowledge, skill and desire (K+S+D = Habit)
- To build effective relationships = competent leadership
- We can only control our attitude and behaviors

Spring is known for flowers, rain, and allergies, but for NTMCA spring brought records and Sarah Jacobson with Texas State Library Archives and Commission. On April 17 members received a presentation on records management from Ms. Jacobson. She provided an update on retention schedules, new storage standards, and electronic records standards. Ms. Jacobson reminded everyone of their blog, The Texas Record. This blog includes information on retention rule updates, availability of new training classes, and analyst tips.

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: February 20 meeting minutes; the February and March treasurer's reports; and the second quarter treasurer report (January-March 2013).

Vice President Diane Cockrell will have a strong finish with her selection of guest speakers and a round table discussion for the remainder of the fiscal year. If you see something of interest to you in one of our upcoming business meetings, you are invited to join us.

June 12 – City of Southlake: Awards Luncheon

July 17 – City of Arlington: Guest Speaker Stephen Booher, “Engagement”

August 21 – City of Haslet: Round table discussion: “iPad Tips & Tricks” and “Agenda Management”

September 18 – City of Haltom City: Guest Speaker Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director, “Leading with Questions” ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Gail Weir, TRMC**
City Secretary, Ore City

The Northeast Texas Chapter celebrated the coming of spring with a trip to beautiful Bullard. Our hosts, City Secretary Doris Crockett and Mayor Pam Frederick, met us at city hall, and following our business meeting, led us on an exciting tour. Driving past the new Kid's Park, we were amazed to learn the construction was completed last January in only five days! It is a monument to the dedication and stamina of the Bullard citizens.

We soon arrived at the American Freedom Museum on the campus of Brook Hill School. The museum houses an impressive collection of historical memorabilia, artifacts, recreations, and documents. Beginning with the Revolutionary War, we journeyed through time to our present day, each step an honor and tribute to those who bravely fought to keep America free. Every family should take advantage of this local treasure.

We ended our excursion with lunch at the Hidden Gardens Tea Room. A nursery as well as tea room, it inspired us to go home and plant something! It also reminded us that we all are gardeners in our world, and the harvest we reap depends on the seed we sow.

During our quarterly meeting, the chapter selected Melba Haralson, TRMC, as our nominee for TMCA Clerk of the Year.



The Northeast Texas Chapter at the American Freedom Museum in Bullard.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Melba is city secretary at Gladewater, a former chapter president, and a valued source of information and encouragement. President Ross presented to Ms. Haralson and to Ms. Weir for past service as presidents of the chapter.

The chapter will meet next in June at Nash. If you know a municipal clerk in our chapter area, please encourage them to attend. You may send their name to our Secretary Jennifer Studdard, city secretary, Nash: jpowell@nashtx.org.

We wish you a wonderful summer; may all the seed you scatter be nurtured by showers of encouragement.



Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater, was selected as the chapter's nominee for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year; Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City, and and Rosena Becker-Ross, city secretary, Mount Enterprise, were honored for past service as presidents of the chapter.



Doris Crockett, city secretary, Bullard; Jan Hommel, museum director; and Rosena Becker-Ross, city secretary, Enterprise.



Chapter members inside a plane at the American Freedom Museum.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER



Northeast Texas Chapter officers at the American Freedom Museum in Bullard.

Those attending the March 15 meeting were:

Shelly Ballenger, TRMC, city secretary, Longview

President Rosena Becker-Ross, city secretary, Mt. Enterprise

Cassandra Brager, city clerk, Tyler

Vickie Brenton, TRMC, city secretary, Winnsboro

Doris Crockett, city secretary, Bullard

Deborah Dane, city clerk, Kilgore

Mayor Pam Frederick, Bullard

Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater

Kathy Hoover, TRMC, city secretary, Gilmer

Vice President Sherry Roberts, TRMC,
city secretary, White Oak

Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Studdard, city secretary, Nash

Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City

Lawanna Williams, finance director, Kilgore

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By 2012-2013 Secretary/Treasurer **Lydia Ozuna, TRMC**
and 2013-2014 Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer **Janelle Dolan, TRMC**

The Red River Chapter met March 20 at Pasquals Restaurant in Wichita Falls. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday, who welcomed everyone.

Chapter business included approval of the December minutes and the treasurer's report.

Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon, was elected as chapter president. The chapter voted to combine the offices of vice president and secretary/treasurer, and to elect Janelle Dolan, city clerk, Burkburnett, to serve in this position.

President Balthrop announced the April TMCCP Municipal Budget Cycle Seminar in Lubbock and the April "Sam Houston" Athenian Dialogue in Huntsville.

The chapter discussed program ideas. President Balthrop will contact Texas State Library for options to hold a regional seminar on Records Management.

The chapter discussed elections. Each member gave input



The Red River Chapter at their March meeting.

RED RIVER CHAPTER

on what their election would consist of, as well as related issues, problems, solutions, processes, etc. Election laws and related pending bills were also discussed.

President Balthrop provided instructions for opening the notary training video zip file available on the Texas Secretary of State website.

Next meeting will be June 19 at a location to be determined. TMCA President Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, will be the guest speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. After the chapter meeting, several of the members proceeded to the Rathgeber Hospitality House for a tour of their expanded facility. This is a type of McDonald House, and the Red River Chapter has donated to this nonprofit entity for several years.

For more information about the chapter, please contact Janelle Dolan, city clerk, Burkburnett, at jdolan@burkburnett.org. ★

Those present at the March chapter meeting were:

Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City

President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday

Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon

Janelle Dolan, city clerk, Burkburnett

Secretary/Treasurer Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls

Sandy Page, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Bowie

Tracy Smith, Lakeside City

Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Lee Woodward, TRMC**
City Secretary, Huntsville

Greetings to all the TMCA chapters of Texas from the Salt Grassers! We wish you could have joined us in February at the beautiful Carothers Coastal Gardens! This beautiful property on the water just past the San Jacinto monument was formerly the home of a local artist. Still filled with light and sea breeze, it was beautifully decorated for Valentine's Day by Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, and Meredith Brant, TRMC, assistant city secretary, both of Seabrook.

Chapter President Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, called the meeting to order with many members and City of Seabrook city officials in attendance. Dick Gregg, Jr., of Gregg & Gregg Attorneys at Law, spoke on the legalities of videoconferencing open meetings.

March 2013 Chapter Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held its March 20 meeting at the Humble Civic Center. Salt Grass Chapter President Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, welcomed special guests from the City



February chapter meeting decorations by Meredith Brant, TRMC, assistant city secretary and excellent cupcake baker, Seabrook.

of Humble, and all were pleased to visit with them and Humble City Secretary Sue Daniel.

Pauline Small led a roundtable discussion regarding Itinerant Vendor Permits. Several cities had met recently in Webster on the topic, which had elicited great variation in fee amount, permit length, issuing department, and other policy requirements. Some cities kept "no solicit" lists, some did not charge nonprofits, and some offered public notification on their websites. There will be another meeting scheduled to address ordinances for sandwich boards and other sign carriers in road medians. Contact Pauline at psmall@cityofwebster.com for more information.

On Friday, March 22, many members of the chapter attended a phenomenal Athenian Dialogue in Webster on Gene Kranz's book *Failure is Not an Option: Mission Control from Mercury to Apollo 13 and Beyond*. Mr. Kranz is the former director of Mission Control and the day included a private site visit to the original Mission Control with Mr. Kranz. His experience and leadership lessons were brought to

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

life and the day's activities thoroughly inspired all who attended. The Dialogue was excellently facilitated by Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

April 2013 Chapter Meeting

Several members of the Salt Grass Chapter also attended the Sam Houston Athenian Dialogue in Huntsville on April 15. Facilitated by Huntsville Mayor Mac Woodward, who is also the director of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, the day was held on the grounds and included all-areas access to the museum, its archives, and two of Houston's homes. Participants discussed the great man's leadership and life, reaching a deeper appreciation of this often underestimated American hero.

The Dialogue was followed by a day-and-a-half of seminar sessions and concluded with the March Salt Grass meeting on April 17 at the Jane Monday Amphitheater at Huntsville's City Hall. President Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, called the meeting to order after a barbecue lunch in the sunshine with attendees visiting from the cities of Keene and Wharton.

Top right: Athenian Dialogue attendees at the original Mission Control Center in March.

Near right: Former Mission Control Director and author Gene Kranz at the original facilities in Webster.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

The chapter got down to business by enthusiastically approving the nomination of Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park, for the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year. Maria Gonzalez confidently recommended Sandra for her years of experience, willingness to improve and further the profession, and service to the Salt Grass Chapter and TMCA.

The next meeting is set for August 7, 2013. The City of Missouri City will host.

In other chapter news, all are reminded that the annual Salt Grass Chapter Public Information Act Seminar in Deer Park has been moved to September 11 this year, to be able to incorporate any relevant legislative action.

Guests are always welcome! For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact President Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, at mgonzalez@missouricitytx.gov. ★



Law enforcement presenters in Huntsville.

Members present included:

Paula Favors, city secretary, Wharton

Betsy Gates, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Tomball

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Kristin Edwards, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Huntsville

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Treasurer **Sharon Trumble**
City Secretary, New Deal

The South Plains Chapter met on March 30 at Hillcrest Country Club in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Slaton City Secretary Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton.

Toni Chrestman introduced Mary Ann Gordon from Slaton. Mary Ann spoke on “Surviving Stress in a City Secretary’s World.”

President Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa, called the meeting to order. Maria presented Toni Chrestman a gift from the chapter for all she did as chapter president.

President Maria Hatchett welcomed members and guests. Guests included Mary Ann Gordon and Kirk Franklin.

The minutes from the December meeting and the treasurer’s report were approved.

In other business, Kirk Franklin was made an Honorary member of the South Plains Chapter for all the hard work he does for the chapter.



The South Plains Chapter at their March meeting.

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland, will be the chairman for the nominating committee on Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2013, assisted by Jo Ann Beard, TRMC, city secretary, Smyer, and Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton.

President Hatchett stated that Ralls City Secretary Kim Perez will chair the 2013 Annual Chapter Seminar. Leann Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Linda Garcia, clerk, Ralls; Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton; Monica Lopez, city secretary, Lorenzo; and Jennifer Clements, management assistant to the city secretary, Lubbock, stated that they will help.

Murvat Musa, TRMC, city secretary, Ransom Canyon, gave a report on the chapter's planned TMCCP April 2013 seminar activities. The chapter's Thursday evening event would be held at the Watson Building with Cactus Theater performers singing 60's, 70's and 80's music; this would be sponsored by Kirk Franklin and Underwood Law Firm. Xcel Energy will sponsor the trolley transport of seminar attendees to the Watson Building. The South Plains Chapter planned to stuff and provide goody bags for the TMCCP seminar attendees. The chapter also made plans to provide door prizes.

The next chapter meeting was set for June 19. Jo Ann Beard, TRMC, city secretary, Smyer will host the next meeting.



Kirk Franklin, president and attorney, Franklin Legal Publishing, was made an Honorary member of the South Plains Chapter for all the hard work he has done for the chapter.

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Members and guest attending were:

JoAnn Beard, TRMC, city secretary, Smyer
 Janine Butler, TRMC, city secretary, Littlefield
 Sue Castles, Xcel Energy
 Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton
 Amanda Cummings, city secretary, Shallowater
 Kami Eady, city secretary, Hale Center
 Kathy Field, deputy city secretary, Slaton
 Kirk Franklin,
 president/attorney, Franklin Legal Publishing
 LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe
 Teresa Grimaldo, Lubbock
 Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock
 Thomas Harris III, TRMC,
 deputy city secretary, Lubbock
 Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa
 Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton
 Monica Lopez, city secretary, Lorenzo
 Murvat Musa, TRMC,
 city secretary, Ransom Canyon
 Kim Perez, city secretary, Ralls
 Lisa Richardson, city secretary, Anton
 Brenda Shaw, TRMC,
 city secretary/manager, Morton
 Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface
 Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal
 Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland
 Deana Watson, TRMC, city secretary, Post
 Cynthia Williams, TRMC,
 assistant city secretary, Post
 Toni Wilson, TRMC,
 city secretary (ret.), Sundown

Guest: Speaker Mary Ann Gordon, Slaton

NECROLOGY

*Published in The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal on
 May 27, 2013*



Jimmie Lou Stewart worked closely with Texas Municipal Clerks founder Dorothy Byrd in the early days of the Association.

Jimmie Lou Stewart, age 82, passed from this life on May 24, in Lubbock. Jimmie was born on June 25, 1930, to Luther and Lula (Hale) Stewart in Floydada. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Floydada where she worked in the nursery for many years. Jimmie worked for the City of Floydada as the City Secretary for 42 years. After retirement, she volunteered at the EMS, Senior Citizens, Spirit of Sharing, and also the Floyd County Abstract. She enjoyed being around people and helping

in her community. She is survived by sisters, Ruth Lloyd and Carolyn Smith and Husband Dale; nieces, Juanita Williamson and family of Lubbock, Joann Peek and family of Houston, and Sharon Craig and family of Jenks, Oklahoma; nephews, Shawn Smith and family of Durango, Colorado, Shannon Smith and family of Mansfield, Texas, and many great nieces and nephews who loved her very much. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Floydada Senior Citizens, P.O. Box 573 Floydada, TX 79235 or First Baptist Church, 401 S. Main St., Floydada, TX 79235.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

By President **Amy Turner, TRMC**

City Secretary, Midland

The West Texas Chapter met for their quarterly meeting on March 13 at Basin Burger House in Midland.

The West Texas Chapter Scholarship Committee recommended award of a scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 to Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink. (It was noted that two scholarships are budgeted and two applications were received. Unfortunately, the second application was from a member who was not current on their dues.)

Midland City Council Member John James spoke to the group about the importance of communications between staff members and elected officials.

Chapter President Amy Turner, TRMC, swore in Vice President Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa.

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled to be held on May 15 at Mi Piaci Italian Restaurante in Odessa with an educational program of electronic records management.



The West Texas Chapter at their meeting in Midland in March. *Back row, left to right:* Midland City Council Member John James; Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland; Karen Bullard, city secretary, Crane; Heather Ramirez, city secretary, Pecos; Adriana Moreno, deputy city secretary, Midland. *Front row:* Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; and SueAnn Reyes, deputy city secretary, Midland.

WEST TEXAS CHAPTER



Chapter President Amy Turner, TRMC (*right*), city secretary, Midland, swears in Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa as West Texas Chapter Vice President.

Attendees of the March meeting:

Karen Bullard, city secretary, Crane

Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa

Adriana Moreno, deputy city secretary, Midland

Heather Ramirez, city secretary, Pecos

SueAnn Reyes, deputy city secretary, Midland

Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink

Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland

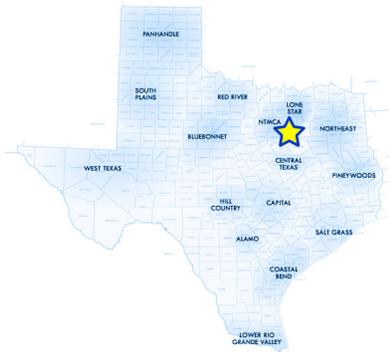
Guest: John James, city council member, Midland

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Vice President **Dolle Downe, TRMC**

City Secretary, Lancaster



The Yellow Rose Chapter has blossomed under the leadership of its president, Lyn Hill, city secretary, Cedar Hill, and its officers: Dolle Downe, TRMC, city secretary, Lancaster; Pam Woodall, city secretary, Ovilla; Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, city secretary, Grand Prairie; and Vicki Collins, city secretary, Man-

sfield. Since its inaugural meeting in September 2012, the chapter has held three additional meetings. To conclude 2012, chapter members joined together for a spirited holiday luncheon, complete with a performance by a local trio, and donated gifts for the Toys for Tots program.

The February meeting brought a handcrafted valentine surprise gift for members from our very creative chapter historian, Vicki Collins.

The February meeting was more than fun and networking though, with a presentation on “Emergency Management Preparedness” by Lancaster Fire Chief Thomas Griffith. Chapter members received an

“Emergency Operations Checklist” and a behind-the-scenes look at emergency operations during the April 2012 tornados that impacted several North Texas cities.

April’s meeting dawned on a sunny spring day and was hosted by City Secretary Lori Saunders in Waxahachie, which is a charming historical city in the heart of our multi-county chapter. The presentation on “Social Media—Use by Local Governments” was beneficial for our members and generated great dialogue about social media’s role in municipal government.

The Yellow Rose Chapter continues its plan to tend the garden of roses with upcoming meetings that include education on safety/security measures in public facilities, and a much anticipated visit by TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa. The chapter’s first nine months have been highlighted by strong support and networking among chapter members, as well as the opportunity to see firsthand the value of collaboration to enrich service to elected officials and citizens in our communities. With that in our mind and heart, we look forward to many more blooming roses. We welcome you to join us. ★

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LeAnn Gallman, Muleshoe, Immediate Past President, Chair
Art Camacho, Haltom City, President Elect
Patricia Ervin, Waco, Past President
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa, President
Shelley George, Allen, Certification Comm. Chair
Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir. *
Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCA Education Director*

Audit Committee
Laure Morgan, Hemphill, Chair
Jeana Bellinger, Brenham
Tonya Todd, Wink
Art Camacho, Haltom City, Board Liaison

Historian
Amanda Elizondo, Harlingen
**non-voting member*

Membership Committee
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Comprised of Chapter Presidents
Scarlet Swoboda, Victoria, Board Liaison

Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee
Kathy Wingo, Lucas, Chair
Brenda Dennis, Schertz
Arcelia Felix, Mercedes
Thomas Harris, Lubbock
Sherry Roberts, White Oak
Michael Wells, Bedford
Sandra Watkins, Deer Park, Board Liaison

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Christi Shivers, Mexia
Carole Vanzant, Fair Oaks Ranch
Art Camacho, Haltom City, Board Liaison
Norma Grimaldo, Odessa, Board Liaison

Open Records Steering Committee
Kim Sutter, Eules

Resolutions Committee
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Tina Broussard, Beaumont
Toni Chrestman, Slaton
Diane Zucco, Plano
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Ron Gonzales, Fort Worth
Crystal Roan, Webster
Amy Turner, Midland
Pauline Small, Webster, Board Liaison

Technology Committee
Patrice Fogarty, La Porte, Chair
Melinda Welsh, Friendswood

TML Booth Committee
Cara McPartland, Wimberley, Chair
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