

TMCA NEWS



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TMCA President
Art Camacho, TRMC
City Secretary, Haltom City

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The World of Animal Cookies

As I write this, I hope that your general elections are over and you do not have to deal with a runoff, but sometimes, life is just that way. Remember that even a runoff is also a time to demonstrate your best abilities as a city clerk.

I would like to share something with you through a long-time past incident with my older sister Patricia. My mom would buy us each a Nabisco “Barnum’s Animal Cookies” package when she went grocery shopping at the Piggly-Wiggly when we were kids. We would get home, pour out our cookies on a plate together, and immediately eat the broken cookies—that was a gimme. We would then take turns choosing the remaining cookies, and every time my sister would choose the small animals—the rabbit, turtle, and squirrel. I would laugh at her and tell her that she was

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nuts in not choosing the big animals—the elephant, lion and bear. In a very matter-of-fact tone, she responded, “In the world of animal cookies, all the animals are the same.” I haven’t thought much about that statement until recently, but she was correct. All of the animals were the same size, but my mental “real-world” concept considered them all different. If the cookies were made in accordance to the animal’s appropriate size, then the elephant cookie would weigh several pounds, but Nabisco didn’t do that. They made every cookie the same.

The point I want to make is that very few people outside our office and profession know about city clerks. Usually when you tell someone you are a city clerk or a city secretary, they immediately think that all you do all day is take dictation, type some reports, and answer the phone. They have an idea, but can be honestly mistaken about our role in municipal government. This is why all clerks need to consider that how we represent our profession individually often leaves an impression on all city clerks



collectively. What we are trying to achieve within the TMCA is to help develop a clerk that is proficient in regard to service, whether it is a city of one thousand—the “rabbit”—or one million—the “elephant.” It is not really important what animal cookie you are because we are all held to the same standard of performance. I soon discovered while working in my first city clerk job in 1999 in Ranger that I was equally held to the legal requirements as the larger area cities like Abilene and San Angelo. The law didn’t give me preferential treatment because I worked for a small city with a minimal staff. It made no difference. But the small staff disadvantage wasn’t a deterrent in keeping me from becoming the best city clerk I could be, nor should it be for anyone.

We all count—every single one of us. Some clerks may think because they are in a small city, they aren’t considered valuable in the framework of the TMCA. They may think the program is only established for the city clerks in a larger municipality and their expanded budgets. Nothing could

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be further from the truth. In fact, it is a priority of the TMCA, especially the executive board, to improve the current methods and develop new programs to enhance the small town city clerk in training and education. Basically, if a clerk takes the time and has access to a computer with the internet, she or he should be able to complete the homework section of the TMCCP certification within a few years. However, I know the funding for the seminars is another situation that is altogether difficult. This is why the TMCA, company vendors, and even local chapters sponsor scholarships to assist many small town clerks in attending. And sadly, at the end of the TMCA 2013 fiscal year, there was still \$625 in available funds left because no one took advantage of this financial opportunity.

Before I left Ranger in 2005, Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, had her city's media personnel produce a short video for the TMCA called the "Stars of Texas Government," which portrayed several TMCA clerks performing their jobs. I was filmed performing several duties, including conducting a chlorine test at the sewer plant, making the bank de-

posit, and working on a code enforcement violation. My job duties now are less varied, but more detailed, so though I may not work as "hard," I am working more efficiently on certain features of my job that are in greater volume and involve precise specifics. However, I still maintain the same level of commitment and service that began in that small Ranger office.

Some of the best clerks I have ever seen are from small towns, and they have a vast amount of municipal knowledge because they "do it all." And I have met some city clerks in large municipalities that have never handled an open records request or a utility bill, but can just overwhelm you with their experience regarding a local option petition or charter election. In each circumstance, they perform admirably. Their caliber of service is not based on a city's population, but on their individual desire to provide their best to their community, citizens, staff, and council. I was always impressed with the career of Jo Moore, who was the TMCA president in 2004, and how she made the jump from the tiny community of Tye to the big city of Abilene. It wasn't her educational background that



2004 TMCA President Jo Moore, TRMC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

was the determining factor upon her being hired, but rather her personal demeanor and municipal experience. She is a perfect example that demonstrates it's not so important where you work, but rather who and what you are. There have been other clerks that have made a similar jump and were successful, so remember that the next time you are given the opportunity to represent yourself before others. Whether you are a "squirrel" or a "camel" doesn't matter because we each are held to respective levels of service performance and legal requirements.

Have a great summer and keep up the good work!

Art Camacho, TRMC

2014 TMCA President

acamacho@haltomcitytx.com

"Adopt a Neighboring Clerk"—Prize Drawing!

As president of the TMCA, I have heard several good reports from around the state in regard to promoting the **"Adopt a Neighboring Clerk"** program. Clerks who have never been able to participate in chapter meetings or attend seminars are being encouraged and even assisted in this activity. I would like to carry this a little further with a promotional prize for the chapter clerks who are participating in this.

Whenever a clerk (or clerks, if they are working together) in a chapter brings a new clerk to a chapter meeting, assists with a ride to a seminar or chapter meeting, or even has a lunch or visitation with a new clerk, they can submit their names to their chapter presidents for each individual effort. This activity will continue until **October 10**, and then the chapter presidents will send TMCA Membership Committee Chair Kathy Wingo their list of chapter clerk names with their number of participation activities. Each activity means an additional drawing name. At the TMCA Banquet on October 23 in Kerrville, a name will be drawn and the winner will receive **two tickets to the Dallas Cowboys vs. Philadelphia Eagles game on Thanksgiving, November 27, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, with an additional \$50 cash spending money**. The winner does not have to be present at the banquet to win. I hope this might spur some additional participation from among the membership and also reward the clerks for their effort.

Sincerely,

Art Camacho, TMCA President

PRESIDENT'S TRAVELS

One of the privileges of being president of the TMCA is the great opportunity to attend the chapter meetings throughout the state. I have really enjoyed the friendly reception that has been demonstrated by each group so far, and look forward to seeing the remaining chapters later this year. I want to encourage each chapter president to please do your best to encourage members to attend and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow clerks.

—Art Camacho, 2014 TMCA President



Travels so far:

- February 5 - Lone Star Chapter
- February 19 - Central Texas Chapter
- March 12 - Bluebonnet Chapter
- March 19 - Red River Chapter
- April 3 - Yellow Rose Chapter
- April 9 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
- May 18-21 - IIMC Conference, Milwaukee



TMCCP SEMINAR

OMA, PIA, Agendas, Parliamentary Procedure, & Records Management

August 7-8, 2014 • Embassy Suites Hotel, Convention Center & Spa, Frisco

Register now for our comprehensive TMCCP seminar this August in Frisco, featuring a selection of vital topics and esteemed speakers:

Texas Open Meetings Act

*Patrice Fogarty, TRMC,
City Secretary, La Porte*

Agendas & Minutes

*LeAnn Gallman, TRMC,
City Secretary, Muleshoe,
& Pauline Small, TRMC,
City Secretary, Webster*

Parliamentary Procedure

*Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, City
Secretary, Bryan*

Basics of Public Information Act & Processing Requests for Information

*Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary,
Fort Worth, & Patrice Fogarty, TRMC,
City Secretary, La Porte*

Records Management & Disaster Recovery

*Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, City
Secretary, College Station*

The seminar will be held at the Embassy Suites Frisco. The seminar hotel's room block is now filled, but neighboring overflow hotel Hilton Garden Inn Frisco is within walking distance. Both hotels are adjacent to Stonebriar Centre Mall (*pictured at lower right*), one of the premier shopping centers in the Southwest.

Learn more about the seminar here. We look forward to seeing you in Frisco! ★



TMCCP GRADUATE INSTITUTE SEMINAR

Influencing Behavior & Impacting Results: People Working Together

October 23-24, 2014 • Y.O. Ranch Hotel, Kerrville



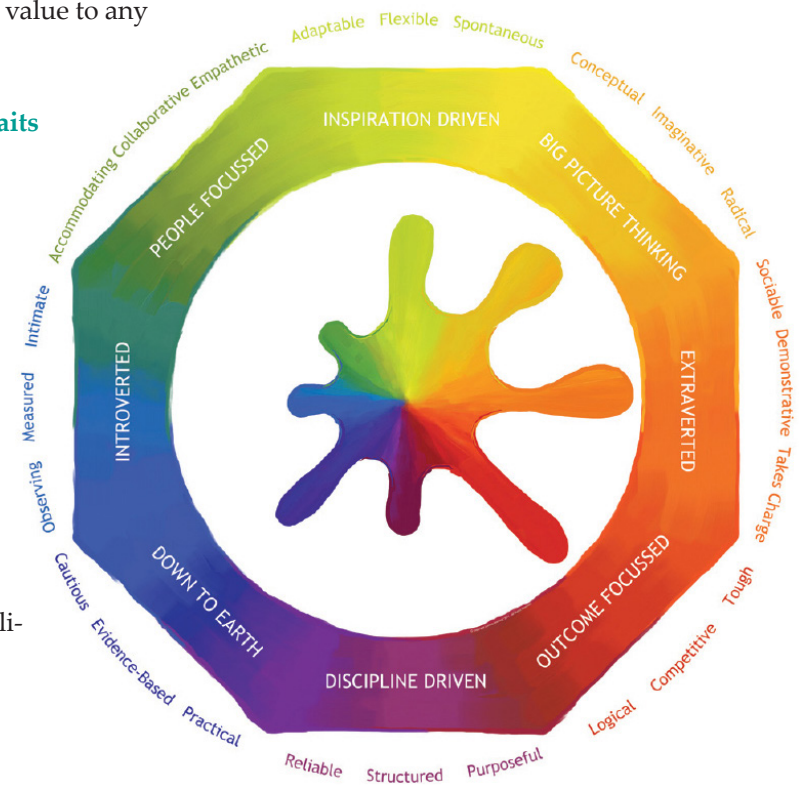
Marcel Brunel, founder and president of Brunel Group. [\[read more\]](#)

The 2014 TMCCP Graduate Institute promises to be an interactive, practical, intuitive, and enjoyable seminar with facilitator **Marcel Brunel** as he helps you **explore who you are**, learn how to **improve working relationships with others**, and become inspired to **embrace your personal and professional development**.

Participants will complete an online questionnaire and receive a personal **Lumina Spark** assessment—an awareness tool of great value to any municipal employee, as it:

- Includes an explanation of the assessment of **your traits and behaviors**
- Highlights **what you do naturally** and **don't do naturally**, and shines a light on your blind spots and **where you get stuck**
- Helps you **value diversity** while **working with people opposite to your personality** and people who are similar to your personality, and helps you **see yourself in others**
- Facilitates a better way to **speed-read the people you work with**—both colleagues and citizens
- Guides you on how to better fulfill your responsibilities while maintaining **professional neutrality**

Learn more here. See you in Kerrville this October! ★



2014 Retiree Recognition

By Retirement Committee Chair **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**

City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch



Carole Vanzant, TRMC

The TMCA Retirement Committee is enthusiastically working to capture our 2014 retirees before our October 23 Annual TMCA Awards Banquet in Kerrville. As retirees deserve recognition and because we don't want to leave anyone out, the committee has been in contact with each TMCA chapter president to assist us with identifying our 2014 retirees. But we need your help to reach out to ALL the retirees!

If you know of a recent retiree or someone who is planning retirement this year, please have them complete the **2014 Retirement Information Form** and forward it to me or another Retirement Committee member listed on this page.

For our retirees—remember retirement is a time to do what you want to do, when you want to do it, where you want to do it, and how you want to do it! We congratulate you and thank you for your service to the public, peers, friends, and your co-workers. ★

2014 TMCA Retirement Committee:

Chair **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**, City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch

Brenda Shaw, TRMC, City Manager/City Secretary, Morton

Arcie Felix, TRMC, City Secretary, Mercedes

Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC, City Secretary, Mount Enterprise

A Year of Service

By President Elect **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**

City Secretary, College Station



Sherry Mashburn, TRMC

People volunteer for a whole slew of reasons: to share a skill; to get to know a community; to gain leadership skills; to have an impact; to learn something new; to assure progress; be an agent for change; etc. But whatever your reason, bear in mind that whatever it was that motivated you to volunteer may not be the reason why you will continue to volunteer! You will discover that you will want to continue to serve as long as you feel you are accomplishing something, that your talents are appreciated, and that you do, indeed, make a difference.

TMCA, Inc., needs **YOU** to serve on one of ten committees for 2015. As president elect, I need you to serve alongside me to make 2015 a banner year for TMCA to effect change, and to promote our profession as never before. For those who have served in the past, your service is sincerely appreciated, and it is hoped that you will apply to serve again and to show the way to those serving for the first time. If you have not served on a committee before, I urge you to consider applying now. This is your opportunity to learn more about the organization, grow in your profession, and make new friends.

Committees typically meet via phone or email, so concerns



about travel should not be an issue. Please read the **TMCA Committee Criteria Policy**, which includes a synopsis about each committee's responsibilities, to see where your interests lie and where you might receive the most personal benefit. **The Committee Interest Questionnaire is available for download here.** Once completed, please send the questionnaire by **September 1** to Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, City Secretary, City of College Station, Texas 77842, or email it to **smashburn@cstx.gov**.

2015 is going to be the Year of Service for TMCA, and I can't wait! ★

SEMINAR IN REVIEW

Records Management & HR Practices

April 10-11, 2014, McAllen, Texas

Everyone had a wonderful time at the “Records Management & HR Practices” seminar held in McAllen in April. Over 130 were in attendance. The speakers were terrific—Passion Hayes, director of human resources, Addison, spoke on “Human Resources Practices”; Jannette Goodall, TRMC, city clerk, Austin, spoke on “Records Management 101”; and Bob Guz, records and information management officer, Austin, spoke on “Electronic Records Management.”

On Thursday evening, the TMCA Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter and the City of McAllen generously hosted a fiesta at Quinta Mazatlan, a historic adobe mansion and nature and birding center.



*Clockwise from top left: Speaker **Bob Guz**; speaker with attendee **Laura Scarlato**, city secretary, Richmond; attendees at the seminar during a session break; and speaker **Jannette Goodall**, TRMC.*

TMCCP APRIL SEMINAR IN McALLEN

Photos courtesy Karen Wilkerson unless noted.



The TMCA Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter and the City of McAllen generously hosted a fiesta at historic Quinta Mazatlan.



Thank you to our generous Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter hosts!

Photo courtesy LRGV Chapter

TMCCP APRIL SEMINAR IN McALLEN

Photos courtesy Karen Wilkerson



Upcoming Events

June 19-20, Tyler • **Registration open**

TMCCP Public Funds Investment Seminar

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 3 or 4 or Recertification seminar credit

July 25-26, Belton • **Registration open**

TMCA Central Texas Chapter's Retreat at Summers Mill

August 6, Frisco • **Registration open**

IIMC Athenian Dialogue: "Unbroken"

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

August 7-8, Frisco • **Registration open**

TMCCP Seminar: OMA, PIA, Agendas, Minutes, Parliamentary Procedure, & Records Management

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 1 or Recertification seminar credit

August 15, Webster • **Registration open**

Salt Grass Chapter's IIMC Athenian Dialogue: "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker"

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

September 10-12, San Antonio • *Information pending*

IIMC Region IV Meeting

Two Athenian Dialogues will be held at this event.

September 30-October 3, Houston

TML Annual Conference

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

Andrea McDonald, Amarillo
Deborah Sorensen,
McLendon-Chisholm

Course 3

SueAnn Reyes, Midland

Course 4

Carla Walker, Granbury

Course 2

Kristy Ashberry, Rockwall
Carol Ann Borges,
Westworth Village

Stephanie Dimas, Arlington

Melissa Grace, Boerne

Connie Hansen, Providence Village

Carrie Hart, Denison I

Frances Hibbs, Amarillo

Tanya McNutt, College Station

Rhonda Nabors, Grand Prairie

Kathryn Sanchez, Blue Mound

Virginia Singleterry, McAllen

Ana Valdez, Penitas

Barbara Denise Vice, McKinney

Angie Wade, Glen Rose

TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Doing More Good



TMCCP Education Director
Dr. Amy Holt

I have been in my position now for almost a year and a half. I have learned so much during that time. One thing I am continually impressed and encouraged by is this group's desire to do good for others. Obviously, in your positions each of you works hard for your community every single day. You go above and beyond to be good servants day in and day out. Beyond that, however, you strive to serve others in every aspect of your life. I have heard stories of clerks who have taken in other people's children and are raising them as their own, clerks who have volunteered many hours after a natural disaster in your area, clerks who tell their kids to call the city secretary if they are ever traveling out of town and have an emergency in another city because they know that person will be there for their precious family member. Wow! What a testament to the character of the individuals in this organization.

I knew the members of TMCA would be very supportive of a fundraising idea I had for our recent

seminar in McAllen. **Angels of Love** is a nonprofit organization that provides services and care to abused and neglected children in the Rio Grande Valley. Every year more than 3 million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving more

than 6 million children. More than 4 children die every day as a result of child abuse. Angels of Love is in the process of raising funds to build an emergency shelter to provide immediate, emergency shelter to children who are in extremely dangerous situations. At our April seminar in McAllen, TMCA raised funds to donate to

Angels of Love to help build this shelter. We raised just over \$250 in just 1.5 days at a seminar that had 137 participants—wow! Kirk Franklin of Franklin Legal Publishing donated an additional almost \$250. This allowed us to “buy a brick” that will be used to build the emergency shelter. Our name and logo will be on this brick. We will be a part of the history and future of the emergency shelter in McAllen! ★



TMCA Represented at Community Marketplace at UNT MPA Alumni Conference

TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt and Administrative Specialist Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, along with Arlington City Secretary Mary Supino, TRMC, and Decatur City Secretary Diane Cockrell, TRMC, attended the University of North Texas' Department of Public Administration's **Master of Public Administration Alumni-Student Conference** on March 21 in Denton.

This annual event brings together city leaders from across the region and the state, future leaders who are pursuing an MPA from UNT, and friends of the program to discuss and learn more about current topics related to municipal leadership. This year's conference focused on the relationship between the Department of Public Administration (and the alumni of the department's programs) and community agencies that are active in the municipalities of the leaders.

The conference featured a "Community Marketplace" that showcased the different agencies and non-profit organizations active in local communities. The purpose was to highlight some of the ways city leaders can be involved in community engagement and harness the power of these organizations.

TMCA was one of 18 organizations at the event. It was a very successful day, and TMCA was able to talk to many students and alumni about the city secretary position and help educate city leaders (and future city leaders) about the importance of the city secretary position. In fact, we even recruited at least one new TMCA member on the spot who was a new city secretary and an alumnus of the MPA program at UNT. ★

Photo top right: TMCA Education Director Dr. Amy Holt and Arlington City Secretary Mary Supino, TRMC. *At right:* TMCA Administrative Specialist Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, and Mary Supino.



IIMC News

By **Mary Kayser, TRMC**

City Secretary, Fort Worth

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Mary Kayser, TRMC

Here is an update on IIMC activities and the IIMC Annual Conference in Milwaukee. The IIMC board met on May 16-17. We had a great “Board Development” session on May 17, where we reviewed and updated the IIMC Strategic Plan, followed by the board meeting that concluded on May 18. Here are some highlights.

There were 670 delegates at the conference. Wisconsin clerks were offered a one-year membership with a full conference registration. This will hopefully encourage them to stay with IIMC and pursue IIMC certification. We will continue to offer this at future conferences.

We continue to add new members. We have added 77 from municipalities under 2,100 in population. Region XI has added over 400 new members. The membership campaign has exceeded its ROI and this is the sixth year that membership dues have exceeded one million dollars.

This is the seventh year that IIMC has been in the black. This is due to oversight of the budget committee and 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 to \$401,000; we have \$21,000 in the building reserve. We are in great shape financially thanks to the Budget and Planning Committee headed by our own Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

We had a report from MCEF, and the corpus of their funding is at \$1.93 million. 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. The MCEF Board has added two new members: Mary Lynne Stratta and Kristie Smithers from Alaska. MCEF announced that iCompass is setting up an endowment with \$1,000 to start. They will be sending out a survey to all clerks, and for every survey returned to them they

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will add one dollar to their endowment. Be on the lookout for the survey and please respond.

IIMC is continuing to reach out to Region XI. We hired Nick Randle as the Region XI consultant and he has done a great job. However, due to other commitments he has had to resign the position. IIMC is preparing to search for a new consultant. The communication in Region XI with each other and IIMC has greatly improved and they are becoming more involved in IIMC. The Brussels Symposium is a great opportunity for that region to come together.

The IIMC committees have been active again this year. The Policy Committee has completed the review of the Policy Manual except for chapters 5 and 7, and these will be reviewed this coming year.

The IIMC constitution has been reviewed and revised. The board approved the revised version and it will be coming out to the membership for your review. At the IIMC business meeting in Hartford,

Attendees at the banquet of the IIMC Annual Conference in May. *Top photo, from left to right:* **Sandra Watkins, TRMC**, city secretary, Deer Park; **Ronnie Watkins**; **Jenny Page, TRMC**, city secretary, Frisco; **Jannette Goodall, TRMC**, city clerk, Austin; **Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC**, city secretary, Bee Cave; TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City; **Gordon Kayser**; **Mary Kayser, TRMC**, city secretary, Fort Worth; **JJ Stratta**; and **Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC**, city secretary, Bryan.

Lower right photo, from left to right: New Region IV Director **Mary Ann Hess**, Laurel, Mississippi; outgoing Region IV Director **Mary Kayser, TRMC**, city secretary, Fort Worth; and Region IV Director **Pattie Dupuis**, city clerk, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.



Photo courtesy Sandra Watkins



Photo courtesy Mary Kayser

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the constitution will be on the agenda for discussion. It will go out to the members for their approval after the conference concludes.

There will be many opportunities for members to review and comment on the revised constitution. The Region IV directors will keep us up-to-date on the process.

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.

On May 19 we held the Region IV meeting. Region IV membership in IIMC is 596, with 235 who hold the CMC and 77 who hold the MMC.

We introduced our new Region IV director, Mary Ann Hess from Laurel, Mississippi. She and fellow Region IV Director Pattie Dupuis, city clerk, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, will continue the great work in Region IV. We also unveiled the new Region IV pin.

We had a great Region IV dinner Monday night at John Hawks Pub in downtown Milwaukee.

The next Region IV meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, September 10-12, 2014 (Embassy Suites San Antonio I-10, 210-340-5421).



Photos courtesy Sandra Watkins



At top: Texas attendees of the Region IV meeting. Above: All attendees of the Region IV meeting.

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There will be two Athenian Dialogues held at this meeting; information on the books will be available in the coming weeks.

As always, 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. President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, carried the Texas flag with pride. He looked awesome in his hat, boots, and vest.

At the Annual Business Meeting, Vincent Buttiglieri, Ocean Township, New Jersey, was sworn in as vice president; Monica Martinez-Simmons, Seattle, Washington, was sworn in as President- Elect; and Brenda Kay Young, Nashville, Indiana, was sworn in as IIMC President. We have great leadership on the IIMC Board.

All in all, it was a great conference. Outstanding education, great

*Photo at top right, standing from left to right: **Sandra Watkins, TRMC**, city secretary, Deer Park; **Jenny Page, TRMC**, city secretary, Frisco; **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**, Fair Oaks Ranch; **Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP** education director; **Peggy Burnside, TRMC**, TMCA/TMCCP administrative director; **Annette Villarreal, TRMC**, city secretary, McAllen; and **Jannette Goodall, TRMC**, city clerk, Austin. *Foreground: TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City.**

*Near right: TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, represented Texas in the Parade of Flags at the May IIMC Conference.*



IIMC NEWS

networking, and some fun as well. Make plans now for next year: May 17-20, 2015, in Hartford, Connecticut. You don't want to miss it.

It has been my honor to serve as Region IV director for the past three years. IIMC is a great organization and has made great strides in the last several years with outstanding leadership. It has been my pleasure to be a part of it.

I will let you all know that I am running for IIMC vice president for 2015. I want to keep the good work going forward. I look forward to your support.

Mary J. Kayser, TRMC, MMC

City Secretary, Fort Worth

817-392-6161 • mary.kayser@fortworthtexas.gov

IIMC BULLETIN

Congratulations to **Diane Callahan, TRMC**, city secretary, Highland Village, and **Theresa Scott, TRMC**, town secretary, Flower Mound, on 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.

Diane Callahan earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2008, has recertified, and is enrolled in her second recertification.

Theresa Scott earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2013 and is enrolled in her first recertification.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**

City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch

Chapter members met in the beautiful city of Helotes for their February 26 meeting. Members received a presentation on “Records Management” by Local Government Services CEO Linda Hambrick, who provided detailed steps on cleaning up and reorganizing records, from off-site inactive records storage areas up to and including active files. Following the presentation members were given a tour of Helotes’s new fire station by meeting host and Helotes City Secretary Grace Tamez, TRMC.

Congratulations went out to Leticia Saenz, TRMC, deputy city clerk, San Antonio; Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Garden Ridge; Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; and Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights, for their respective TMCCP certifications and recertifications. Chapter President Vanzant encouraged all members to continue with their education, and reminded members of the chapter’s book exchange program.

Further congratulations were given to Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio: firstly for her induction into the San Antonio’s Women’s Hall of Fame for her outstanding civic duty, and secondly

for receiving the San Antonio Conservation Society’s Preservation Heroes Award for her preservation work on city records.

After approval of the chapter’s meeting minutes and financial report, Janie Willman, city secretary, Castle Hills, presented an idea of placing individual clerk bios in future chapter newsletters. This will provide chapter members with a history of the chapter’s city clerk/secretary career, help promote the role of the city clerk/secretary, and provide an insight on what the city clerk/secretary is doing in for their community.

A briefing was given by the chapter members who attended the January TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving, and Chapter President Vanzant reviewed the upcoming TMCCP seminars.

Upon closing of the meeting, a chapter scholarship raffle prize, donated by Chapter Vice President Janice Alamia, city secretary, Hollywood Park, was won by Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Karen Wilkerson, TRMC**

City Secretary/Administrator, De Leon

The Bluebonnet Chapter held their December 2013 meeting in Eastland at the Connellee Civic Center. On behalf of the chapter, we would like to say “thank you” to Eastland City Secretary Shirley Stuart for hosting the meeting site and all of the work that goes into it. We would also like to thank Mayor Larry Vernon for giving the invocation, Alice Holliday and her husband, Ron “Texas Slim” Holliday, for providing the comedy and musical Christmas entertainment, and Atmos Energy for sponsoring the meal that was provided.

The chapter had its routine reading of the minutes, treasurer’s report, and historian’s report. Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, announced that Stephenville City Secretary Cindy Stafford was the recipient of the 2013 Bluebonnet Municipal Clerk of the Year Award, and awarded our Bluebonnet Chapter Scholarship to San Angelo Deputy City Clerk Maria Franco.



Members at the December 2013 chapter meeting in Eastland at the Connellee Civic Center.

Front row: Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood; Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland; Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; Billie Pearce, city secretary (ret.), Tuscola; Mary Wells, city secretary, Ranger. Back row: Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, city administrator/secretary, De Leon; Heather Robertson, city secretary, Breckenridge; Maria Franco, deputy city clerk, San Angelo; Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Karen Langley, TRMC, city secretary, Coleman; Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville; and Staci King, community service administrative assistant, Stephenville.

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

The 2014 officers elected were: President Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Vice President Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville; Secretary Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood; Treasurer Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; and Historian Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, city secretary/administrator, De Leon.

The chapter next met at the Hard Eight BBQ in Stephenville on March 13. Stephenville City Secretary Cindy Stafford greeted everyone and introduced Director of Community Development Betty Chew and Mayor Kenny Weldon. Ms. Chew welcomed everyone to Stephenville and Mayor Kenny Weldon gave the invocation.

President Latham called the meeting to order and all members and guests introduced themselves. In chapter business, the December 2013 meeting minutes were approved and the treasurer's report and historian's report were accepted.

Stephenville City Secretary Cindy Stafford was presented with a plaque for 2013 Municipal Clerk of the Year by Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene.



Above right: Swearing in the 2014 officers (from left to right): Historian **Karen Wilkerson, TRMC**, city administrator/secretary, De Leon; Secretary **Christi Wynn, TRMC**, city secretary, Brownwood; President **Dianne Latham**, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Treasurer **Danette Dunlap, TRMC**, city secretary, Abilene; and Vice President **Cindy Stafford**, city secretary, Stephenville.

Near right: Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, presented **Cindy Stafford**, city secretary, Stephenville, with the 2013 Bluebonnet Municipal Clerk of the Year Award at the March 2014 meeting in Stephenville.

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

The chapter voted Abilene City Secretary Danette Dunlap, TRMC, as its nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, addressed the chapter and discussed adopting a neighboring clerk. He spoke of how Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge, was a great mentor for him and how they corresponded with one another on a very frequent basis. He spoke of how important it was to have a network of peers and mentors to help us learn and grow. Art also spoke about the role of a city secretary, and how the office must be run with knowledge, integrity, good work ethics, and honesty. He encouraged us to be passionate about our jobs and to strive for greatness.

Above right: March 2014 chapter meeting in Stephenville. Front row: Brenda Kilgore, city secretary, Early; Mary Wells, city secretary, Ranger; Kim Bryant, city secretary, Stamford; Karen Langley, city secretary, Coleman; Heather Robertson, city secretary, Breckenridge. Back row: Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge; TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, city admin./secretary, De Leon; Staci King, admin. asst., Stephenville; Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville; Diane Latham, asst. city secretary, Breckenridge; Angela Young, dep. city secretary, Comanche; Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood; Nan Billings, TRMC, city secretary, Bangs; Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; Jean Gilmore, city secretary, Clyde; Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin; and Connie Thornton, asst. city secretary, Clyde.

Near right: TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, addresses the Bluebonnet Chapter at their March meeting.



BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

Upcoming chapter meeting dates:

June 11—City of Dublin, hosted by City Secretary Rhonda Williams

September—City of Abilene, hosted by City Secretary Danette Dunlap, TRMC

December 10—City of Breckenridge, hosted by Assistant City Secretary Diane Latham, City Secretary Heather Robinson, and Linda Knight, TRMC

Follow us on **Facebook!** ★

Members attending the March meeting were:

Nan Billings, TRMC, city secretary, Bangs

Kim Bryant, city secretary, Stamford

Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene

Jean Gilmore, city secretary, Clyde

Brenda Kilgo, city secretary, Early

Karen Langley, city secretary, Coleman

Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge

Staci King, community service administrative assistant, Stephenville

Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge

Heather Robertson, city secretary, Breckenridge

Cindy Stafford, city secretary, Stephenville

Connie Thornton, assistant city secretary, Clyde

Mary Wells, city secretary, Ranger

Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, city secretary/administrator, De Leon

Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin

Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood

Angela Young, deputy city secretary, Comanche

Guest: TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Jessica Graefe, TRMC**
City Secretary, Giddings

The Capital Chapter met in January and held discussion regarding training on a notary seminar that the chapter can host.

The chapter's March meeting was held in Brenham at the police station. Treasurer Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, did such a great job putting the 2014 budget together.

The chapter has reached its membership goal of 60—we invite others to join!

Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, informed members that there is money in the chapter's budget for scholarships and encouraged everyone to apply.

The program on “Servant Leadership Through E to the 4th Power: Empathy, Edification, Enthusiasm, and Excellence” was presented by Chief Rex Phelps. It was a wonderful presentation and everyone was able to take some informative leadership points home with them!



Chief Rex Phelps presented a program to the chapter on “Servant Leadership Through E to the 4th Power: Empathy, Edification, Enthusiasm, and Excellence.”

CAPITAL CHAPTER

Our upcoming meeting schedule:

May 2014—Bickerstaff Heath in Austin

July 2014—Summers Mill Retreat in Belton

September 2014—Bickerstaff Heath in Austin

December 2014—Hutto

We are thankful to our host cities and towns for their wonderful hospitality.

For chapter information please contact Shirley Garvel at sgarvel@yahoo.com. ★



Chapter members listen to Chief Phelps's presentation.

Those in attendance at the January meeting:

Frances Aguilar, city secretary, Manor
 Lucretia Alvarez, city secretary, Elgin
 Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown
 Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham
 Susan Brock, TRMC, city clerk, Taylor
 Betty Brown, TRMC, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta
 Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia
 Tammy Cook, TRMC, deputy city clerk, San Marcos
 Catherine Fryer, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta
 Shirley Garvel, city secretary (ret.), Elgin
 Seth Gipson, mgmt. assistant, Hutto
 Jessica Graefe, city secretary, Giddings
 Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills

Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron
 Amanda Klehm, deputy city secretary, Brenham
 Rachael Lynch, TRMC, city admin./city secretary, Carmine
 Christine Martinez, city secretary, Hutto
 Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station
 Lisa Oltmann, city secretary, LaGrange
 Melissa Perry, city secretary, Jarrell
 Janet Rogers, city secretary (ret.), West Lake Hills
 Myrna Rios, city clerk, Austin
 Robyn Ryan, city secretary, Rollingwood
 Meagan Spinks, deputy city secretary, Round Rock
 Sara White, TRMC, city secretary, Round Rock

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Sandra Barton**

City Secretary, Robinson

The Central Texas Chapter held a bi-monthly meeting on February 19. The City of Hubbard hosted the meeting at the Hubbard City Civic Center. Central Texas Chapter President Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia, welcomed everyone, and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by M & K Catering Service.

TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, was the special guest, and spoke of a new program called "Adopt a Neighboring Clerk," encouraging everyone to get involved and participate in the program.

The new 2014-2016 officers were sworn in by Chapter President Christi Shivers: President Jana Faucett, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia; Vice President Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills; Secretary Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson; Assistant Secretary Amber Fuller, city secretary, Hubbard; Treasurer Michelle Hicks, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Historian Jana Taylor, city secretary, Fairfield; and Benevolence Officer Cynthia Ward, city secretary, Bellmead.

Chapter members present at the April meeting:

Jill Anderson,
public information/communications director, Robinson
Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson
Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville
Ronda Cockerham, TRMC, city secretary, Italy
Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco
President Jana Faucett, TRMC, city secretary, Belton
Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills
Michelle Hicks, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview
Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt
Kathy McKenzie, HR director, Robinson
Cresandra Polk, records coordinator, Waco
Karen Sanchez, finance director, Robinson
Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia
Jana Taylor, city secretary, Fairfield
Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgans Point Resort
Cynthia Ward, city secretary, Bellmead

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Members also discussed the upcoming Summers Mill Retreat (formerly the “Salado Seminar”) to be held on July 25-26, 2014; updates; future chapter meetings; and upcoming seminars.

The chapter held its next bi-monthly meeting on April 16. The City of Belton hosted the meeting at the Grand Avenue Theatre. Chapter President Jana Fawcett, city secretary, Belton, welcomed everyone, and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by a private chef at the theater.

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

In other news, the Central Texas Chapter will host the **Annual Summers Mill Retreat** this year. SAVE THE DATE for July 25-26; the topic will be LEADERSHIP. A great time is expected as always for networking, food, and fun! ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Mary Valenzuela**

City Secretary, Kingsville

Fulton City Secretary Jan Hill hosted the February 26 Coastal Bend Chapter meeting at Charlotte Plummer's Seafare Restaurant. If you are ever in the Fulton area, this is a great restaurant to get some good seafood.

After a wonderful meal, Coastal Bend Chapter President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport, welcomed everyone and introduced City Manager Kevin Carruth of the City of Rockport. Mr. Carruth took time from his busy schedule to welcome members of the chapter and took the time to swear in the newly elected officers for 2014. Each officer was presented with a special seashell which symbolizes the duties of each officer. The following individuals were sworn in: President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Vice President Jan Hill, city secretary, Fulton; Secretary Mary Valenzuela, city secretary, Kingsville; and Treasurer Karen Ivey, San Patricio Municipal Water District.

At this time, the newly-sworn officers took their positions and a short business meeting took place. Chapter members discussed and voted on appointing the following committees: Bylaws Committee, Conference/Continuing Education Program Committee, and a Scholarship Committee. Chapter members further discussed and set dates for upcoming chapter meetings. Kingsville City Secretary Mary Valenzuela was



Members at the February Coastal Bend Chapter meeting. Seated to the left: President **Teresa Valdez**, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Vice President **Jan Hill**, city secretary, Fulton; Treasurer **Karen Ivey**, San Patricio Municipal Water District; and **Rebecca Huerta**, city secretary, Corpus Christi. Seated to the right: Secretary **Mary Valenzuela**, city secretary, Kingsville; **Scarlet Swoboda**, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; **Irma Parker**, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas; **Alexandria Gamez**, Beeville; and **Emily Espinoza**, Beeville.

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

scheduled to welcome chapter members to the City of Kingsville on April 23. Kingsville has a lot of old town history to offer, so if you have the opportunity to visit, we will welcome you with open arms. The City of Sinton will be hosting its chapter meeting on June 26, and we will be welcoming TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. Mr. Camacho will take time from his busy schedule to visit with us and give us an insight on how things are going for him as the newly-elected TMCA President. We are really excited for his visit. The Coastal Bend Chapter is working on hosting an Athenian Dialogue in Port Aransas sometime in September 2014. Information regarding the Athenian Dialogue will be released as it becomes available.

Members of the Coastal Bend Chapter are looking forward to an exciting and wonderful, fulfilling year. ★



Coastal Bend Chapter newly elected officers for 2014. *From left to right:* Secretary **Mary Valenzuela**, city secretary, Kingsville; President **Teresa Valdez**, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Treasurer **Karen Ivey**, San Patricio Municipal Water District; and Vice President **Jan Hill**, city secretary, Fulton.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

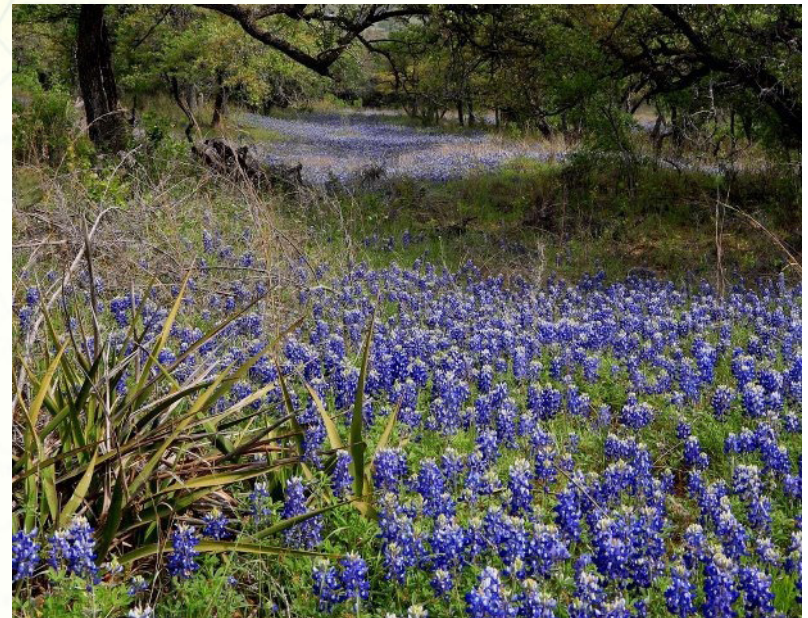
By Secretary **Toni Milam, TRMC**
City Secretary, Llano

Greetings from the beautiful Hill Country! The bluebonnets this season have been amazing, and if you've never visited the Hill Country, consider this your personal invitation!

The Hill Country Chapter met February 19 in the City of Fredericksburg, with Fredericksburg City Secretary Shelley Britton hosting the meeting. Lunch was held at the Ginger & Spice Thai Restaurant, conveniently located across the street from the Fredericksburg City Hall. There was a great group of ladies representing our Hill Country Chapter.

The Hill Country Chapter is gearing up and moving full speed ahead with plans of hosting this year's TMCCP Graduate Institute, which will be held in Kerrville at the Y.O. Ranch Hotel. Do you know how hard it is to decide on what goodies and door prizes we'll be having? You'll be pleasantly surprised, and what a great city to host the Graduate Institute in this year. JOIN US!

Election of officers was held and the following were elected: President Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Vice President Maria Alvarado, Junction; Treasurer Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; and Secretary Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano. A special thanks to Irma R. Hernandez, city secretary, Menard, who held the position of secretary of the chapter for a number of years.



Bluebonnets in the Texas Hill Country.

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

After the chapter's regular business, a special presentation to retiree Gale Ivy, city secretary, San Saba, was made with a TMCA embroidered lap throw. We hope you'll join our chapter in congratulating Gale as she starts a fun-filled retirement!

The Hill Country Chapter gathered in Fredericksburg in April at the El Milagro Restaurant. You know the saying, "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach"? Well, it could work for the ladies, too.

A "Bring a Newbie" challenge was made by Chapter Secretary Toni Milam to increase the chapter's membership. The prize was a surprise! WOW! We had three newbies attend! The surprise you ask? A drawing was held and the winner, Kristi Walker, received lunch on Toni Milam! A very warm welcome to Blanco City Secretary Kristi Walker, replacing former Blanco City Secretary Bobbie Mowery (now retired). Welcome also to Junction City Secretary Kristi Bannowsky, replacing former Junction City Secretary Vivian Saiz, who also retired. Sheila Moore, city secretary, Cottonwood Shores, was also welcomed. We wish the best to those who are retiring and look forward to working with the city secretaries filling their shoes.

President Brenda Craig held discussions regarding the seminar schedules coming up, nominees for Clerk of the Year, and encouraging the May 4-10 "Municipal Clerk's Week."

To join the Hill Country Chapter, please contact President Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville, at brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov. ★



Gale Ivy, city secretary, San Saba, was presented with a TMCA embroidered lap throw in honor of her retirement.

Members attending the April meeting:

Kristi Bannowsky, city secretary, Junction
 Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg
 Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville
 Pat Dildine, city secretary (ret.), Johnson City
 Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet
 Pattie Grote, city secretary, Mason
 Sabrina Maultsby, city secretary, San Saba
 Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano
 Bobbie Mowery, city secretary, Blanco (Ret.)
 Margie Rivera, Fredericksburg
 Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch
 Kristi Walker, city secretary, Blanco

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Janis Cable**

City Secretary, Lowry Crossing

January saw many of our members at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving. We all learned a wealth of information. Kudos to speakers Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, and Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen, for a great job on presenting their sessions.

The February meeting was held in McKinney with featured speaker Loretta Green with TABC. This was a well-attended meeting with some members from the North Texas chapter joining us for this meeting. We also had the pleasure of TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, presenting the chapter gift to retiring Plano City Secretary Diane Zucco, TRMC. The Lone Star chapter gifted Di with a fishing pole

for her leisure activities during her retirement.

In March the City of Frisco hosted an Athenian Dialogue. TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt moderated the session with our book, *Lord of the Flies*. Dr. Holt did a wonderful job of making the day fun and engaging.

The City of Rockwall hosted the April meeting at Luigi's Italian Restaurant. Dr. Riley Harvill was the speaker on the topic of "Conducting a Successful Interview." He shared great insights into using emotional intelligence to aid in selecting the right candidate, as well as techniques to engage the prospect during the interview. ★



At left: February meeting speaker **Loretta Green** of TABC. At right: April meeting speaker **Dr. Riley Harvill**.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Ana Valdez**
City Secretary, Peñitas

First and foremost, the Lower Rio Grande Valley City Secretaries and Clerks Association would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraiser at the April TMCCP seminar in McAllen either by buying or selling raffle tickets. We sold more than we did last year and it was a pleasure to host the TMCCP seminar! First place, a trip to South Padre Island, was won by Tana Cerda from Edinburg; second place, a MK purse, was won by Javier Rodriguez from Hidalgo; third place, a MK purse, was won by Kevin Earl from Pharr; and fourth place, a Coach purse, was won by Roxanne Casares from Edinburg. Thanks again for all your support.

The LRGV Chapter met on February 19 in the City of Mercedes. The AACT Organization was present at this meeting to discuss with chapter members the importance of the new voter identification law that came into effect.

In March the chapter met at the City of Brownsville to discuss plans for the upcoming TMCCP Seminar to be held in McAllen.



Chapter members meet at the City of Mercedes.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

In April we met on the ninth at Pappadeaux Restaurant in Pharr. We had the honor of welcoming TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. Mr. Camacho's topic for the group was "The Pursuit of Happiness." He explained how everyone can excel if we have passion for our work.

For those wishing to join the LRGV Chapter, please contact President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city secretary, Pharr, at hilda.pedraza@pharr-tx.gov. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Also be sure to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Irgvsecretaries.



Top: TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, speaks to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter at their April meeting in Pharr.

Above: The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter with TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC** (seated, far right), city secretary, Haltom City, and TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Dr. Amy Holt** (standing, eighth from left).

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER



Susie Alcocer, city secretary, Port Isabel
 Martha Alvarado, city secretary, Donna
 Yuri Cantu, San Juan
 Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Harlingen
 Arcie Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes
 Yolanda Galarza, Brownsville
 Elena Garza, assistant city secretary, Harlingen
 Susan Hill, city secretary, South Padre Island
 Marta Martinez,
 assistant city secretary, South Padre Island
 Aida Montoya, administrative assistant, Pharr
 Olga Oberwetter, city secretary/HR director, La Feria
 President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr
 Sonia Padron, TRMC, assistant city clerk, Pharr
 Vice President Bobby Rodriguez, city secretary, San Juan
 Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC,
 administrative supervisor, McAllen
 Secretary/Treasurer Baudelia Rojas, TRMC,
 city secretary, Alton
 Griselda Rosas, administrative supervisor, Brownsville
 Edith Shelton, McAllen
 Virginia Singleterry, administrative assistant, McAllen
 Historian Ana Valdez, city secretary, Penitas
 Beatriz Valdez, Brownsville
 Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen
 Estela Von Hatten, city secretary, Brownsville
 Norma Yanez, Donna
 Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen

Top: Chapter members at the TMCCP seminar reception at Quinta Mazatlan in McAllen on April 10. Above: LRGV Chapter at the April TMCCP seminar in McAllen.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Diane Cockrell, TRMC**
City Secretary, Decatur

Hello, Sister and Brother Texas City Secretaries/Clerks!
The NTMCA has had been busy the last few months. On February 19 we met in Bridgeport as guests of Bridgeport City Secretary Jessica McEachern and heard tales of entrepreneur and avid mountaineer Barry D. Nalls, who taught us survival techniques in the wild world of mountain climbing and coached us on evaluating risks that influence our welfare daily.

Understanding, prioritizing, and planning for risks can help us devise an action plan to reduce those risks. Barry explained how emotions interfere in bad situations, and as CEOs in our offices we are expected to know everything. He added, "It is OK to say I don't know but I will find out."

Barry also explained how important it is to ask questions. In many instances we are too trusting when given information by those that we report to. When we are asked to complete a new task and our mayor or city manager tells us what he/she thinks we need to know regarding



NTMCA Chapter members at their February meeting in Bridgeport.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

this project, we say, “Yes, sir or ma’am.” We then rush off to complete it only to discover we don’t know where to begin, or we hit a stumbling block right away. Think through the project and ASK QUESTIONS. You and your city will be more successful if you can get accustomed to asking questions as you receive instruction—cut your risk.

Our chapter traveled north to Cross Roads on March 19 and had a highly successful meeting. Cross Roads Town Secretary Shannon DePrater, TRMC, was our hostess and there were 31 attendees. We had a great meeting. Roundtable discussions were held and participants shared tips, tricks, and some alarming stories about their cities.

- **Agenda and Meeting Management**—Discussion included department deadlines for agenda filing and the handling of late reports, as well as keeping meetings on task.
- **Communication – Read/Talk/Write/Listen**—Attendees agreed that most clerks have strong personalities, but handling each situation requires a balance of strength and discretion depending on three things: circumstances, audience, and topic.
- **Ethics**—The current stand-out item of concern was the use of email and other media with regard to “reply all” and its implications to open records/open meetings laws.



NTMCA Chapter members at their March meeting in Cross Roads.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

- **Records Management/Retention Schedules**—Consensus of attendees is that records management is pushed to the back burner as other pressing issues arise. This can be a problem, especially for small cities with limited staff. Also, records storage standards changed last year.

NTMCA held a “Professional Development” seminar on April 16 in the City of Colleyville. Lisa Coburn, Arlington’s organizational development manager, kicked off the morning with her down-to-earth approach as she walked the attendees through a customized profes-

sional development plan. She began with a review of our personal attributes and professional achievements. We then considered long- and short-term goals. She reminded us of positive relationships and their impact on our life. We considered our relationships and what we are doing to manage them. She encouraged us to market ourselves and to reach out to coach/mentor a new colleague. Ms. Coburn also encouraged us by providing steps for a personal strategy. Those that were there received a step-by-step “well-rounded guide” to career development. We each have great potential.



NTMCA Chapter members at their April “Professional Development” seminar in Colleyville.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Ron Holifield, CEO of Strategic Government Resources, rounded out the afternoon by sharing the philosophy of “Servant Leadership” and explained practices that (1) can enrich the lives of individuals that you wish to lead, (2) build better organizations and (3) creates a more just and caring world. Those practices/traits of “Servant Leadership” are: listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, commitment to the growth of people, and building community. Ron reminded us that today’s leaders have to think differently; we have to remember that “it is not about me and it is not about now.” He told us that if we want to control our destiny that we have to develop strategic leadership.

In closing, have a great summer and enjoy some time off.

Take care. ★

Attendees of the April “Professional Development” seminar:

Josh Armstrong,
acting city secretary, Willow Park

Amy Arnold, TRMC,
city secretary, White Settlement

Laura Bell, TRMC,
deputy city secretary, Carrollton

Carol Ann Borges,
city secretary, Westworth Village

Tara Brooks, assistant city secretary/
records manager, Grapevine

Dianna Buchanan,
city secretary, Haslet

Diane Callahan, TRMC,
city secretary, Highland Village

Diane Cockrell, TRMC,
city secretary, Decatur

Stephanie Dimas,
administrative aide I, Arlington

Tammy Dixon, TRMC,
town secretary, Bartonville

Asucena Garcia, TRMC,
office clerk, Decatur

Holly Houston,
assistant to the city secretary, Euless

Amanda Jacobs, assistant city
secretary/record manager, Bedford

Jeff James,
city marshal, White Settlement

Mary Kayser, TRMC,
city secretary, Fort Worth

Keesha Lay, TRMC,
city secretary, Keene

Peggy Loignon, Keene

Jesica McEachern, city secretary/dev.
services, Bridgeport

Deana McMullen, city secretary, Aledo

Sheila Morales,
town secretary, Copper Canyon

Amy Piukana, TRMC,
assistant to city secretary, Hurst

Diane Rasor, TRMC, city secretary/
city administrator, Newark

Michelle Reyes, HR, Colleyville

Zolaina Reyes,
city secretary, Watauga

Alicia Richardson, TRMC,
city secretary, Southlake

Traci Riggs, TRMC,
deputy city secretary, Southlake

Brian Riley, fire chief, Colleyville

Connie Rushing, Keller

Amy Shelley, TRMC,
city secretary, Colleyville

Monica Solko, assistant city secretary,
North Richland Hills

Mary Supino, TRMC,
city secretary, Arlington

Deborah Sorensen,
city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm

Michael Wells, TRMC,
city secretary, Bedford

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By **Gail Weir, TRMC**

City Secretary, Ore City

The Northeast Texas Chapter is preparing for an exciting summer! We anxiously await participating in the TMCCP Public Funds Investment Seminar to be held at the Holiday Inn in Tyler. Make plans to attend June 19-20. Remember, the law requires the investment officer, chief financial officer (if the treasurer is not the chief financial officer), and treasurer to attend training. In some cities, the same person holds all three positions; in others, the positions are held by different individuals. This will be the closest PFIA training for our area.

The chapter was saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague, Deana McCasland. Deana was city secretary in Overton for almost twenty years. We are blessed by the memory of her smile, and the courage she possessed in her battle with cancer. To honor Deana, the chapter has established the Deana McCasland Memorial Scholarship, to be used to further the recipient's education in the profession she loved. Applications for chapter members may be obtained by contacting President Rosena Becker-Ross at citymte@eastex.net.



The Northeast Texas Chapter. Seated, from left to right: **Debbie Dane**, city clerk, Kilgore, and **Sherry Roberts, TRMC**, city secretary/office manager, White Oak. Standing: **Brenda Clemmons**, city secretary, Van; **Nina Browning, TRMC**, city administrator, Winnsboro; **Gail Weir, TRMC**, city secretary, Ore City; **Denise Miranda**; **Sereca Huff**, assistant city secretary, Van; **Doris Crockett**, city secretary, Bullard; **Vickie Brenton, TRMC**, city secretary, Winnsboro; **Debra Johnson**, assistant city secretary, Canton; **Lawanna Williams**, finance director, Kilgore; **Karen Custer**, city clerk (ret.), Kilgore; **Melba Haralson, TRMC**, city secretary, Gladewater; **Peggy Williams**, bookkeeper, White Oak; and **Kathy Hoover, TRMC**, city secretary, Gilmer.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

On March 21, a group of fifteen met for our quarterly meeting. The beautiful spring day was perfect for a day trip, which included lunch at Brewbakers on Main Street, followed by a shopping frenzy in the historic downtown antique and specialty shops. We were especially honored to have Winnsboro City Manager Nina Browning, TRMC, in attendance. During her years as a city secretary in LaPorte and Winnsboro, Nina made friends state-wide, and was a mentor to many. She announced at the meeting that she will be retiring in May; we will miss her, and we wish her many happy days to come.

Gladewater City Secretary Melba Haralson, TRMC, was selected as the Northeast Chapter's Municipal Clerk of the Year; as such, Melba will also be our candidate for TMCA's Municipal Clerk of the Year. Congratulations, Melba! No one knows better than your peers just how much you deserve this honor.

Our speaker was Winnsboro's Main Street Manager, Denise Miranda. In 2002 the city was quickly recognized by the State of Texas as a Main Street city, and has since achieved national recognition a total of eight times! When you visit this northeast Texas treasure, you will understand why. Established around 1855, Winnsboro



At left: Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City, and Nina Browning, TRMC, city administrator, Winnsboro. At right: Speaker Denise Miranda, Main Street Manager, Winnsboro.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

has become a charming shopping, dining, and arts center.

Do you remember last September when we said, “I can’t wait for winter; this heat is killing me”? I’m hearing the same people say, “When is winter going to be over?” Anton Chekhov said, “People don’t notice whether it’s winter or summer when they’re happy.”

Have a wonderfully blessed summer, and—BE HAPPY! ★

Those attending the March meeting were:

Vickie Brenton, TRMC, city secretary, Winnsboro

Nina Browning, TRMC, city administrator, Winnsboro

Brenda Clemmons, city secretary, Van

Doris Crockett, city secretary, Bullard

Karen Custer, city clerk (ret.), Kilgore

Debbie Dane, city clerk, Kilgore

Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater

Kathy Hoover, TRMC, city secretary, Gilmer

Sereca Huff, assistant city secretary, Van

Debra Johnson, assistant city secretary, Canton

Denise Miranda, main street manager, Winnsboro

Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary, White Oak

Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City

Peggy Williams, bookkeeper, White Oak

Lawanna Williams, finance director, Kilgore

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By **Kimberly Sloat, TRMC**

City Secretary, Canadian

On April 17, the Panhandle Chapter met in the regular bi-monthly meeting at the Amarillo Club, which is on the thirtieth floor of the Chase building in downtown Amarillo. We had 13 members join us for our lunch meeting.

Chapter President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman, decided we needed to have some Easter fun. She brought Easter treats for everyone and vintage hats for everyone to wear during lunch. We all chose a hat, laughed, and enjoyed our meal.

Cheryl called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and went over the typical items on the agenda. She gave us a new vocabulary word, etymology, which is the study of the history of words, their origins, and how their form and meaning have changed over time. Then she went on to tell us about the history of the municipal clerk. We always have a great time when we get together and always look forward to the next meeting. ★



Members present at the April meeting:

Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart
 Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon
 Lindy Forsyth, city secretary, City of Lefors
 Charlene Gardner, TRMC, deputy, Pampa
 Frances Hibbs, city secretary, Amarillo
 Andrea McDonald, fin. secretary, Amarillo
 Patricia Phipps, city sec./asst. city mgr., Friona

Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa
 Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city sec., Spearman
 Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city sec., Canadian
 Kristina Solomon, city secretary, Tulia
 Kathy Styles, city secretary, Perryton
 Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Kara Atwood, TRMC**
City Secretary, Lufkin

Unfortunately the infamous winter of 2014 hindered the Pineywoods Chapter's meeting scheduled for January. The meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Thank goodness spring is here! The Pineywoods Chapter held their quarterly meeting on April 24. The meeting was hosted by the City of Lufkin at Manhattan's Restaurant in downtown Lufkin. The chapter welcomed new members City Secretary Julie Davis from Huntington, City Secretary Sarah Thompson from Diboll, and City Secretary Waunesa Herrington from Zavalla. After normal chapter business was

conducted, members took time to just enjoy each other's company and conversation.

Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, Hemphill, was unanimously voted the Chapter's Clerk of the Year as well as our chapter's nomination for TMCA Clerk of the Year.

Congratulations to Chapter President Kara Atwood, TRMC, city secretary, Lufkin, on receiving her TRMC Certification and Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, Hemphill, on her recertification.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for July 24 in Center. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

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

Members of the Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at Logan's Roadhouse in Wichita Falls on March 19 at 1:00 p.m. Chapter President Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted. The minutes of December 3, 2013, were approved, as well as the treasurer's report through March 5.

The Red River Chapter was very fortunate to have TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, attend our meeting. President Camacho entertained us with stories about his experiences as a city secretary in Ranger, Azle, and Haltom City, Texas. He also shared information about his efforts to build the membership of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association and to giving real value to our "office." President Camacho encouraged us to adopt neighboring clerks and establish relationships with them, share information which would result in benefits for each of us. President Camacho stated he has often asked



Red River Chapter members at their March meeting with TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City.

RED RIVER CHAPTER

the question “What kind of employee would you want if you were the boss?” to his employees, which was thought provoking. President Camacho ended with inviting us to become passionate about our jobs and how we do them.

President Byers informed the chapter that there is a link to seminar registrations in the TMCA newsletter. The upcoming seminars were reviewed and President Byers reminded everyone of the scholarship application deadline of June 15.

Nominations were taken for Clerk of the Year, and Vernon City Secretary Linda Byers, TRMC, will be recommended for the Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year.

Our next meeting will be held June 18 at Logan’s Roadhouse. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings. For more information about the chapter, contact Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett, at jdolan@burkburnett.org or 940-569-2263. ★

Attending the March meeting were:

Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday

Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon

Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett

Lee Ekern, administrative assistant, Vernon

Cathy Mills, city secretary, Henrietta

Sandy Page, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bowie

Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Paula Favors, TRMC**

City Secretary, Wharton

February Meeting

Greetings to all the chapters of Texas from the Salt Grassers! We wish you could have joined us in February at Carrabba's in Kirby! Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, hosted a wonderful lunch for the chapter and brought lots of goodies as well.

Chapter President Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, called the meeting to order with many members in attendance. Wendy Withers, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Frisco, discussed electronic document filing with counties via Skype. This was the first time the chapter utilized Skype for a presentation.

March Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held its March 12 meeting at the Webster Fire Department. Salt Grass Chapter President Crystal Roan, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, welcomed members to the newly constructed fire station.

Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP education director, and Mike Yawn, clinical professor of political science, Sam Houston State University, gave a presentation on internships in municipal government. Dr. Holt and Professor Yawn discussed the benefits of including interns in the day-to-day operations of a



Chapter members at the February meeting took part in a Skype presentation on electronic document filing with counties by Frisco Assistant City Secretary **Wendy Withers, TRMC**, and City Secretary **Jenny Page, TRMC** (pictured at top).

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

city. The chapter attendees learned that 93% of schools require an internship within a municipal setting for those seeking a degree in local government. The chapter discussed upcoming educational seminars and meetings that would be provided to members and attendees from their cities.

At right: Attendees at the March meeting in Webster listened to a presentation on internships in municipal government by **Mike Yawn**, clinical professor of political science, Sam Houston State University, and **Dr. Amy Holt**, TMCA/TMCCP education director (*not pictured, attending via Skype from the University of North Texas in Denton*).



April Meeting

Several members of the Salt Grass Chapter and guests attended the first Notary Training Seminar in Friendswood on April 16. Presented by Tomball City Secretary Doris Speer, TRMC, the dos and don'ts of being a notary in the State of Texas were discussed. Each participant received a Texas Notary Self-Study Course which will provide them with further information on this very important part of their job.

The next meeting is set for August 13. The City of West University Place will host.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

In other chapter news, all are reminded that the 13th Annual Salt Grass Chapter Public Information Act Seminar in Deer Park has been moved to September 10.

Guests are always welcome! For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact President Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, at croan@cityofwebster.com. ★

Members present at the April meeting:

Meredith Brant, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Seabrook

Robin Eldridge, TRMC, city clerk, La Marque

Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place

Jan Moore, city secretary, Meadows Place

Michelle Perez, deputy city secretary, Friendswood

Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball

Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville



Several members of the Salt Grass Chapter and guests attended the first Notary Training Seminar in Friendswood on April 16. Presenter **Doris Speer, TRMC**, city secretary, Tomball, discussed the dos and don'ts of being a notary in the State of Texas.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Belinda Terrell**
City Secretary, Whiteface

The South Plains Chapter met on March 18 at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Ransom Canyon City Administrator/Secretary Murvat Musa, TRMC.

President Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Guests included Heather VonGonten, IEBP Benefit Specialist from TML, and Susan Franklin, daughter of Kirk Franklin of Franklin Legal Publishing.

President Maria Hatchett read a thank you note from 2013 TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa. LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, stated that there would be “Customer Service” training in Muleshoe on April 30. Amanda Cummings, city secretary, Shallowater, stated that there would be a “Water Loss” class on April 22.

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

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city manager/city

secretary, Morton; and Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface, were appointed to make recommendations on scholarship.

Policies and recommendations about donations made to and by the chapter were approved.

Kim Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls, will be chairman for the Annual Chapter Seminar for 2014, assisted by Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Maria Hatchett, TRMC; Belinda Terrell; and Jennifer Clements, management assistant to the city secretary, Lubbock.

The chapter discussed the date and training for the chapter seminar to be held on July 18.

Committee Chair Toni Chrestman, TRMC, gave the report on appointment of Municipal Clerk of the year. The committee recommended Muleshoe City Secretary LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, as the chapter’s Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee for 2013. Kim Perez, City of Ralls, was appointed as the South Plains Chapter Clerk of the Year for 2013.

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

The date for the chapter's June meeting was changed to June 11 due to the TMCCP Public Funds Investment Seminar in Tyler on June 19-20.

The next meeting was set for June 11. Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing, will be hosting the next meeting. ★

Members and guests attending were:

Rosa Angel, Amherst

Selia Arellano, city secretary, Floydada

Jo Ann Beard, TRMC, city secretary, Smyer

Janine Butler, TRMC, city secretary, Littlefield

Sue Castles, Xcel Energy

Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton

Jennifer Clements, mgmt. asst. to the city secretary, Lubbock

Amanda Cummings, city secretary, Shallowater

Kami Eady, city secretary, Hale Center

Kathy Field, Slaton

Kirk Franklin, president/attorney at law, Franklin Legal Services

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe

Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock

Marie Gonzales, Friona

Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa

Cynthia Mason, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Post

Rosa Mendez, municipal clerk, Friona

Murvat Musa, TRMC, city admin./secretary, Ransom Canyon

Kim Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls

Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city manager/city secretary, Morton

Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface

Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal

Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland

Deana Watson, TRMC, city secretary, Post

Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Sundown

Guests:

Heather VonGonten, TML IEBP benefit specialist

Susan Franklin, daughter of Kirk Franklin

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Adriana Moreno**

Deputy City Secretary, Midland

Members of the West Texas Chapter met for their first quarterly meeting of the year on February 13 at their frequented location, Mi Piaci Italian Restaurante in Odessa.

Items reviewed included the previous meeting's minutes and the treasurer's report. The group also put their heads together to discover ways to encourage meeting attendance and increase membership among city secretaries in the West Texas region.

President Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland, swore in the new officers: Treasurer Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Historian Adriana Moreno, deputy city secretary, Midland; and Secretary SueAnn Reyes, deputy city secretary, Midland.

Last but not least, members enjoyed a special and heartfelt message from TMCA Immediate Past President Norma Grimaldo. In her message, she spoke of the unique characteristics city secretaries possess and reminded the



February meeting attendees. Back row, from left to right: **SueAnn Reyes**, deputy city secretary, Midland; **Amy Turner**, TRMC, city secretary, Midland; **Karen Bullard**, city secretary, Crane; and **Heather Ramirez**, city secretary, Pecos. Front row, from left to right: **Norma Grimaldo**, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; and **Tonya Todd**, TRMC, city secretary, Wink. (Not pictured: *Adriana Moreno*, deputy city secretary, Midland.)

WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

group that there is always room for growth. She also emphasized the great camaraderie among TMCA members, and reminded the group that fellow city secretaries are willing to help one another whenever needed. ★

At right: President **Amy Turner, TRMC**, city secretary, Midland, swears in TMCA Immediate Past President **Norma Grimaldo, TRMC**, city secretary, Odessa, as the new treasurer for the West Texas Chapter.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Lori Saunders**

City Secretary, Waxahachie

The Yellow Rose Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting on April 3 at Waxahachie City Hall.

Several members were in attendance and enjoyed lunch catered by Carino's Italian.

President Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie, welcomed our guest speaker, TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. President Camacho presented a wonderful program entertaining the members with wisdom and wit.

The chapter recognized Lyn Hill, TRMC, city secretary, Cedar Hill, and Pat Bradley, city secretary, Ferris, as they prepare to retire in May. Chapter President Lori Saunders and President Art Camacho presented certificates of appreciation and flowers thanking the ladies for their dedication to the Yellow Rose Chapter and TMCA.

Congratulations to graduate Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield, for earning her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification!



Seated, left to right: Historian Angie Arenas, city secretary, Lancaster; President Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie; TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Vice President Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield; Secretary Dana Argumaniz, city secretary, Red Oak. *Second row, left to right:* Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson; Destiny Wright, assistant city secretary, Ferris; Rhonda Quintana, city secretary, Oak Leaf; Othel Murphree, city secretary, Glenn Heights; Donna Batchler, TRMC, city secretary, Ennis; Robin Rodgers, Garrett; Amber Villarreal, assistant city secretary, Waxahachie; Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, city secretary, Grand Prairie. *Third row, left to right:* Belinda Huff, assistant to city secretary, Cedar Hill; Cathy Bourg, deputy city secretary, Burleson; Teri Murdock, TRMC, city administrator/secretary, Italy; Kisha Morris, city secretary, DeSoto; Renee Mitchell, finance director, Ennis; Larissa Villanueva, assistant city secretary, Lancaster; Julie Featherston, city secretary, Garrett; Lyn Hill, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Cedar Hill. *(Not present: Tammy Varner, TRMC, city secretary, Midlothian, and Mary McDonald, TRMC, Midlothian.)*

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

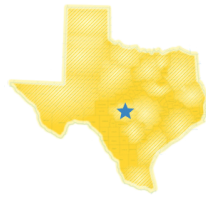
For those wishing to join the Yellow Rose Chapter, please contact President Lori Saunders at lsaunders@waxahachie.com. Meetings are bi-monthly at 11:30 a.m. The June 5 meeting will be held in DeSoto. ★

At top right: Yellow Rose Chapter President **Lori Saunders**, city secretary, Waxahachie, and TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, presented **Pat Bradley**, city secretary, Ferris, a certificate of appreciation and flowers as a token of appreciation for her dedication to the Yellow Rose Chapter and in honor of her retirement.

At lower right: Yellow Rose Chapter President **Lori Saunders**, city secretary, Waxahachie, and TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, presented **Lyn Hill, TRMC**, city secretary, Cedar Hill, a certificate of appreciation and flowers as a token of appreciation for her dedication to the Yellow Rose Chapter and in honor of her retirement.

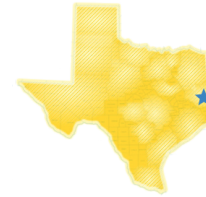


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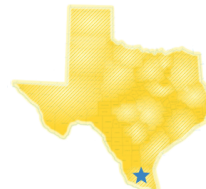
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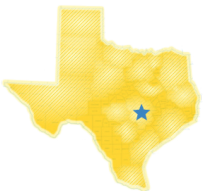
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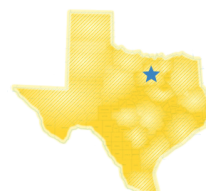
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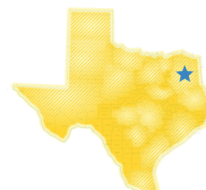
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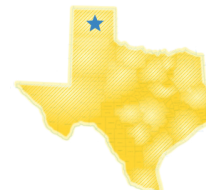
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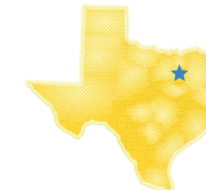
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Committees

Advisory Management Committee
Mary Kayser, Fort Worth, Past President, Chair
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa, Immediate Past President
Art Camacho, Haltom City, President
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, President Elect
Shelley George, Allen, Certification Committee Chair
Peggy Burnside, *TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.**
Amy Holt, *TMCCP/TMCA Education Director**

Audit Committee
Jeana Bellinger, Brenham, Chair
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa
Alice Holloway, Pilot Point
Esmeralda Hudson, Waco
Kim Sutter, Euless, Board Liaison

Historian
Brenda Glenn Craig, Kerrville

Membership Committee
Kathy Wingo, Lucas, Chair
Comprised of Chapter Presidents
Marie Balthrop, Holliday, Board Liaison

**non-voting member*

Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee
Pauline Small, Webster, Chair
Joy Hart, Buda
Laure Morgan, Hemphill
Jenny Page, Frisco
Angela Winkle, Crowley
Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights, Board Liaison

Nominating Committee
Lila Fuller, Nacogdoches, Chair
Maria Gonzalez, Missouri City
Linda Rhodes, Lake Worth
Sherry Roberts, White Oak
Cheryl Salgado, Spearman, Board Liaison
Art Camacho, Haltom City, President
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, Pres. Elect

Open Records Steering Committee
Toni Chrestman, Slaton

Resolutions Committee
Tina Broussard, Beaumont, Chair
Linda Byers, Vernon
Janelle Dolan, Burkburnett
Gretchen Mercer, Canyon
Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Board Liaison

Retirement Committee
Carole Vanzant, Fair Oaks Ranch, Chair
Rosena Becker-Ross, Mount Enterprise
Arcie Felix, Mercedes
Brenda Shaw, Morton
Kim Sutter, Euless, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee
Cara McPartland, Wimberley, Chair
Susan House, Mesquite
Amy Turner, Midland
Christi Wynn, Brownwood
Scarlet Swoboda, Victoria, Board Liaison

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

TML Booth Committee
Crystal Roan, Webster, Chair
Salt Grass Chapter Members

TML Representative
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