



TMCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

President's Message

CHAPTER FIVE

Telling Our Story— With Passion!



President
Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC

It seems hard to believe that a year has passed since the 2004 annual banquet when I gave my TMCA, Inc., President's acceptance speech, and I asked you to join me in telling the story of the Texas Municipal Clerk in 2005. As always, our members rose to that challenge, as evidenced by the successful year we have experienced. Here are some major accomplishments of TMCA/TMCCP this year:

- TMCA, Inc., celebrated a record membership—913 members! Thanks again to the Membership Committee for your efforts.
- I visited all 16 TMCA chapters this year (more about this below) and carried your message to the TMCA Executive Board. In response, I am thrilled to report that:
 1. The TMCA Executive Board has voted to double the amount of funds budgeted for TMCCP scholarships and travel stipends beginning in 2006. Also, travel stipends will increase from \$150 to \$300. The TMCA annual budget will include a line item of \$1,000 to award two Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarships per year, in addition to the ones granted from generous donations from our chapters and other individuals.

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- 2. The TMCA Executive Board transferred funds to the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship permanent fund to reach a level where the interest earned each year should begin to fund two Dorothy Byrd scholarships per year beginning in 2007. This has long been a goal (or should I say dream?) of the TMCA Board, and to finally reach that milestone is simply incredible.
- We were successful in working with another supporter, Laserfiche, to begin funding a \$500 scholarship for a certification/recertification candidate beginning in 2006. This will make three “special” \$500 scholarships awarded each year (Franklin Legal Publishing, Laserfiche, and Municipal Code Corporation).
- Our new office relocation space on the campus of the University of North Texas should be ready for our office to relocate around April 2006. The facility is about twice the space as the current office, and will have a UNT Police substation as a neighbor, which makes the board feel good about the safety of our employees.
- The eighth edition of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook* is almost complete and will be published in early 2006. It will be dedicated to the memory of Alyce Deering, TRMC, city secretary, Hurst (dec.). Chapter One, “The Office and Duties of the Municipal Clerk,” as authored by Alyce Deering, will appear in the eighth edition.
- An informal Chapter Mentoring Program was launched at the TMCCP Graduate Institute and chapter leaders have volunteered to keep this program going in 2006 and author short articles with suggestions on chapter development to be published in the *TMCA News* (first article by Paula Paschal, TRMC, town secretary Flower Mound, is on [page 17](#)). Thanks again to Irma Parker, city secretary, Rockport, for this wonderful idea.
- Texas municipal clerks had an active voice in the 79th Legislative Session and participated in meetings with county elections administrators, TML representatives, and Representative Mary Denny, Chair of the House Elections Committee, to share our concerns about election related legislation. It was great progress to be invited to these meetings before legislation was introduced to help seek compromise positions on behalf of our cities.
- TMCA and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program were featured in an article in the TML *Texas Town & City* magazine in March, and in the *IIMC News Digest* in January.
- The TMCA Policy Manual has been revised and will appear soon on our webpage. The Annual Business Meeting agenda packet was made available to our members on our webpage before the meeting, as suggested by one of our members. I was proud of the manner in which you, our members, participated in that meeting.

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2006 TMCA President Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City (left), presents 2005 TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, with a plaque of appreciation from the TMCA membership for her year of service.

It was evident that having the information early provided an environment for our members to come to the annual business meeting prepared to take an active role in the business of our association.

- TMCCP obtained a \$500 grant from the Municipal Clerks Education Foundation to help fund the 2005 Graduate Institute, *Character First!*, which was a phenomenal program.
- The criteria for the **Lila Fern Martin Scholarship** and **Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship** college plan were expanded to allow more applicants to qualify for these scholarships.
- The criteria and scoring process for the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year were modified to award more credit for chapter service and leadership.
- The TML Booth Committee did a fantastic job representing us at the annual TML Conference (see article on **page 14**). Also, our affiliates' session had standing room only, as once again, Texas municipal clerks demonstrated their professionalism by attending the Friday afternoon session at TML.
- All TMCA committees accepted extra assignments this year and worked to modernize and update policies and procedures. (Thanks to all of you for the hard work!)

(Other major accomplishments have been mentioned in previous newsletter articles, so I won't repeat all of those here.)

On August 25, I visited the Coastal Bend Chapter in Rockport. It was a unique experience. Where else can you be in the same room with municipal clerks with experience ranging from three weeks to 52 years? They graciously invited me to attend their TML regional meeting that evening in Kingsville. Not only was it good recognition for TMCA, but I also won the prize for traveling the greatest distance to attend the meeting! On September 14, I attended the North Texas Chapter meeting, where the NTMCA members approved the Alyce Deering Memorial Scholarship Fund and voted to allow the formation of the Lone Star Chapter in five counties that previously had been a part of the NTMCA area. Change is not easy, and these outstanding leaders are to be commended for making clerk education and networking their top priority. On September 16, I visited the Northeast Texas Chapter in Tyler. Although the weather was terrible (thunderstorms), we had a nice visit where we talked at length about opportunities for local chapter educational programs and scholarships and the importance of certification. On September 20, I traveled to San Antonio to visit the Alamo Chapter to talk with them about TMCA/TMCCP and the importance of local chapter involvement. On September 21, I flew to McAllen to visit the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter. I presented a short educational session on parliamentary procedure and then we talked about the unique challenges of networking and providing educational programs for clerks in remote areas. Flying home, I changed planes in Houston, and was able to see from the air the bumper-to-bumper traffic leaving the Houston-Galveston area in anticipation of Hurricane Rita's landfall.

On October 6, I was honored to install the first slate of officers for the new Lone Star Chapter. About 35



2006

TMCCP
**ELECTION LAW
SEMINAR**

January 18-20, 2006
Hyatt Regency, Austin, Texas

Anyone is welcome to attend the TMCCP Election Law Seminar!

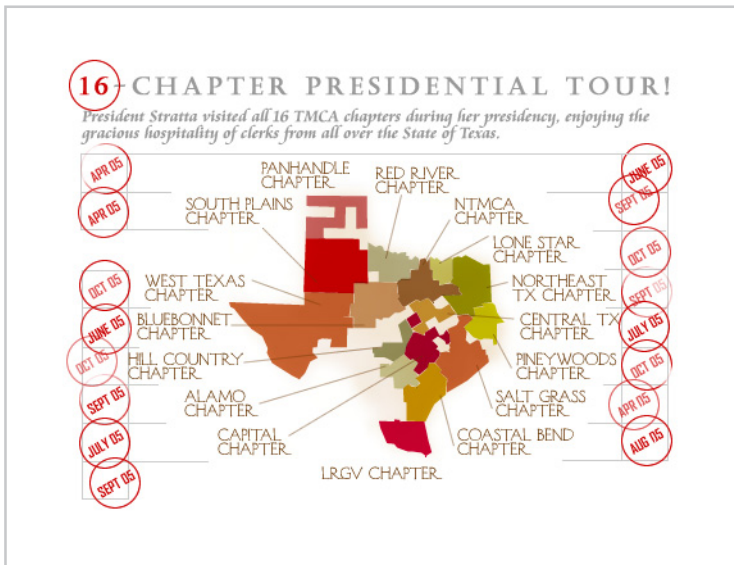
Topics include:

- Secretary of State Legislative Update
- DRE Compliance & Contracts, TEAM, HAVA, Judge's Training
- Texas Ethics Commission: Campaign Finance Filing
- Texas State Library: Election Records Retention, Voter Registration, Disaster Planning & Mitigation
- Early Voting

Be sure to also register for our pre-seminar session, **"Step by Step: Process of an Election"**!

find out more
and
register
now!

click here 



clerks attended this inaugural meeting and I was impressed by their level of enthusiasm and excitement about having a chapter “closer to home” to provide more opportunities for them to be involved on the local chapter level. October 13 found me in Odessa, presenting a session on parliamentary procedure to the West Texas Chapter and then visiting with them about TMCA/TMCCP. October 14, I visited the South Plains Chapter and presented a half-day seminar on parliamentary procedure that was attended by some elected officials, city managers, etc. We also had a wonderful visit about our association and certification program, as well as the importance of continuing education to municipal clerks. I visited lovely Fredericksburg on October 20 and had a great time meeting with the members of the Hill Country Chapter. I think they taught me more that day than I shared with them, and I loved hearing the stories of the challenges of being a one-person city hall. On October 22, I had the honor of being the guest speaker at the Pineywoods Chapter’s annual banquet. I am so impressed with this chapter. They give a generous chapter scholarship each year and stress the importance of certification to their members.

During all these visits, I heard from our members about the need for more opportunities for scholarships and travel assistance, especially for those in small cities where funds are not available for travel. I spoke with one young municipal clerk—a single mother of three—who had \$80 in her yearly travel/training budget, but wants to be a TRMC. It is my dream that someday, money will never be an issue for any Texas municipal clerk who has that goal. You, our members, and your wonderful 2005 TMCA Executive Board made great strides toward that this year, as mentioned above. I also found it encouraging that even our struggling chapters want to have local educational and scholarship programs. Please continue to communicate with established chapters about mechanisms to make those goals a consistent reality. Kudos to all of you! Thanks again to all our chapter members and presidents for allowing me the honor of attending one of your meetings this year. It was educational for me and I thoroughly enjoyed every visit!

This year was not without its difficulties for all of us and for TMCA, in that we lost two of our own and, along with our cities, dealt with the aftermath of two hurricanes in our region of the country. My husband, J.J., and I attended the celebration of Alyce Deering’s life. It was a fitting tribute to one of our most cherished members and leaders—a beautiful service for a beautiful person. I couldn’t help but think of the words of Albert Einstein, “Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.” J.J. and I also traveled through part of East Texas to see some of the damage our cities and fellow municipal clerks had to contend with after Rita’s arrival. We quickly saw it would take more than the likes of Rita to keep our East Texas clerks down, as we were greeted with smiles, spunk and spirit!

The annual awards banquet held on November 3 in Galveston provided me with the distinct honor of installing the 2006 TMCA Executive Board. President Elect Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, inspired us all with her acceptance speech (see article on [page 6](#)). Patrice

**“Thanks
to all of you—
TMCA Executive Board
members, TMCA/TMCCP
staff, chapter officers,
TMCA committee
members, chapter
committee members,
TMCA members—for
carrying and
protecting
that torch today;
and thanks to
all of you—the
future leaders of
TMCA—who will
carry it
burning brightly
into the future.”**

is an outstanding municipal clerk and leader, and she will lead TMCA to new heights in 2006. I admire her creativity, her technological savvy and her devotion to our profession. Our lovely Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, and TMCA Past President, was named the 2005 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year. Patrice presented me with a beautiful plaque for serving as your 2005 President. Thanks to all of you for this priceless memento.

One year ago, when I stood before the TMCA membership and accepted the honor of serving as your 2005 President, I asked that you join me in telling the story of the Texas municipal clerk, through education, ethics, leadership and service—with passion! As I thought about the right words for me to say at this year's banquet, I was led to the following:

Centuries ago, the Athenians of ancient Athens invented the democratic form of government. They were an advanced people, and believed in self governance by the people and an educated society. They are credited with inventing rhetoric, logic and debate. They were great lovers of the arts and enjoyed theatre, comedy, sculpture, paintings, literature and poetry.

More importantly, the Athenians believed passionately that they had a responsibility for the future of their city. At the age of 17, the young men of Athens took the following oath:

We will never bring disgrace on this our City by an act of dishonesty or cowardice.

We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the City, both alone and with many.

We will revere and obey the City's laws, and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them at naught.

We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.

Thus in all these ways, we will transmit this City, not only less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

This oath reminded me of many of our Texas municipal clerks. The first “President's Message” in the newsletter this year was dedicated to some of our members who went before us and served as our leaders, mentors, teachers and role models. They pioneered our certification program and birthed the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. Some of them are no longer with us, some are retired, and some are still practicing municipal clerks. They were and continue to be a blessing to all of us—because everything they did for our cities, our profession, our association and us—they did with passion! They blazed the trail for the rest of us to be the municipal leaders and managers that we are today, or can be in the future. We thank them for lighting the torch of the sister and brotherhood of TMCA, for nurturing the light of our certification program, and for passing it on to today's TMCA leaders.

Thanks to all of you—TMCA Executive Board members, TMCA/TMCCP staff, chapter officers, TMCA Committee members, chapter committee members, TMCA members—for carrying and protecting that torch today; and thanks to all of you—the future leaders of TMCA—who will carry it burning brightly into the future.

I will always remember the honor and privilege of serving as your 2005 President, and the opportunity you gave me to tell our story—the story of the Stars of Texas Local Government—the story of the Texas Municipal Clerk.

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC
2005 TMCA, Inc., President

TMCA, INC.
 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
 BUSINESS MEETING

November 3, 2005, Galveston, Texas

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2006 TMCA President's Acceptance Speech

Presented by Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, at the
 TMCA Awards Banquet, November 3, 2005

I am honored to be addressing you as your incoming 2006 president. We've had a wonderful 2005 under President Stratta's very capable leadership and all of the members of the executive board. And without the committee members who worked hard this year, and without our TMCA staff—Dr. Joyce Snay, our director; Peggy Burnside, program coordinator; and Alexandra Burke, program assistant and editor of the TMCA newsletter, we could not have accomplished so many things.

As we all look forward to 2006 and all the blessings it will bring, I'm reminded of where we've been for the past 20 years. Did you know that in 1986, the Texas Municipal

Clerks Association filed its papers of incorporation? That's right... next year we will celebrate our 20th year of incorporation. As a little background – our original association was called The Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas, and this association was organized in May 1952, in Dallas, at the annual meeting of the National Institute of Municipal Clerks, which is now known as IIMC, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. The stated purpose of the newly formed association was to promote the improvement and professionalism of the Texas municipal clerk. Over the years, the Executive Board recognized the need for development of an educational program. The board met on July 29, 1967,



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Patrice Fogarty, TRMC
 City Secretary, Missouri City

and directed that a study be made to determine the professional needs of practicing city clerks/secretaries. The study was submitted for consideration by the association's membership at the Annual TML conference, which was held in Houston in November 1967.

Dorothy F. Byrd, a former city secretary in Andrews and Director of The University Center for Community Services at the University of North Texas, developed the program. On November 7, 1967, at Texas Municipal League Conference that year, the Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas adopted the program. Then the Texas Municipal League's executive board approved the Association's

adoption of the program at their regularly scheduled April 1968 meeting. The program was implemented with Raymond Baker, city secretary, Waco; Jake Inselmann, city clerk, San Antonio; Mary Gilliland, city secretary, Irving; Margaret Larsen, city secretary, Hurst; Norton Barrett, city secretary, Crosbyton; and Harold Shank, city secretary, Dallas.

In 1973, IIMC recognized the program for IIMC certification. Completion of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification program automatically grants an applicant 50 points toward IIMC certification. THEN, in 1985, the State of Texas, with House

Bill 2092, recognized the Program. The bill provided for the certification of municipal clerks and city secretaries under the association of city secretaries. In addition, the association received non-profit corporate status as the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. in 1986. (See, we're back to being 20 years old, now).

Our first executive director, Dorothy F. Byrd, served as executive director of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., AND the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program until 1994. The education and professional development program's very first seminar, *Political Science: The Legal Status of the City*,

was held in April 1968 in Denton. During the 25 years that Director Byrd served, 249 graduates completed the three-year certification program and received the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk designation.

In 1993 Dr. Joyce Snay served as director-in-training; and in 1994, Dr. Snay was appointed executive director of TMCCP and TMCA, Inc. Since that time, the program has graduated 479 Texas Registered Municipal Clerks (I am No. 284).

TMCA, Inc., has three professional publications that enhance the professional development of municipal clerks, and no city clerk's office, city attorney's office, or city manager's office would be without these legal publications: *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual*, *Texas Municipal Law and Procedure Manual*, and *the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

To date TMCA has 913 members—which is a record! I look forward to sharing next year with all the members.

I also look forward to attending TMCCP seminars that will provide confidence building

and leadership opportunities for all members of TMCA.

How many of you in this room are city officials? Please raise your hand.

If you are a city secretary and you raised your hand, you already know you are a city official and therefore influential by virtue of your office. You are a leader by virtue of your office. But I invite you to look at leadership and influence a little more closely for a moment. You probably recognize that leadership is not necessarily rank. Leadership means that one is influential over others.

The first responsibility of a leader is to identify the path, the last is to say thank you, and in between the two, a leader must become both a servant and someone to follow. Leadership is the ability to get the right things accomplished at the right time through other people. Leadership is predicated upon behavior. Behavior is predicated upon attitude. Leadership is also predicated upon integrity. Your integrity is based on how you keep your word and how you accept responsibility.

Leadership is coaching—the process of guiding and encouraging your subordinates to achieve superior performance results. It's an active and participatory skill that allows you to become involved with the goals and work activities of your subordinates and co-workers and to encourage them to succeed at what is best for them and the organization. Your job is to lead, and of all your leadership skills, coaching is the one that comes the closest to defining what leadership is all about: getting things accomplished through people. Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel, asked, "If you produce a great deal of results, and you alienate and isolate people on the way up, do you really think a CEO is going to want you as a part of his or her respected executive team?" Great leadership, coaching-type leadership, doesn't alienate people, it binds them together to accomplish something great. It makes people WANT to accomplish something great.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "The best executive is one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it."

Think of a person at work that you are confident will help you—you KNOW they are there for you. They usually have the answer you are looking for, or know where to get it. **You can be confident that I'll be that person for you.**

2006 TMCA Officers



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The 2006 TMCA Executive Board. Seated, from left to right: President Elect Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls; President Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Vice President Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches. Standing, from left to right: Secretary Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Trustee Norma Aguilar, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Trustee Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Trustee Janice Henson, TRMC, city secretary, Perryton; Immediate Past President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Trustee Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson; Trustee Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster; and Trustee Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson. *Not pictured:* LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe.

Below: Mary Lynne Stratta administers the oath of office to executive board members.



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Ask yourself this question, what is the most vivid leadership lesson you learned and note: who, what, when, and where. Some of my most vivid leadership lessons were provided by past presidents of TMCA. They led with compassion, strength, and most of all courage. That's what I learned from these leaders—I learned what courage looks like in an everyday person.

You will never stop learning, improving, and growing as a leader, and most likely it will be from people you are associated with. Being a good leader generates confidence. Confidence is a state of mind. Confident people trust their own abilities, having a general sense of control in their lives, and believe that, within reason, they will be able to do what they wish, plan and expect. Confident people are willing to risk the disapproval of others because they generally trust their own abilities. They tend to accept themselves and trust their decisions and abilities. Are you confident as a city official? Education

inspires confidence, and experience bolsters it. Your education through TMCCP and the certification program will give you the ability to perform your job with the utmost confidence that you are doing the right things for the right reasons. It is my job as a city official to inspire confidence. Your citizens want to be confident in their city leaders... they want to be confident their concerns are heard and will be answered.

Think of a person at work that you are confident will help you. You KNOW they are there for you. They usually have the answer you are looking for, or know where to get it. How good does that feel? That person you can call on also has someone they depend on. It might be you or it might not. But, it goes in a circle—like linking hands across Texas. You can be confident that I'll be that person for you. You can call on me or any of these board members or TMCA headquarters or your neighboring city secretary. Leadership and

confidence—they go hand in hand, and together will take you to the farthest reaches of your career as a city official and public servant. Your actions will inspire confidence in others.

I never want to be accused of being sesquipedalian, so I shall close for now by leaving you with a few wisdoms to apply in your life. Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue; always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them; if you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague; and, we could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

I look forward to working for you next year as your president. We'll have a good time together as we always do—learning, growing, and serving. Thank you. ★

2006 TMCA Officers & Committees

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PRESIDENT

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Advisory Management Committee Chair (to be announced) and Joyce Snay, TMCCP/TMCA, Executive Director

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Patrice Fogarty, TMCA President; Lydia Ozuna, TMCA President Elect; and Mary Lynne Stratta, TMCA Immediate Past President

COMMITTEES

ADVISORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Patrice Fogarty, Missouri City, President
Jo Moore, Abilene, Past President
Lydia Ozuna, Wichita Falls, Pres. Elect
Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan,
Immediate Past President
*LaDonna Floyd, Nederland, Certification Committee Chair**
*Joyce Snay, TMCCP/TMCA, Exec. Dir.**

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Sandy Hart, McKinney, Chair
Patricia Ervin, Waco, Board Liaison
Trish Holley, Burkburnett
Brenda Staab, Haltom City

HISTORIAN

Tracy Norr, Pantego

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS COMMITTEE (formerly known as STATE LIBRARY BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

Audie Good, Bellmead (representing counties with population <10,000)
Leticia Vacek, San Antonio (representing counties with population >10,000)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

(Comprised of Chapter Presidents)
Rose Ann Jones, Beaumont, Co-Chair
Linda Rhodes, Lake Worth, Co-Chair
Linda Knight, Breckenridge, Board Liaison

MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, Spearman, Chair
Norma Aguilar, Odessa, Board Liaison
Thelma Lenz, Missouri City
Carolyn Martin, Mexia
Aimee Nemer, Murphy

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Michele Glaser, Seabrook, Chair
Codi Delcambre, Argyle
Carole Ehrlich, Wylie
Patrice Fogarty, Missouri City, Board Liaison

OPEN RECORDS STEERING COMMITTEE

Sherry Mashburn, Bee Cave

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Yolanda Benitez, Bunker Hill, Chair
Shelly Doty, Cleburne
Nan Parker, Frisco
Janice Henson, Perryton, Board Liaison

RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

Kathleen Wingo, Lucas, Chair
Marie Balthrop, Holliday
Martha Gillett, LaPorte
Lydia Lopez, Waco
Pauline Small, Webster, Board Liaison

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sandra Watkins, Deer Park, Chair
Toni Chrestman, Slaton
Ashley Mitchell, Carrollton
Joyce Snay, TMCCP/TMCA, Exec. Dir.
Scarlet Swoboda, Victoria
LeAnn Gallman, Muleshoe, Board Liaison

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Patrice Fogarty, Missouri City, Chair
Shelley George, Allen

TML BOOTH COMMITTEE

Melissa Brunner, Flatonia, Chair
Capital Chapter Members

TML REPRESENTATIVE

Lydia Ozuna, Wichita Falls, Pres. Elect

*non-voting member

TMCA's New Executive Board Trustee

TMCA welcomes the newest member to its executive board, Trustee Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge



“It gives me great pride to be a part of these professionals and to have the opportunity to serve on this board.”

LINDA KNIGHT, TRMC

Linda Knight, TRMC, CMC, was appointed Breckenridge's city secretary in October 1992. She previously served as assistant city secretary and administrative assistant to the city manager from April 1975 until she was appointed city secretary. She holds the Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification (No. 307) and completed her first recertification in January 2003. She is currently working on her second recertification. Linda holds the Certified Municipal Clerk designation through IIMC, which she received in 2005.

Linda has served as secretary, treasurer, vice president and president of the Bluebonnet Chapter. She has served on the Chapter Clerk of the Year, Nominating, and By-Laws committees of the chapter. She also, as president of the chapter, worked with the committee to create the guidelines for the Bluebonnet

Chapter Scholarship. She was honored as the Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year in 1996.

Linda has served on the TMCA Certification Committee (2003-2005; chair, 2005) and the TMCA Advisory Management Committee in 2005. She served on the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as committee member and chair and on the Membership Committee as a member. She served as a convener at the annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar. She co-authored Chapter 6, “Municipal Purchasing and Contracting,” in the sixth and seventh editions of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook* and is currently overseeing the publication of the eighth edition of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

Linda has also been a speaker for the Texas Municipal League Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation, Parlia-

mentary Procedures Session. She also gives City Government presentations to the “Changes” classes for the Windham School District at the Texas Department of Corrections Walker Sayle Unit.

In addition to her professional affiliations, Linda is active in her community. She is a member of Trinity Baptist Church, and serves as the Sunday school superintendent. Linda is a member of the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce (served as a director, member of the Business Development Department and Student Recognition committee, chair of the Breckenridge Action Meeting), Stephens County Beautification Committee, Breckenridge Historical Society, The Woman's Forum of Breckenridge, and the Breckenridge Fine Arts Center Foundation.

Linda is married to James Knight and is the mother of

two sons: Brian (daughter-in-law, Karen) and Brent (daughter-in-law, Jennifer). She has no grandchildren yet, but can hardly wait! Her hobbies include fishing, reading, and gardening.

When asked to comment upon her election to the TMCA Executive Board, Linda stated, “It is truly an honor to be chosen to serve as a trustee of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., Executive Board. Our profession is so rewarding in that we get to work, not only with our citizens, but with such a great group of individuals willing to give of their time and share their knowledge. It gives me great pride to be a part of these professionals and to have the opportunity to serve on this board that is so dedicated to providing educational and professional development programs for municipal clerks. Thank you again for this great honor of serving you.” ★

Jo Moore, TRMC, Named 2005 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year

Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, was selected as the 2005 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year. The award was presented by Committee Chair Melissa Bruner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia, during the Annual Texas Municipal Clerks Association's Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute.



Jo Moore, TRMC, with her Clerk of the Year plaque

Jo Moore has served as city secretary of Abilene since 1988. She previously served as city secretary for City of Tye from 1975 to 1988. She earned the prestigious Texas Registered Municipal Clerks' Certification in 1986 and has completed the requirements for recertification in 1991, 1996, and 2001. She is currently enrolled in the fourth level of recertification. Jo received her Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 1989. In

2005, Mrs. Moore was accepted as a member in IIMC's Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program.

City Secretary Moore served as the 2004 president of TMCA. She currently serves on the Advisory Management Committee for TMCA. As an active professional, Jo has served on all the TMCA committees of the statewide organization and has made outstanding contributions to development of the professional

2005 TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR TMCA CHAPTERS' STATE NOMINEES

Congratulations to these honorees nominated by their chapter for the state Municipal Clerk of the Year.



Rebecca Brewster, TRMC
city sec/admin, Van Horn

**West Texas
Chapter**



Patricia Ervin, TRMC
city secretary, Waco

**Central Texas
Chapter**



LeAnn Gallman, TRMC
city secretary, Muleshoe

**South Plains
Chapter**



Martha Gillett, TRMC
city secretary, La Porte

**Salt Grass
Chapter**



Janice Henson, TRMC
city secretary, Perryton

**Panhandle
Chapter**



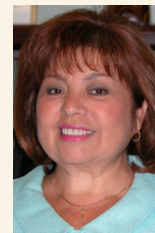
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC
city secretary, Bee Cave

**Capital
Chapter**



Terre Noble, TRMC
city secretary, Center

**Pineywoods
Chapter**



Lydia Ozuna, TRMC
city clerk, Wichita Falls

**Red River
Chapter**



Susie Quinn, TRMC
city secretary, Rowlett

**North Texas
Municipal Clerks
Association
Chapter**



Pauline Small, TRMC
city secretary, Webster

In addition to these nominated for the honor of state clerk of the year, some chapters honored members by selecting them as their 2005 Chapter Clerk of the Year. These honorees were published in the September issue of *TMCA NEWS*, and include: Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop (Capital Chapter); Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett (NTMCA Chapter); Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls (Red River Chapter); Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City (Salt Grass Chapter); and LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe (South Plains Chapter).

©JBeck Photography

Clerk of the Year

education of municipal clerks throughout Texas. In 2006, Mrs. Moore will serve as one of the instructors for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar held in Austin and attended by approximately 500 municipal clerks and election officials.

Jo Moore served as co-founder and as president of the Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA. Mrs. Moore served in all the offices and on all the committees of the chapter. The Bluebonnet members selected her as chapter clerk of the year in 1999. On behalf of the Bluebonnet Chapter members, Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge, presented Mrs. Moore with a bouquet of yellow roses to honor her many achievements as a leader and a mentor.

Highlights of Mrs. Moore's professional contributions include: project coordinator and chapter co-author of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*; Texas Municipal League's Region VI secretary; session convener for both TMCCP and IIMC; and speaker on "Public Information" at the Building Official's Conference.

Asked to comment on her exemplary service to the City of Abilene and to Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Jo stated, "We cannot truly call ourselves professionals if we are not willing to contribute to our profession." ★

Scholarship Recipients



© Paul Traves, file photo



© Paul Traves, file photo

Far left: Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Bunker Hill Village (*right*), was awarded the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship at the 2005 Graduate Institute in Galveston on November 3. It was presented to her by TMCA Certification Committee Chair Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge.

Left: Linda Taylor, city secretary, Venus (*right*), was awarded the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship, presented by TMCA Certification Committee Chair Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge.



Art Camacho Jr, TRMC, city secretary, Azle (*right*), was awarded the Lila Fern Martin Scholarship, presented here by TMCA Scholarship Committee Chair Codi Delcambre, TRMC, city secretary, Argyle.



© Paul Traves, file photo

Teresa Valdez, TRMC, (*right*) was awarded the Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship. She was presented with the scholarship by Franklin Legal Publishing Company President Kirk Franklin.

TMCA

awarded

\$4,846.64

in scholarships

in 2005!

apply now. [click here](#) 

2005 Retirees

Congratulations to the following TMCA members retiring this year:

Norma Althouse, City of Schertz

Mary D. Belyeu, City of Sweetwater

Marie Dolores Cordova, City of Jourdanon

Ginger Crosswy, TRMC, City of Westlake

Geraldine Curfew, TRMC, City of Crane

Inelda Garcia, City of Brownsville

Rita Gray, TRMC, City of Gainesville

Joe Edwin Faries, City of Coleman

Wyvonne Kennedy, City of Post

Milton Ledwig, City of Yorktown

Jewel Martin, City of Ganado

Mona Martinez, City of Mission

Linda Thornton, City of Friendswood

Violet Zbranek, City of LaGrange



© Paul Traves, f16 Photo

TMCA Retirement Committee Chair Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie, presents Rita Gray, TRMC, city secretary, Gainesville (ret.), with a clock commemorating her years as a city secretary.



© Paul Traves, f16 Photo

TMCA Retirement Committee Carole Ehrlich presents Linda Thornton, assistant city secretary, Friendswood (ret.), with a certificate commemorating her years as an assistant city secretary.

2006 TMCCP Seminar Schedule

ELECTION LAW

Speakers: Texas Municipal Clerks

January 18-20, 2006, Austin, Texas

Course 4 credit for certification/recertification program enrollees

MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Speaker: Monty Nitcholas

April 6-7, 2006, Irving, Texas

Course 3 credit for certification/recertification program enrollees

MEDIA RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker: Jeff Crilley

June 8-9, 2006, Lubbock, Texas

Course 1 or 2 credit for certification/recertification program enrollees

SPECIAL PROGRAM: GRANT WRITING

Speaker: Dr. Arlita Harris

August 9, 2006, Irving, Texas

Six hours of Course 3 credit for certification/recertification program enrollees

OPEN MEETINGS/OPEN RECORDS

Speaker: Marty Hendrix, TRMC

August 10-11, 2006, Irving, Texas

Course 1 credit for certification/recertification program enrollees

GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Speaker: Joseph LaBeau

November 9-10, 2006, South Padre, Texas

Course 2 credit for certification/recertification program enrollees

It's that time of year again!

Have you paid your 2006 TMCA membership dues yet?

RENEW NOW *click here* 

TRAVEL STIPEND INCREASE

TO HELP DEFRAY THE RISE IN TRAVEL COSTS, THE TMCCP TRAVEL STIPEND HAS BEEN INCREASED TO \$300.



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: ATTEND ONE OF OUR SEMINARS AND LET US PAY UP TO \$300 OF YOUR TRAVEL EXPENSES. APPLY TODAY!



click here 

TMCA Booth at the Annual Texas Municipal League Conference

Thank you, volunteers!

The TMCA booth at this year's Texas Municipal League Conference in November was a tremendous success thanks to the TML Booth Committee (comprised of the members of the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter); TML Booth Committee Chair Nancy Meadows, TRMC, city secretary, Watauga; and the extra efforts of Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, city secretary, Carrollton, and Kathleen Wedell, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Watauga.

The following volunteers generously gave time from their busy schedules to man the TMCA booth to assist other city officials who attended better understand the mission of TMCCP/TMCA, Inc., and the important role municipal clerks serve in our cities.

Arthur Camacho Jr, TRMC, Azle	Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, Carrollton
Susan Crim, TRMC, Euless	Yrene Morgan, TRMC, Mexia
Shelley Doty, TRMC, Cleburne	Aimee Nemer, TRMC, Murphy
Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, Missouri City	Tracy Norr, TRMC, Pantego
Rita Frick, TRMC, Bedford	Ivy Peterson, TRMC, Cleburne
LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, Muleshoe	Susie Quinn, TRMC, Rowlett
Martha Gillett, TRMC, La Porte	Linda Rhodes, TRMC, Lake Worth
Sandy Hart, TRMC, McKinney	Pauline Small, TRMC, Webster
Marty Hendrix, TRMC, Fort Worth	Brenda Staab, TRMC, Haltom City
Mary Kayser, TRMC, Burleson	Kathleen Wedell, TRMC, Watauga
Carolyn Martin, TRMC, Mexia	Toni Wilson, TRMC, Sundown
Nancy Meadows, TRMC, Watauga	

IIMC News

By Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC
IIMC Region IV Director

The IIMC Board of Directors met on November 11-12 in Arlington, Virginia. My Region IV co-director, Gloria King, MMC, Delhi, Louisiana, and I attended the Board meeting and a strategic planning session facilitated by consultant Jay Hollowell of Hollowell, Davis & Davis, Inc. The Board developed a list of five strategic goals for IIMC: 1) restructure regions to include one region director per region, maximum of 22, by May 2007; 2) review current international travel practices and existing partnerships with international associations by May 2006, identify successful partnerships and target potential areas for growth by November 2006; 3) IIMC is to be internationally recognized as the premiere source of education for legislative government professionals by offering a diverse educational program and a comprehensive electronic resource center that are adaptable to the needs of all regions by May 2007; 4) improve the management of IIMC by creating a staff development program within one year; and, 5) by December 2006, increase level of communication among members and nonmembers by providing a focused news digest/newsletter to potential members and broadcasting board meetings and business meetings to existing members.

The IIMC Board also toured the new IIMC satellite office in Ballston, Virginia. While the facility's technology is definitely impressive, the new IIMC Director of Education and Research, Dr. Mohammad Eftekhari, is not convinced as yet that IIMC can actually utilize the facility to its maximum potential. He will be assessing the educational opportunities

available to IIMC members through the facility and making a recommendation to the IIMC Board in May as to whether the satellite office is actually worth the expense. The Board ratified Dr. Eftekhari's employment contract. He appears to be extremely knowledgeable and focused on clerk education.

Your Region IV Directors had appointed a Region IV committee to study the IIMC Constitution for recommended changes. Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth, represented Region IV on the IIMC Constitution Review Task Force. Frances Kersey, CMC, city clerk, Oklahoma City, chaired the Region IV committee. This committee worked very hard (thanks to all the Texas clerks who served) and Gloria and I were successful in getting several of their recommendations incorporated into the proposed Constitutional amendments to be presented to the IIMC membership in May. (I will provide a more in depth report on this item at the Region IV annual business meeting on December 10. If you are not attending the Region IV annual meeting, feel free to give me a call if you want more information.)

IIMC's new Finance Manager, Richard Klabunde, presented a restructured budget for IIMC. He also led efforts to refinance the mortgage on the IIMC-owned headquarters building in Rancho Cucamonga, saving considerable funds. The Property Assessment Task Force has recommended moving forward with finding a new home for IIMC headquarters—somewhere less expensive than California and more centrally located. A consulting company (Staubach & Company owned

TMCA Members Honored by IIMC

Nan Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco, has been awarded the Master Municipal Clerk designation from IIMC.

Nan has been employed with the City of Frisco since July 1985, where she serves as city secretary. She earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 1991 and recertified in 1996 and 2001. She is currently enrolled in her third recertification. Nan is also pursuing a Paralegal Associate Degree from the College for Professional Studies in Boca Raton.

Nan is active in IIMC, TMCA, and the North Texas chapter of TMCA.

Brenda Staab, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, has been awarded with the Certified Municipal Clerk designation from IIMC. She joins 79 active municipal clerks from the state of Texas who hold the CMC designation.

Brenda has been employed with the City of Haltom City since October 1996, serving as assistant city secretary before her appointment to city secretary in 2001. She earned her TRMC Certification in 2003 and is enrolled in her first recertification. Brenda is active in TMCA and IIMC.

by former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach) has been engaged (at no cost to IIMC) to assess certain cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Dallas, Kansas City, Missouri, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., area, to name a few) as a potential home for IIMC headquarters.

The Board confirmed that the 2007 annual conference will be held in New Orleans. The Board did not award the bid for the 2010 conference. Only two were requested to submit proposals: Sydney, Australia, and Durban, South Africa. The Board felt that both sites were too expensive to allow good attendance and asked that the bidding process be reopened to allow more cities to bid and to allow Sydney and Durban to resubmit bids with additional information.

The Board approved a request from Institute Directors to have representation on the IIMC committees that impact education—Education/Personal Growth, Program Review and Certification, and Research—and that when changes in educational policies are needed, the Institute Directors will be given an opportunity for input before these policies are finalized.

A more detailed report about other actions taken at the Board meeting will be provided at the Region IV annual business meeting on December 10.

The IIMC Region IV annual conference will be held in Bossier City/Shreveport, Louisiana, on December 8-10, 2005, hosted by the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association. The conference will begin with a reception Thursday evening, a day-long educational session will be held on Friday, and the Region IV annual business meeting will be conducted Saturday morning, with adjournment around noon. For more information, contact Pamela Washington, LMCA President, at pam.washington@cox-internet.com, or Region IV Director Gloria King at delhiclerk@bellsouth.net.

The IIMC 2006 Annual Conference will be held in Anaheim, California, May 14-18, 2006. The California host clerks are planning an educational format that promises to be unique and diverse. For more information, visit the IIMC website. IIMC members are encouraged to take advantage of Municipal Clerk Education Foundation scholarships. Information about MCEF scholarships is also available on the IIMC website. ★

San Antonio's Norma S. Rodriguez City Council Chamber

In the **September issue** of *TMCA NEWS* we were thrilled to report the news of the City of San Antonio's decision to name its council chamber the Norma S. Rodriguez City Council Chamber in honor of Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, city clerk (ret.), San Antonio.

Below, Norma is pictured with her family in front of the new council chamber signage and plaque. Congratulations, Norma!



“Chapter Mentoring” is a recurring series of articles by guest authors. These essays feature tips to make your TMCA chapter meetings as productive and beneficial as possible.

Chapter Mentoring

By Paula Paschal, TRMC
Town Secretary, Flower Mound

At the Graduate Institute in Galveston, we held an early morning meeting of about 25 municipal clerks who were looking for ideas on how to make their chapters more active, gain new members, and make their programs more appealing to their members. This addition to the *TMCA NEWS* will be a recurring article in the hope that it will be beneficial to the membership.

This installment contains one of many ideas for programs for your meetings—whether you meet monthly, quarterly, or somewhere in between. **Make your meetings educational and worthwhile.** Many clerks have to be out of their offices for several hours to attend a

meeting, so in order to justify this to the mayor and/or manager, the clerks need to go back with information that will be beneficial and make an impact on their municipality.

Invite a city manager or administrator, finance director, planning director, or city attorney to explain how the clerk interacts with their particular areas. This will help to build a relationship with the other departments and promote teamwork in the municipality. You all know that we “touch” each department by being the hub of records and information in our entities, and it will be beneficial to all to be working toward the same goals. Additionally,

these speakers will not cost your chapter any speaker fees—only maybe their lunch or a small token of appreciation!

When you return to your municipality, follow up with a written expression of thanks for the speaker contributing their professionalism, insight, ideas and words of wisdom to your chapter. You will find that the interaction that you initiated will be an invaluable tool in the future. ★

Please feel free to contact me at paula.paschal@flower-mound.com with more ideas and comments.



CHAPTER NEWS

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

By Nancy Turnbow

The Bluebonnet Chapter held their September meeting in Anson. All the guests thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food prepared for them at the Coffey House. The meal was provided by Duncan Disposal. Karen Lou Graham, Anson City Secretary, selected a theme of “Peace, Love and Joy” for the meeting. Each guest received a dove ornament symbolizing the theme.

The “Silent Auction” for this meeting totaled \$282.05, which provides for a \$500.00 scholarship to a secretary each year that submits an application to help with the costs of meetings and seminars. This year’s recipient was Renee Scott, assistant city secretary, Abilene.

Members present at the meeting were Cindi Lou Alldredge, Roby; Sue Burlison, city secretary, Coleman; Virginia Dill, city secretary, Cisco; Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin; Jean Gilmore, city secretary, Clyde; Julie Lanphere, city secretary, Hawley; Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Pat Martindale, city secretary, Bronte; Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland; Nancy Turnbow, city secretary, Baird; Louetta Wallace, city secretary, Haskell; Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin; Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee; Billie Pearce, city secretary, Tuscola; Frankie Mayfield, city councilwoman, Tuscola; Renee Scott, assistant city secretary, Abilene; Karen Lou Graham, city secretary, Anson; Chad Cowan, city attorney, Anson; Dowell Matthews, city manager, Anson; Tom Isbell, mayor, Anson; and Electa Tharp, city councilwoman, Anson.

City Secretary Rhonda Williams and the City of Dublin will host the next Bluebonnet Chapter meeting on December 14th. ★

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

By Lydia Lopez, TRMC

The Central Texas Chapter held their quarterly meeting at City of Hubbard on August 10.

Chapter members present: Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway; Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; President Connie Foreman, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Benevolence Officer Audie Good, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bellmead; Dorthy Jackson, city secretary/municipal court judge, Hubbard; Secretary Lydia Lopez, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco; Historian Yrene Morgan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Mexia; Cynthia Olguin, city administrator, Italy; Patty Paschal, city secretary, McGregor; Sherrill Prevost, customer service representative, Waco; Kendra Pursche, Robinson; Linda Vranich, city secretary, Robinson; and Sina Whistler, Hubbard. Guests were Eugene Fulton, justice of the peace and president of Hubbard Chamber of Commerce, and Doug Hill of Atmos Energy.

Left photo: Doug Hill of Atmos Energy was the guest speaker at the Central Texas Chapter’s August meeting. *Right photo:* Members of the Central Texas Chapter at their August meeting.



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The City of Hubbard hosted the meeting in the beautiful historic Garden Gables Bed and Breakfast owned by Dave and Guyla McClinton, longtime Hubbard residents. A wonderful lunch was served.

Dorothy Jackson, Hubbard city secretary and municipal court judge, introduced the guest speaker Mr. Eugene Fulton, president of the Hubbard Chamber of Commerce and justice of the peace. Mr. Fulton addressed the topics of megapolitan areas, super city regions and transportation issues and how these future developments might impact cities.

Doug Hill, Atmos Energy, expressed appreciation for the role city secretaries play as first-line communicators. He further advised TXU Gas operations and employees are now officially part of Atmos Energy. Atmos has taken over the management of the Call Center that employs 250.

Jennifer Canady presented the slate of recommendations from the nominating committee for next year's officers. The following recommendations were approved by the membership: President Carolyn Martin, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia; Vice President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco; Secretary Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills; Treasurer Lee Garcia, finance director, Hewitt; Historian Audra Good, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bellmead; and Benevolence Officer Jennifer Canady, Woodway.

Chapter members were also appointed to serve on the following committees: program, Scholarship, Membership/Outreach, Bylaws, and Legislative. The chapter members approved a \$200 donation to the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund.

The chapter met again on October 19 in the City of McGregor. For additional information on the Central Texas Chapter, contact President Connie Foreman, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview at 254-799-2458, extension 217. ★

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

By Irma Parker

Rockport City Secretary Irma Parker hosted the August 2005 chapter meeting at the Lighthouse Inn at Aransas Bay. It was a great success! TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, was the chapter's special guest. Instead of the normal business-type meeting the chapter members were asked to introduce themselves, list activities/organizations they were members of and years of service in municipal government (shown in parentheses) as a way to introduce themselves to President Stratta and to fellow chapter members. A total of 19 members were present at this meeting with a whopping total of 227 years, 3 months and 21 days in municipal government. Members also recorded many hours in various civic/fraternal organizations and board positions. Those attending were: Larry Thompson (3 weeks), city secretary, Ganado; Kathy Railsback (1 month), city secretary, Fulton; Bonnie Dugi (2 months), records clerk, Rockport; Sylvia Aparicio (12 months), city secretary, Taft; Bonnie Taylor (1.5 years), Lakeside; Pat Brown (2 years), administrative assistant, Rockport; Scarlet Swoboda (4 years), TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Kimberly Drysdale (5.5 years), city secretary/HR director, Ingleside; Karen Mayer (6

Coastal Bend Chapter members at their meeting in August.



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years), city secretary, Aransas Pass; and Rene Marshall (6 years), city clerk, Alice; Ada Owens (7 years), TRMC, assistant city secretary, Aransas Pass; Teresa Valdez (7 years), TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; Irma Parker (7 years), city secretary, Rockport; Patsy Gibson (12 years), city secretary, Palacios; Mary Lynne Stratta (15 years), TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Jacky Cockerham, finance director, Rockport (3 years) (formerly city secretary, Taft (20 years)); Esther Arzola (28 years), city secretary, Port Aransas; Betty Wood (29 years), TRMC, city secretary, Sinton; and Billie Jo Tennill (52 years), city secretary, Odem.

President Stratta encouraged members to become active in TMCA and the local chapter. Recent legislative changes and changes within TMCA were also presented. THANKS MARY LYNNE—come back and visit.

City Secretary Esther Arzola and Deputy City Secretary Pam Hatzenbuehler are hosting the chapter's November 17 meeting at 12:00 noon at the Trout Street Bar & Grill, corner of Cotter & Alister Streets, Port Aransas, Texas. A Christmas Party and short business meeting is being planned and committees selected for audit and elections of officers for 2006-2007. ★

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

by Shelly Britton

The chapter met October 20 at the Cotton Gin Restuarant. President K. Vivian Saiz called the meeting to order. All present reported on projects and stories of interest from their cities. Plans for the December 8 Christmas party were discussed.

The Hill Country Chapter was honored to host TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, who spoke to the group about the benefits of TMCA membership for city government as well as city secretaries, and about the various aspects of our profession.

Those present included: Maria Alvarado, assistant city secretary, Junction; Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Janell Bullock, city secretary, Ingram; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Pat Dildine, city secretary, Johnson City; Polly Krenek, city secretary, Bertram; Bobbie Mowery, city secretary, Blanco; Ronda Reichle, city secretary Granite Shoals; K. Vivian Saiz, city secretary, Junction. The chapter's special guest was TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan. ★



The Hill Country Chapter at their October meeting. *Seated:* Janell Bullock, city secretary, Ingram; Maria Alvarado, assistant city secretary, Junction; and Vivian Saiz, city secretary, Junction. *Standing:* Shelly Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Polly Krenek, city secretary, Bertram; Pat Dildine, city secretary, Johnson City; Bobbie Mowery, city secretary, Blanco; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; and Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

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LONE STAR CHAPTER

By Sandy Hart, TRMC



The Lone Star Chapter at their October 6 meeting.

Our first meeting was held in McKinney on June 10 to discuss the possibility of forming an area chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. We had a wonderful turnout with 21 different cities represented. The attendees at the June 10 meeting voted to have the monthly meetings hosted by a different city each month. This will give everyone an opportunity to attend a meeting in close proximity to his or her city. Officers were elected at this meeting and include: President Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney; Vice President Dorothy Brooks, city secretary, Rockwall; Treasurer Nan Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Secretary Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; and Historian Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie.

On July 13, a presentation on the proposed Lone Star Chapter was given at the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter's monthly meeting. We received a lot of positive

feedback on the formation of an area chapter. The attendees requested that a letter be sent out to all chapter members to inform them of the possible split of the North Texas Chapter along with a survey to be completed by the membership.

On August 11, the City of Frisco hosted our meeting. Dr. Joyce Snay was our guest speaker. She gave a wonderful and very informative presentation that included the history of the municipal clerk; insight into the founders of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, Dorothy Byrd and Chardean Newell; an explanation of the purpose and resources of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.; and reviewed the requirements to obtain the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) designation.

On September 14, the North Texas Chapter voted to approve the resolution establishing the formation of the Lone Star Chapter to include Collin,

Fannin, Grayson, Hunt, and Rockwall counties from the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter's area. The TMCA Executive Board voted via phone (after the Graduate Seminar was postponed due to Hurricane Rita) to approve the request to establish the Lone Star Chapter as part of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. The Executive Board will ratify this decision in November at the Graduate Institute. We are very grateful to TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta and the Executive Board for taking the time out of their busy schedules during the emergency evacuation to allow us to establish the Lone Star Chapter.

The first official meeting of the Lone Star Chapter was held on October 6 at the Senior Recreation Center in McKinney with TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, installing the first slate of officers. The following were in attendance: Barbara Alavarado, city secretary,

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Howe; Marla Barth, city secretary, Nevada; Elaine Bealke, TRMC, city secretary, Plano; Dorothy Brooks, city secretary, Rockwall; Betty Cosgrove, McKinney; Beverly Covington, TRMC, assistant city secretary, McKinney; Bruce Dunn, city secretary, Dunn; Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie; Janis Ellis, city clerk, Paris; Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina; Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney; Shanae Jennings, town secretary, Prosper; Nina Jones, city clerk, Denison; Carole Kuykendahl, deputy city secretary, Greenville; Heather Lacy, city secretary, Krugerville; Cathy Lennox, McKinney; Julie Lollar, deputy city secretary, Denison; Tammy Mills, McKinney; Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Debra Newell, city secretary, Greenville; Nan Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Cathy Pugh, city secretary, Tom Bean; Rosa Rios, city secretary, Seagoville; Pam Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Sara

Thetford, administrative assistant, Prosper; Kathy Wilkerson, deputy city secretary, Rowlett; Kathy Wingo, city secretary, Lucas; Beth Woodson, city secretary, Savoy; and Dianne Zucco, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano. The Lone Star Chapter was very fortunate to have President Stratta honor us with her presence and perform the beautiful installation ceremony. There were 34 attendees to share in this special occasion. During the meeting, the following items were unanimously approved: the by-laws; a resolution establishing

banking facilities; minutes from the last meeting; the 2005-2006 budget; and setting future meeting dates on the first Thursday of the month.

The next meetings of the Lone Star Chapter will be held on November 10 in Denison and December 8 in Greenville. The officers and members of the chapter are looking forward to many opportunities to educate, inform, network, and enlighten our area clerks. We welcome anyone who would like to be a part of our chapter or attend any of our meetings. ★



TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, administers the oath of office to Lone Star Chapter President Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney.

TMCCP Course Certificates Earned

The following enrollees earned course certificates in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program after completing the homework, attending the required seminars, and passing the examination for the designated course.

COURSE 1

Stephanie Brim, HUNTSVILLE
Kimbra Caldwell, GROVES
Delia Flores, BALCONES HEIGHTS
Shanae Jennings, PROSPER
Ashley Judd, HUDSON
Amanda McClung, HILLSBORO
Nyla L. Peña, McALLEN
Christi Shivers, MEXIA
Karen Thompson, PFLUGERVILLE
Vicky Varnau, PILOT POINT
Kathleen Wingo, LUCAS

COURSE 2

Angela Winkle, WEATHERFORD
Shanae Jennings, PROSPER

COURSE 3

Shannon Coovert, WEBSTER

COURSE 4

Vicky Varnau, PILOT POINT
Kathleen Wingo, LUCAS

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LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

By Perla Zamora

The September meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter was held September 21 at McAllen Chamber of Commerce.

The guest speaker was TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan. She talked about the state association and presented a short presentation on parliamentary procedures. After concluding her presentation, President Stratta allowed some time for a question and answer session.

Those in attendance included: Martha Alvarado, city secretary, Donna; Janie Balli; Mayla Chapa; Amanda C. Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Weslaco; Myra Garza, city secretary, Edinburg; Olga Oberwetter, city secretary, La Feria; Vickie Ramirez, city secretary, San Juan; Albesa Solis, assistant city secretary, Mission; Annette Villarreal, city secretary, McAllen; Mary Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary (retired), McAllen; and Perla Zamora, assistant city secretary, McAllen.

The regular city clerks meeting was held October 19 at Irene's Closet & Tea Room in Weslaco. On the agenda was the election of new officers due to the resignation of President Inelda T. Garcia, city secretary (retired), Brownsville. Mary Munoz, city clerk, Pharr, was elected as president. Estella Von Hatten, interim city secretary, Brownsville, was elected Vice President. Annette Villarreal, city secretary, McAllen, was elected secretary/treasurer.



Above left: the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter meeting in September at the McAllen Chamber of Commerce; *above right:* TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, addresses the chapter at their September meeting; *below left and right:* the chapter members at their October meeting at Irene's Closet & Tea Room in Weslaco.



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NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS CHAPTER

by Nancy Meadows, TRMC and Jeanne Fralicks, TRMC

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter held a very important monthly meeting on September 14. We were honored to have TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, as our special guest speaker. President Stratta shared her thoughts about TMCA, TMCCP, and our profession. Afterwards, members adopted a resolution supporting the formation of the Lone Star Chapter. The Lone Star Chapter will encompass five counties which were previously a part of NTMCA, specifically Grayson, Fannin, Collin, Hunt, and Rockwall counties.

The Alyce Deering Scholarship Fund was also officially approved by unanimous vote.

Additionally, the nominating committee, which includes Chair Paula Paschal, TRMC, town secretary, Flower Mound, as well as Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne; Ivy Peterson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Cleburne; and ex-officio member and former NTMCA President Rita Frick, TRMC, city secretary, Bedford, presented the slate of officers for 2005-2006, which was approved unanimously. The officers for the 2005-2006 fiscal year are as follows: President Jeanne Fralicks, TRMC, city secretary/director of administrative services, Duncanville; Vice President Susie Quinn, TRMC, city

secretary, Rowlett; Treasurer Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, city secretary, Carrollton; Secretary Brenda Staab, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; and Historian Codi Delcambre, TRMC, city secretary, Argyle.

At the October meeting, the new NTMCA officers received their oath of office following an enjoyable presentation by author and award-winning reporter Jeff Crilley. Mr. Crilley shared valuable information and secrets of developing a positive two-way relationship with the media.

NTMCA members had the privilege of serving as the TMCA booth host committee for the TML conference in Grapevine on October 25-29. NTMCA sends out a very special thank you to all of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association members who worked in the booth during the conference, and to Dr. Joyce Snay and Peggy Burnside for everything they did to help make the booth a success.

The holiday celebration committee, which includes Chair Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie, along with members Rosa Stovall, city secretary, Lavon, and Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy, have made plans for the holiday celebration to be held December 14 at the world famous Southfork Ranch.

During 2006, NTMCA meetings will be rotated between three new meeting locations in Dallas, Irving and Fort Worth. Preparations are currently underway for the NTMCA Professional Seminar to be held February 8 at the Radisson DFW South in Irving. Chapter meetings will also be held on the following dates: March 8, April 12, June 14, July 12, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13, 2006. ★



PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

By Terre Noble, TRMC

The Pineywoods Chapter city secretaries and their spouses met at their annual banquet/meeting on October 22 at Diboll City Hall. Members present were Secretary/Treasurer Tina Cavazos, city secretary, Diboll; Stacey Corley, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches; Vice President Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil; Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Betsy Gregson, city secretary, Huntington; Ashley Judd, city secretary, Hudson; President Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center; and Mitzi Thompson, city secretary, Crockett. Honored guests at the banquet included Mayor and Mrs. Herman Woolbright of Huntington and City



Top: Betsey Gregson (center) is presented the Pineywoods Chapter's Municipal Clerk of the Year Award by Chapter President Terre Noble, TRMC (left), city secretary, Center; with TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

Above: Pineywoods Chapter Scholarship winner Stacey Corley, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches, with President Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center.

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Manager and Mrs. Lanny Parish of Diboll. The guest speaker was TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

President Terre Noble presented the Pineywoods Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year Award to Betsy Gregson, city secretary, Huntington. Vice President Carrie Edwards presented the Pineywoods Chapter Scholarship to Stacey Corley, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches.

The group enjoyed a wonderful Mexican dinner catered by El Ranchero. ★



2005-2006 Salt Grass Chapter officers. *From left to right:* Treasurer Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; Secretary Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Bunker Hill Village; Vice President Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook; President Jenny Key, TRMC, city secretary, Morgan's Point; and Historian Gary Smith, TRMC. *Note: Gary accepted a position with Corpus Christi and Sandi Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park (not shown), has been appointed as his replacement for historian.*

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

By Yolanda Benitez, TRMC

In August, the Chapter met at the Hess Club in Houston. Our program was presented by John Peter of Robert Half & Associates, who gave a presentation regarding "Networking Tactics for Career Success." He was assisted in the presentation by Cheryl Powers, also of Robert Half & Associates. Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place, was administered the oath of office as the newly elected historian for 2005-2006. There were 25 persons in attendance.

In September, we held a Notary Public Information Act Seminar at the Battleground Golf Course at Deer Park. The speaker was Loren Smith of Olson & Olson. A question and answer session followed with Deloris McKenzie TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood; Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook; and Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Bunker Hill Village, heading up the panel. A legislative update was presented by Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, and Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook. Approximately 75 people attended the session.

During the month of October, the chapter met at the City of Webster, with a presentation by MuniCode.

On November 3, the Salt Grass Chapter proudly witnessed the installation of our own Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, as she was installed as president of TMCA for 2006. Also bringing pride to the organization was Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, who was installed as a trustee on the TMCA Executive Board. Another member receiving accolades was Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Bunker Hill Village, who received the prestigious Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship. We are extremely proud of all three of these members.

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Upcoming Salt Grass Chapter events:
 November 9—regular meeting will be held at the Steak ‘N Ale with the program to be presented by Vickie Berglund, records specialist, Missouri City.
 December 4—Annual Christmas party will be held at the home of Pauline Small, city secretary, Webster. ★

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

By Toni Chrestman, TRMC

The South Plains Chapter met on September 21 at the Lubbock Club in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by the City of Plains—Pam Rowe, TRMC, and Sylvia Martinez, TRMC. President Gayla Cowan, city secretary, Amherst, welcomed members and guests.

Pam Rowe introduced our speaker Gary L. Walker, former Texas State Representative. Mr. Walker gave a very informative talk on the legislative process.

Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton, reported that TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, will present a program on parliamentary procedure for our local Training Seminar on October 14. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude about lunch time. We will have a catered lunch and then a short meeting of our chapter members with Mary Lynne. She reminded members to give brochures to mayors and city council members.

The South Plains Chapter will donate \$250.00 to the Alyce Deering Scholarship Fund.

We were reminded that TMCCP will hold a Media Relations and Communications seminar in Lubbock June 8-9, 2006.

The next meeting was set for December 21 to be hosted by Sharon Trumble, City of New Deal. This will be our Christmas Party. Everyone is asked to bring a gift to exchange.

Members and guests attending were JoAnn Beard, city secretary, Smyer; Hilda Cannon, city secretary, Abernathy; Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Mary Jo Collins, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Brownfield; Tommy Combs, deputy city secretary, Lubbock; Gayla Cowan, city secretary, Amherst; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Debbie Gressett, city secretary, Seminole; Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa; Sharon Kerby, Slaton; Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada; Sylvia Martinez, TRMC, billing clerk, Plains; Patricia Phipps, deputy city secretary, Friona; Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains; Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface; Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Chris Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland; Wilma Williams, city secretary, Denver City; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown.

We were very pleased with our Second Annual Seminar hosted by the South Plains Chapter. TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, gave a presentation on Parliamentary Procedure, on October 14. We had 40 people attend, including city secretaries, mayors, council members, economic development, city managers, and utility billing clerks. President Stratta did a fantastic job. We were very fortunate to have her present a program on such an important subject. Our members wish to thank her for visiting with us and keeping us informed on TMCA, Inc. ★



to the
**Hill Country
 Chapter**
 and the
**Central Texas
 Chapter**
 for their
 generous
 donations
 to the
**Dorothy F. Byrd
 Scholarship Fund**

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WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

By Tami Matthews



Above: West Texas Chapter President Laura Barragan, TRMC (left), deputy city secretary, Van Horn, and TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC (right), city secretary, Bryan, present a retirement gift to Jerry Curfew, city secretary, Crane.



TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC (right), city secretary, Bryan, presented Becky Brewster, city secretary, Van Horn, with a Certificate of Appreciation from IIMC.

The West Texas Chapter met on July 20 in Monahans at the Gift Shop and Tulip Room and on October 13 in Odessa at City Hall.

At the July 20 meeting Lorena Marquez, city secretary, Monahans, welcomed everyone to Monahans. Items discussed were the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, applications for the 2005 TMCA Retirement Committee and a report on our nomination for the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Members and guests present at this meeting were: Norma Aguilar, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Laura Barragan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Van Horn; Becky Brewster, TRMC, city secretary, Van Horn; Lesa Gamble, administrative assistant, Big Spring; Mary Garcia, city councilmember, Monahans; Karen Gryder, city secretary, Crane; Lorena Marquez, city secretary, Monahans; and Tami Matthews, assistant city secretary, Big Spring.

At the October 13 meeting Richard Morton, city manager, Odessa, welcomed everyone to Odessa. We were honored to have TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, as our guest speaker. Mary Lynne presented Becky Brewster with a certificate of appreciation for 25 years' membership with IIMC. She also gave an excellent presentation on parliamentary procedures. Laura Barragan and Mary Lynne Stratta presented a gift certificate to Jerry Curfew, city secretary, Crane, for her retirement.

Members and guest present at this meeting were: Norma Aguilar, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Evelyn Ammons, city secretary, Big Lake; Laura Barragan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Van Horn; Becky Brewster, TRMC, city secretary, Van Horn; Jerry Curfew, city secretary, Crane; Lesa Gamble, administrative assistant, Big Spring; Karen Gryder, city secretary, Crane; Connie Levarie, city secretary, Pecos; Lorena Marquez, city secretary, Monahans; Tami Matthews, assistant city secretary, Big Spring; Richard Morton, city manager, Odessa; Cynthia Prieto, city clerk, Balmorhea; Mary Rodriguez, city secretary, Balmorhea; Anita Sparks, city secretary; Rankin; Tonya Thomas, city secretary, Wink; Anna Vejil, deputy city secretary, Odessa; and Lou Ann Watson, city secretary, McCamey.

Our next chapter meeting is scheduled to be in January 2006 at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Austin. ★

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