

# TMCA NEWS



© Paul Traves, f15photo.com



TMCA President  
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC  
City Secretary, College Station

## President’s Message

### “A Final Word”

It has been the honor of my life to serve as your TMCA, Inc., president. As I look back on a wonderful journey, which culminates the end of this year, I see two awesome things in my rearview mirror: the adoption of our first-ever strategic plan that will see us well into the future, and the service leadership I see being enacted in every city, in every chapter. I am so proud to have been a part of these things, and I am so looking forward to continuing the ride with all of you.

Immediate Past President Art Camacho planted the seed that would eventually sprout into a fledgling strategic plan. An ad hoc committee was established and facilitated by Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan. Her committee was comprised of three board members

## CONTENTS

- President’s Message • page 1*
- TMCA Municipal Clerk Of The Year Nominees • page 5*
- TMCCP Election Law Seminar • page 6*
- Education Director’s Corner • page 7*
  - TMCA Annual Banquet Coverage*
  - TMCA Annual Banquet • page 8*
  - 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year • page 10*
  - TMCA Lifetime Membership Awarded To Betty Brown • page 12*
  - 2016 TMCA Executive Board • page 13*
  - 2016 Officers & Committees • page 14*
  - New Executive Board Trustees • page 15*
  - Scholarships • page 17*
  - 2015 Retirees • page 19*
  - Scholarship Donors • page 20*
- TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar • page 21*
- Betty Brown Honored by Leander • page 22*
- TML Report • page 23*
- TML Conference • page 25*
- IIMC News • page 26*
- 2015 Chapter Honorees • page 28*
- Chapter News • page 29*
- Chapter Contact Information • page 59*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Art Camacho, Haltom City; Shelley George, Allen; and Scarlett Swoboda, Victoria) and three TMCA members (Danette Dunlap, Abilene; Esmeralda Hudson, Waco; and Laure Morgan, Hemphill). This committee worked countless hours on a SWOT analysis that would assist in formulating the final plan. The board received the plan, and in our review, we observed some painful and distressing perceptions noted in the SWOT analysis. As a result, the board pledged to work diligently to have a strategic plan the membership could be proud of, have faith in, and most importantly, one which would effectively address those perceived weaknesses and threats. I could not be more proud of my fellow board members for their commitment to the organization and to the membership. Our new vision statement reads “The TMCA members are recognized as well educated, certified professionals who are valued members of their municipalities’ leadership teams and the communities they serve.” While this strategic plan is the roadmap to get us where we desire to be, we should bear in mind it is, and should always be, subject to revision as we continue to respond to our ever-changing environment. The membership will have opportunities to review the plan annually and make recommendations for change.

Now... about service leadership. Each year—it seems to be happening rapidly—clerks retire, and familiar faces are replaced with new ones. But the goals we hold to for the future of our profession and its perceived value to municipal organizations and communities remain strong. I say this without reservation because of the many opportunities I had this past year to visit with each of our TMCA chapters. At one of the meetings, I was asked how chapters differ throughout the state. My answer was to say there are more commonalities than differences, but, yes, there are differences. Texas is a large state with vast differences in geography, weather, economies, and people, and as a result of those and other factors, no one chapter is exactly the same as another. But, oh my!! In so many ways, they are so alike! Each and every chapter I had the pleasure to visit welcomed me warmly and treated me like family, as well as impressing me with how much they care about each other, their cities, and their communities. It was evident these meetings were more than a time to plan and strategize; they were also a time to fellowship, commiserate, and encourage. And so many new faces! Many times, a retiree is replaced with an assistant, someone who transfers from another city, or an otherwise

Vol. XXVI No. 4, December 2015

**TMCA News is published by: Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.**

1155 Union Circle #305067, Denton, Texas 76203 • [municlerks.unt.edu](http://municlerks.unt.edu)

Contact: TMCA, Inc., 940-565-3488, [alexandra.burke@unt.edu](mailto:alexandra.burke@unt.edu)

Editor In Chief: Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC

Production Editor, Art Direction & Design, Writer, Copy Editor: Project Specialist Alexandra Burke

Contributing Writer, Copy Editor: Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC

Copy Editor: Administrative Specialist Miriam Sheehan, TRMC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

experienced person. But each year, it seems we are welcoming more and more “newbies.” As an organization, we provide training to help that newbie, but we can also learn from them! The new ideas and thought-provoking questions they bring with them should be cause for excitement for the future of our organization and profession. Regardless of their background — young, old, experienced, or new — each one has value and brings something special. So I am very certain of our future. Service leadership was evident in every chapter throughout this state, and the torch is definitely being passed. Even better, the torch is brighter than it was.

This past year, visiting every corner of the state, working alongside this enormous group of dedicated professionals, and seeing true leadership and service in action, has been one of the best years of my life. Words cannot adequately convey my admiration and appreciation for each of you. Thank you for the honor to serve as your President and for the opportunity to learn more about service leadership than I ever could by reading about it. I will always value your friendship and the memories we made together this year.

And now it is time for me to pass the torch to Cheryl Salgado, 2016 TMCA, Inc., president. I know you will support Cheryl as you have supported me, and I know the torch will shine even brighter.

P.S. I asked Charlie to help me with a little ditty to commemorate my travels. Here it is, to the tune of “I’ve Been Everywhere, Man,” by Johnny Cash.

I was packin’ my bags to head out on a bunch of Texas roads  
 When along came ol’ Charlie who said he’d gladly help me with the load  
 He said, “If you want some comp’ny, hon, with me you can ride.”  
 So I climbed into the car, and I settled down inside  
 He asked where we was goin’, I just smiled and shook my head  
 Then he asked me once again, and this is what I said

We’re goin’ everywhere, man  
 Yes, I said everywhere, man  
 Across the Texas plains, man  
 Then down the Texas coast, man  
 Travel we’ll get our share, man  
 We’re goin’ everywhere

We went to  
 Alamo, Red River, Coastal Bend, Central Texas,  
 Pineywoods, Bluebonnet, Hartford, Connecticut,  
 Hill Country, South Plains, Capital, North Texas,  
 West Texas, Panhandle, TML in San Antone,  
 Northeast Texas, Yellow Rose, Lone Star,  
 Salt Grass, and then to New Orleans Region IV,  
 Whew...

Oh!

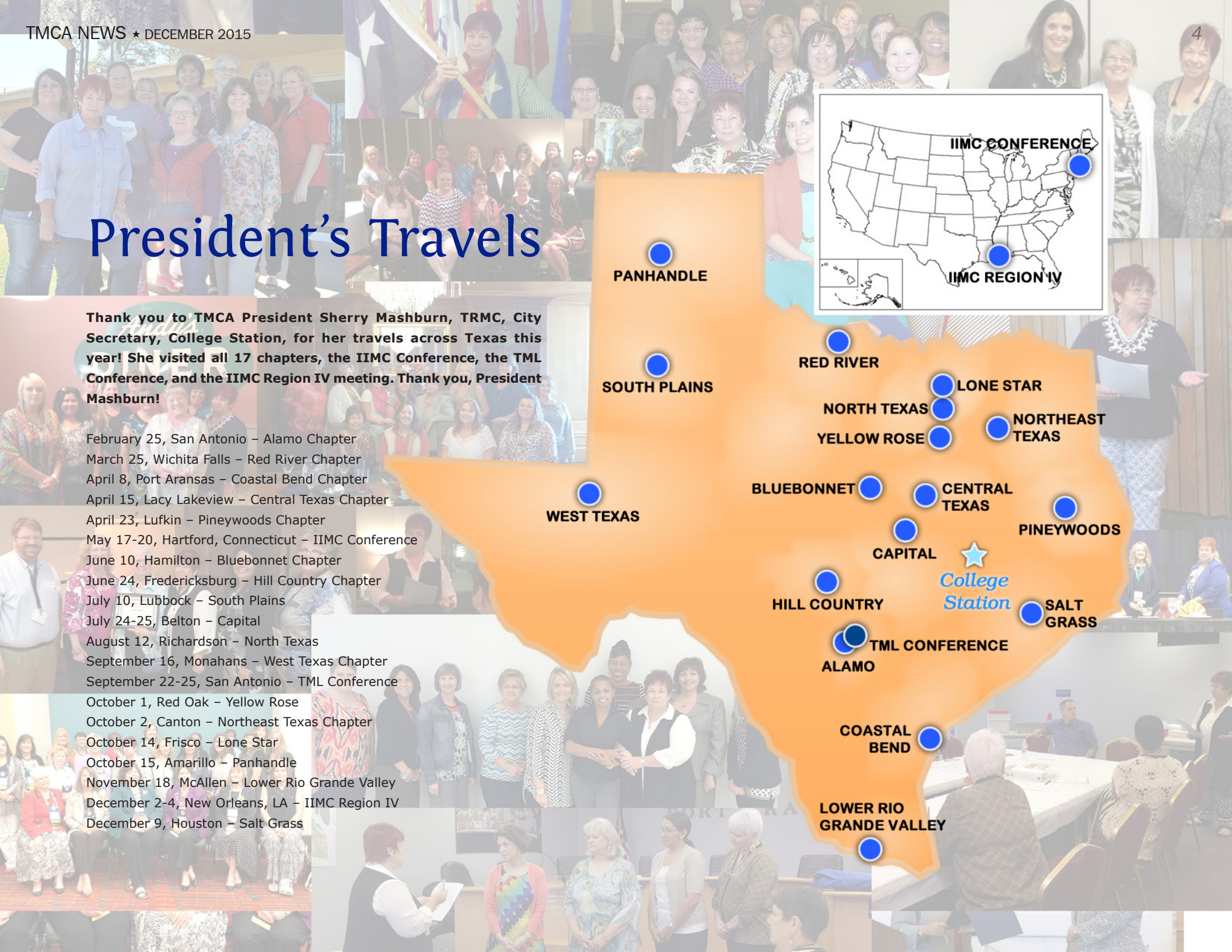
And... the  
                   Lower  
                           Rio  
                                   Grande  
 Valley

We went everywhere!

# President's Travels

**Thank you to TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, City Secretary, College Station, for her travels across Texas this year! She visited all 17 chapters, the IIMC Conference, the TML Conference, and the IIMC Region IV meeting. Thank you, President Mashburn!**

- February 25, San Antonio – Alamo Chapter
- March 25, Wichita Falls – Red River Chapter
- April 8, Port Aransas – Coastal Bend Chapter
- April 15, Lacy Lakeview – Central Texas Chapter
- April 23, Lufkin – Pineywoods Chapter
- May 17-20, Hartford, Connecticut – IIMC Conference
- June 10, Hamilton – Bluebonnet Chapter
- June 24, Fredericksburg – Hill Country Chapter
- July 10, Lubbock – South Plains
- July 24-25, Belton – Capital
- August 12, Richardson – North Texas
- September 16, Monahans – West Texas Chapter
- September 22-25, San Antonio – TML Conference
- October 1, Red Oak – Yellow Rose
- October 2, Canton – Northeast Texas Chapter
- October 14, Frisco – Lone Star
- October 15, Amarillo – Panhandle
- November 18, McAllen – Lower Rio Grande Valley
- December 2-4, New Orleans, LA – IIMC Region IV
- December 9, Houston – Salt Grass



# 2015 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominees

The following 15 TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. This award is based upon years of service as a municipal clerk, TRMC Certification and recertification, TMCA service, local TMCA chapter service, and other municipal clerk-related service and works such as instructing, convening, IIMC participation, and more. Congratulations to these inspiring stars of Texas government!



Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo  
City Secretary, Odessa  
West Texas Chapter



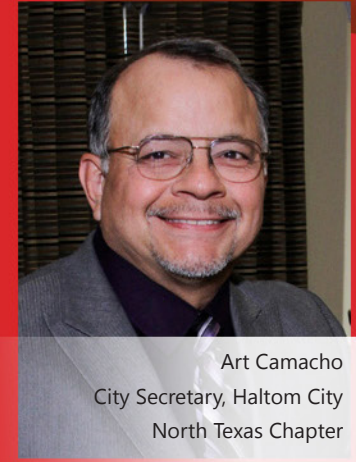
Jeana Bellinger  
City Secretary, Brenham  
Capital Chapter



Barbara Boyd  
City Secretary, Center  
Pineywoods Chapter



Linda Byers  
City Secretary, Vernon  
Red River Chapter



Art Camacho  
City Secretary, Haltom City  
North Texas Chapter



Toni Chrestman  
City Secretary, Slaton  
South Plains Chapter



Danette Dunlap  
City Secretary, Abilene  
Bluebonnet Chapter



Arcelia Felix  
City Secretary, Mercedes  
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter



Melba Haralson  
City Secretary, Gladewater  
Northeast Texas Chapter



Jana Lewellen  
City Secretary, Robinson  
Central Texas Chapter



Toni Milam  
City Secretary, Llano  
Hill Country Chapter



Jenny Page  
City Secretary, Frisco  
Lone Star Chapter



Jennifer Reyna  
City Secretary, Alamo Heights  
Alamo Chapter



Scarlet Swoboda  
City Secretary, Victoria  
Coastal Bend Chapter



Sandra Watkins  
City Secretary, Deer Park  
Salt Grass Chapter  
TMCA Municipal Clerk Of The Year

## TMCCP SEMINAR

# Election Law Seminar

January 20-22, 2016, Frisco, Texas • *Early Registration Deadline: January 6, 2016*

Join us for the **Annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar Frisco!** The seminar covers a multitude of topics: you may choose from a selection of **breakout sessions** to best meet your needs.

Our usual three optional pre-seminar sessions are tailored to offer relevant information to cities that hold their own elections; cities that contract with the county for services; and attendees who are brand new to the election process.

Full information is available on our **website**. **Plan the sessions you would like to attend ahead of time, with back-up options**—to best accommodate everyone, there is a policy of no seat-saving, and sessions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to seeing you in January! ★



Wednesday, January 20, **three optional Pre-Seminar Sessions:**

- **9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.:** Optional Pre-Seminar Round Table for **Attendees Holding Their First Election** (*free with paid registration*)
- **12:00 noon-4:30 p.m.:** Optional Pre-Seminar **Step by Step Session for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections** (*\$145 registration fee, includes box lunch and "Step by Step" handbook*)
- **2:00-4:00 p.m.:** Optional Pre-Seminar Round Table for **Attendees Contracting for the First Time** (*free with paid registration*)

Wednesday, January 20—the Election Law Seminar **begins** at 6:00 in the evening:

- "Legislative Update on Elections"

Thursday and Friday—the following is a list of **breakout sessions** being offered during the **Election Law Seminar** (most sessions are 1 ½ hours in length):

- "Campaign Funding, Reports, Forms, & Regulations"
- "Candidate Packets"
- "Charter Amendment Elections, Poll Watchers & Inspectors"
- "Election Technology"
- "ISD Elections: What You Need to Know"
- "Joint Elections"
- "Local Option Petitions & Elections"
- "Moving Your Elections to November"
- "Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections"
- "Orientation For New City Secretaries & Others Interested In The Certification Program"
- "Provisional Voting"
- "Recall Elections for Home Rule Cities, Referendum & Initiative"
- "Recruiting & Training Election Workers"
- "Runoffs, Vacancies, & Recounts"
- "Vote Centers"
- "What Happens Before And After An Election?"

## TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

# Recent Changes to Certification And Recertification Policies



TMCCP Education Director  
**Dr. Amy Holt**

There are a few changes to our certification and recertification policies that you need to be aware of if you are progressing through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. The TMCA Executive Board met last month (November 2015) and amended policy based on input from clerks across the state. The following list details the information.

- **Athenian Dialogues** – Beginning January 1, 2016, Athenian Dialogue assessments will be **due 30 days after attending** the Athenian Dialogue in order to earn credit towards your TRMC recertification.
- **TMCCP examinations** – TMCCP exam opportunities are held prior to each TMCCP seminar for eligible enrollees. Now, **in certain limited situations, there may be an option to take an exam outside of a TMCCP seminar**. If you feel you have an extenuating circumstance that prevents you from taking an exam at a regularly scheduled TMCCP seminar, then please contact me (Dr. Amy Holt at [amy.holt@unt.edu](mailto:amy.holt@unt.edu)) to discuss this possibility. Administering alternative testing sites will be quite burdensome, and for this reason exceptions to testing at seminars will be very rare.
- **10-year deadline to complete first-time certification (beginning January 1, 2016)** – There will now be a **10-year deadline to complete the first-time certification** (those currently enrolled now have a deadline of November 15, 2025). (The recertification requirement stays the same: recertify every five years.) Please be aware that when you enroll in the certification program, you must complete all the requirements within 10 years to graduate. If you do not complete all requirements within 10 years, you must start over. You should reference our **website** and stay in touch with staff to make sure you fully understand the certification requirements.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the staff in the TMCA office or members of the executive board.

# TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION'S Annual Banquet

*October 8, Fort Worth*

TMCA held a fantastic annual banquet this year at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Fort Worth on October 8. TMCA members were recognized, scholarships were awarded, 2015 retirees were honored, TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominees were honored, the 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year was recognized, and the 2016 TMCA officers were sworn into office.

The following pages in this special TMCA newsletter section offer a glimpse of the banquet. We hope to see you next year at the TMCA banquet at the **Moody Gardens in Galveston on October 27, 2016!**

*Photographs by Paul Traves, f16 Photography  
(unless otherwise noted)*



*At left, from left to right: TMCA Past President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Waco; TMCA Past President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Richardson; and TMCA Past President Lila Fuller, city secretary (ret.), Nacogdoches*



*Photo courtesy Dara Crabtree*

*At right, from left to right: Lori Saunders, TRMC, city secretary, Waxahachie; Susan House, TRMC, asst. city secretary, Mesquite; and Belinda Huff, city secretary, Cedar Hill*





2016 TMCA President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman, was administered the oath of office at the TMCA banquet; she will become president January 1.

*At far right:* 2016 President Cheryl Salgado with her "security" team (members of the TMCA Panhandle Chapter).

*Above right:* Incoming 2016 president Cheryl Salgado presents 2015 TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, with a plaque of appreciation from the membership.

*Below center:* Sherry Mashburn embraces Cheryl Salgado as she introduces her as TMCA president.

*Below left:* President Salgado gives her acceptance speech at the banquet.



Chapter photos courtesy Kimberly Sloat

# 2015 TMCA Clerk of the Year

*Congratulations to Deer Park City Secretary Sandra Watkins, TRMC!*

Photo by Paul Traves, f16photo.com



Sandra Watkins, TRMC (*left*), City Secretary, Deer Park, and TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Chair Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco.

Each year Texas municipal clerks nominate one of their peers for the prestigious state Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. To be eligible for the award, nominees must be **active members of TMCA**; must have **provided service to other municipal clerks** on a local level or state level; must have exhibited **leadership abilities**; must be a **Texas Registered Municipal Clerk**; and must **currently hold a municipal clerk position**. The Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee scores nominee applications on years of municipal service, years of TMCA membership, TMCCP certification/recertification achievements, TMCA service, local chapter service, special projects service, IIMC service, and participation as instructors or conveners in TMCA, local chapter, and IIMC education sessions.

For her outstanding achievements as an exemplary public servant and invaluable mentor and friend to city secretaries, **Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park**, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as the 2015 honoree.

The TMCA Salt Grass Chapter nominated Sandra for this prestigious honor.

Sandra has served the citizens of Deer Park since 1985—first as deputy city secretary, then beginning in 1992, as city secretary. She earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2000 (No. 362), and has recertified three times. She has received her Certified Municipal

## 2015 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

Clerk status through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) and is currently pursuing her Master Municipal Clerk. She was named as an IIMC Athenian fellow in 2015.

In nominating Sandra for this award, TMCA Salt Grass Chapter President Lee Woodward, TRMC, said, "Sandi's knowledge and her consistent willingness to share both it and her time continue to be invaluable to [Salt Grass Chapter members] old and new. She has a great deal to offer in relation to any concern, initiative, or project that arises. She will volunteer, make available meeting or event space, and/or provide resources without hesitation. Sandi is quick to respond and share on our chapter list serve, seeks to develop her staff, and promotes TMCA and the Salt Grass Chapter throughout her municipality, our region, and across the state."

Sandra has long been a mentor to and educator of city secretaries. She has taught on the team of TMCCP "Election Law Seminar" instructors for seven years. Sandra has hosted the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter's annual "Public Information Workshop" since 2001, and has been co-presenter for the Houston-Galveston Area Council "Election Workshop" since 2007. She has been a host for "Election Law

Training for Judges & Clerks" for 23 years. Sandra was a co-author of the ninth and tenth editions of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

Her committee service to TMCA has been extensive. She currently serves as treasurer on the TMCA Executive Board, has previously served as secretary, and served three years as a trustee. Sandra has served on several TMCA committees: TML Booth, Resolutions (2002 chair), Scholarship (2003; 2006 chair), Nominating (2004), and Certification (2007-2010). She served as TMCA historian in 2000.

She is also active in IIMC, where she has served on several committees: State Host Greeting and Tote Bag (2002), State Host Planning and Fundraising (2000-2002); IIMC Task Force on Membership, 2012, 2013.

Sandra has been active in the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter since 1994. She has served the Salt Grass Chapter in all officer capacities, was chapter president in 1998-1999, and has served on or chaired all committees. She was the Salt Grass Chapter Municipal Clerk of Year 2000 and 2009. The Salt Grass Chapter nominated Sandra for TMCA Municipal Clerk of Year nominee in 2000, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2015. ★

# Lifetime Membership Awarded to Betty Brown



Lifetime TMCA membership was awarded at the banquet to retiring member Betty Brown, TRMC, local government specialist, Bickerstaff Heath. Betty has been an invaluable resource for municipal clerks everywhere. She has been a longtime instructor, mentor, and supporter to both the TMCA and IIMC memberships.

Betty has been a TMCA member since 1978 and received her TRMC certification in 1983 (certification No. 92). She served as the city secretary and treasurer for the City of Leander for almost seven years, and she served as the deputy city clerk for the City of Austin for more than eighteen years. After her retirement from the City of Austin, Betty joined Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado and Acosta as their elections specialist, assisting various local governments throughout the state with their elections. Betty was recently recognized by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and the Office of the Secretary of State for her 40 years of service.

Congratulations, Betty, on this special honor, and thank you for your years of service! ★

---

*At left:* TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, presents a plaque of appreciation to Betty Brown, TRMC, in honor of her award of lifetime TMCA membership.

# 2016 TMCA Executive Board

*The TMCA officers were installed at the Annual Banquet on October 8*

Photograph by Paul Traves, f16 Photography



*Not pictured: Treasurer Marie Balthrop, TRMC, City Secretary, Alamo Heights*

*Seated, from left to right:*

Secretary Kim Sutter, TRMC  
City Secretary, Euless

Immediate Past President  
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC  
City Secretary, College Station

President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC  
City Secretary, Spearman

President Elect Lydia Lopez, TRMC  
City Secretary, Hewitt

Vice President Sandra Watkins, TRMC  
City Secretary, Deer Park

*Standing, from left to right:*

Trustee Aimee Nemer, TRMC  
City Secretary, Richardson

Trustee Maria Gonzalez, TRMC  
City Secretary, Missouri City

Trustee Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC  
City Secretary, Victoria

Trustee Shelley George, TRMC  
City Secretary, Allen

Trustee Christi Shivers, TRMC  
City Secretary, Mexia

# 2016 TMCA Officers & Committees

Officers

**President Cheryl Salgado**  
City Sec./Asst. City Mgr., Spearman  
PO Box 37  
Spearman, TX 76117  
806-659-2524  
citysec@pts.net

**President Elect Lydia Lopez**  
City Secretary, Hewitt  
PO Box 610  
Hewitt, TX 76643  
254-666-6171  
citysecretary@cityofhewitt.com

**Vice Pres. Sandra Watkins**  
City Secretary, Deer Park  
PO Box 700  
Deer Park, TX 77536  
281-478-7247  
skwatkins@deerparktx.org

**Treasurer Marie Balthrop**  
City Secretary, Holliday  
PO Box 508  
Holliday, TX 76366  
940-586-1313  
marie.balthrop@hollidaytx.org

**Secretary Kim Sutter**  
City Secretary, Eules  
201 N Ector St  
Eules, TX 76039  
817-685-1419  
ksutter@eulesstx.gov

**Immediate Past President Sherry Mashburn**  
City Secretary, College Station  
PO Box 9960  
College Station, TX 77842  
979-764-3541  
smashburn@cstx.gov

## TRUSTEES

**Shelley George**  
City Secretary, Allen  
305 Century Pkwy  
Allen, TX 75013  
214-509-4105  
sgeorge@cityofallen.org

**Maria Gonzalez**  
City Secretary, Missouri City  
1522 Texas Parkway  
Missouri City, TX 77489  
281-403-8686  
mgonzalez@missouricitytx.gov

**Aimee Nemer**  
City Secretary, Richardson  
PO Box 830309  
Richardson, TX 75083  
972-744-4290  
aimee.nemer@cor.gov

**Christi Shivers**  
City Secretary/Fin. Director, Mexia  
PO Box 207  
Mexia, TX 76667  
254-562-4122  
christis@cityofmexia.com

**Scarlet Swoboda**  
City Secretary, Victoria  
PO Box 1758  
Victoria, TX 77902  
361-485-3040  
sswoboda@victoriatx.org

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Mgmt. Committee Chair Art Camacho, City Sec., Haltom City; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Dir.; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Dir.*

Committees

## Advisory Management Committee

**Art Camacho**, Haltom City, Past President, Chair  
**Lydia Lopez**, Hewitt, President Elect  
**Sherry Mashburn**, College Station, Immediate Past President  
**Cheryl Salgado**, Spearman, President  
**Lee Woodward**, Huntsville, Certification Committee Chair  
**Peggy Burnside**, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.\*  
**Amy Holt**, TMCCP/TMCA Education Director\*

## Audit Committee

**Teresa Valdez**, Rockport, Chair  
**Norma Grimaldo**, Odessa  
**Kimberly Sloat**, Canadian  
**Sherry Mashburn**, College Station, Board Liaison

## Historian

**Kristi Gilbert**, Argyle

## Membership Committee

**Cara McPartland**, Wimberley, Chair  
**Toni Chrestman**, Slaton  
**Lisa Henderson**, Plano  
**Dixie Roberts**, Alvin  
**Kim Sutter**, Eules, Board Liaison

## Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee

**Brenda Shaw**, Morton, Chair  
**Kara Atwood**, Lufkin  
**Susan House**, Mesquite  
**Christi Wynn**, Brownwood  
**Wendy Withers**, Shady Shores  
**Marie Balthrop**, Holliday, Board Liaison

## Nominating Committee

**Susie Quinn**, Murphy, Chair  
**Linda Byers**, Vernon  
**Jennifer Reyna**, Alamo Heights  
**Crystal Roan**, Webster  
**Cheryl Salgado**, Spearman, President  
**Angela Winkle**, Crowley  
**Lydia Lopez**, Hewitt, President Elect

## Open Records

## Steering Committee

**Jannette Goodall**, Austin

## Resolutions Committee

**Amy Turner**, Midland, Chair  
**Michelle Hicks**, Lacy Lakeview  
**Ellie Monteaux**, Livingston  
**Doris Speer**, Tomball  
**Shelley George**, Allen, Board Liaison

## Retirement Committee

**Kathy Hoover**, Gilmer, Chair  
**Beth Nemeth**, Blooming Grove  
**Kimberly Perez**, Ralls  
**Christi Shivers**, Mexia, Board Liaison

## Scholarship Committee

**Peggy Cimics**, Cibolo, Chair  
**Barbara Boyd**, Center  
**Tina Broussard**, Beaumont  
**Jenny Page**, Frisco  
**Beth Walls**, Levelland  
**Sandra Watkins**, Deer Park, Board Liaison

## Technology Committee

**Patrice Fogarty**, La Porte, Chair  
**Melinda Welsh**, Friendswood  
**Jannette Goodall**, Austin

## TML Booth Committee

**Toni Milam**, Llano, Chair  
**Laure Morgan**, Hemphill  
**Aimee Nemer**, Richardson, Board Liaison

## TML Representative

**Lydia Lopez**, Hewitt, President Elect

## Certification Committee

**Lee Woodward**  
City Secretary, Huntsville  
1212 Avenue M, Huntsville, TX 77340  
936-291-5403, lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov

**Melissa Brunner**  
City Secretary, Flatonia  
PO Box 329, Flatonia, TX 78941  
361-865-3548, mbrunner@ci.flatonia.tx.us

**Gretchen Mercer**  
City Secretary, Canyon  
301 16th St, TX 79015  
806-655-5000, gmercer@canyontx.com

**Irma Parker**  
City Secretary, Port Aransas  
710 W Ave A, Port Aransas, TX 78373  
361-749-4111, iparker@cityofportaransas.org

**Mary Supino**  
City Secretary, Arlington  
PO Box 90231, Arlington, TX 76004  
817-459-6188, mary.supino@arlingtontx.gov

**Peggy Burnside**  
Administrative Director, TMCA/TMCCP  
1155 Union Cir #305067, Denton, TX 76203  
940-565-3488, peggy.burnside@unt.edu

**Dr. Amy Holt**  
Education Director, TMCA/TMCCP  
1155 Union Cir #305067, Denton, TX 76203  
940-565-3488, amy.holt@unt.edu

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Cheryl Salgado, TMCA President; Lydia Lopez, TMCA President Elect; and Sherry Mashburn, Immediate Past President*

\*non-voting member

# New Executive Board Trustees

*Introducing Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, and Christi Shivers, TRMC*

## *Maria Gonzalez, TRMC*



"To say that I am thrilled to be considered and chosen as a trustee for the TMCA executive board is an understatement. The ability to stand beside the best city clerks and secretaries in the nation is an unbelievable experience I can't wait to begin. I am beaming with excitement to be in a position where I can give back to our association in the same matter TMCA has given to me and hundreds of other clerks. I look forward to serving TMCA and continuing the promotion and development of our organization!"

**Maria Gonzalez, TRMC**, has served as the city secretary of the City of Missouri City since 2011. Her previous municipal experience includes Missouri City interim city secretary (April-August 2011), deputy city secretary (2008-2011), and city secretary department administrative assistant (2006-2008).

Maria earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2012 (No. 648). She has held membership in TMCA since

2007 and has been active in the Association, including several years of committee service (Retirement [chair], Nominating, and Municipal Clerk of the Year).

## **Professional Affiliations**

Maria is a member of the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter. She has served the chapter as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and historian. She has also served on many chapter committees: Outreach, Policies and Procedure Manual Updates liaison, Audit (2012 and 2014), Annual "Public Information Act" Seminar, Nominating, Retirement, Scholarship, and Banquet & Holiday. In 2014 the Salt Grass Chapter selected Maria as their Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year and their nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year. Maria is also a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

## **Community, Family, and Hobbies**

Maria's community activities include being a Junior Achievement volunteer (2013-2014), a St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church events volunteer, and an A.W. Jones Elementary School events volunteer. She is engaged to be married in October 2016

## NEW TRUSTEES

to Steven Jackson; they are the proud parents of Trent (7 years old) and Madelynn (5 years old). Her hobbies include spending time with family; amateur photography (family events only); scrapbooking; cooking; and unknowingly collecting stuffed animals. "Recently," Maria says, "it has been brought to my attention that I have an unnatural obsession with stuffed animals. In my book, no stuffed animal who enters my home is left behind, and becomes a member of my family. Another hobby: the ability to share (or torment, depending on the person you speak to) my stuffed animal obsession with my family."

### *Christi Shivers, TRMC*



"I am extremely honored to be chosen to serve as trustee. I am beyond excited to be a part of such an outstanding organization and look forward to the experience of helping support professional growth of city secretaries."

**Christi Shivers, TRMC**, has served as the city secretary/finance director of the City of Mexia for eight years. Her previous municipal experience includes the position of payroll clerk for Mexia for six years.

Christi earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2007 (No. 517), recertified in 2012, and is currently

working on her second recertification. She has held membership in TMCA since 2004 and has been active in the Association, including several years of committee service (Scholarship, Municipal Clerk of the Year, Nominating, and Membership).

#### **Professional Affiliations**

Christi is a member of the TMCA Central Texas Chapter. She has served the chapter as president, secretary, and benevolence officer. Her chapter committee service includes the Bylaws Committee and the Program Committee. In 2013 and 2014 the Central Texas Chapter selected Christi as their nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

#### **Community, Family, and Hobbies**

Christi's community activities include the Wortham Athletic Booster Club, where she will soon be an officer. Her prior community involvement has included Rotary Club, being a Chamber of Commerce board member, and the Mexia Business and Professional Women's Association. Christi is married to Clayton Shivers (fire chief of the City of Mexia). Her seventeen-year-old son, Kalob Bowden, and stepdaughter, Trinity Shivers, each started their senior year at Wortham ISD this year. Christi's hobbies include watching her kids play in various sports, fishing/hunting, CrossFit, and spending time with friends and family. ★



Photography by Paul Traves, f16photo.com



## Scholarships

Congratulations to the TMCA members who applied for and were awarded scholarships for 2016! This year the TMCA Major Scholarship Awards included the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship; the Lila Fern Martin Scholarship; the Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship; the Susan Rocha Scholarship (funded by the Bojorquez Law Firm); and individual scholarships from the following vendors: Agent IT Solutions, American Legal Publishing, Franklin Legal Publishing, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, Municipal Code Corporation, and the Underwood Law Firm. Two MCCi Records Management Scholarships were also awarded.

The TMCA Scholarship Committee awards scholarships annually amongst a pool of applicants based upon factors of eligibility.

*Clockwise from top left:* Audi Sciumbato, Underwood Law Firm, presents the Underwood Scholarship to Heather Robertson, city secretary, Breckenridge. Territory Manager Russell Haddock, TRMC, presents a Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship to Jennifer Evans, city secretary, Texarkana. Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park, is presented the Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson Scholarship by firm partner Richard Hill. Technology Partner Bill Wright presents the Agent IT Scholarship to Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville. On behalf of recipient Angela Stutts, TRMC, city secretary, Onalaska, Classina Watson accepted the the Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship, presented by President Kirk Franklin.



*Clockwise from top left:* Territory Manager Russell Haddock, TRMC, presents a MCCi Records Management Scholarship to Angela Winkle, TRMC, city secretary, Crowley. Russell Haddock, TRMC, presents a Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship to Jeanine Inman, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Newark. Herb Prouty presents the Bojorquez Law Firm’s Susan Rocha Scholarship to Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy. TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC, presents a McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship to Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills. Dr. Amy Holt presents a McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship to Deborah Sorenson, TRMC, city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm.

*Thank you to this year’s Scholarship Committee for their service: Chair Ron Gonzales, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Fort Worth; Kara Atwood, TRMC, city secretary, Lufkin; Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; Kristi Gilbert, TRMC, town secretary, Argyle; Susan House, TRMC, asst. city secretary, Mesquite; Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley; Sherry Reeves, TRMC; and Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office mgr., White Oak.*

*Not present: American Legal Publishing Scholarship recipient Cheryl Brown, deputy city secretary, Kerrville; Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship recipient Angela Stutts, TRMC, city secretary, Onalaska; MCCi Records Management Scholarship recipient Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville. Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship recipients: Angie Galvan, asst. city secretary, Clear Lake Shores; Holly Fimbres, town secretary, Trophy Club; Veronica Olguin, deputy city secretary, Morton; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals. Lila Fern Martin Scholarship recipient Melissa Grace, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Boerne. Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship recipients: Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; Lisa Hernandez, TRMC, city secretary, Natalia; Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland; Lindsay Wells, TRMC deputy city secretary, Euless.*

# 2015 TMCA Retirees

*Congratulations to TMCA members who retired in 2015!*

*Donna Batchler, City Secretary, Ennis*

*Jodi Brown, City Secretary, Grapevine*

*Diane Callahan, TRMC, City Secretary, Highland Village*

*Vicki Collins, TRMC, City Secretary, Mansfield*

*Heilda Cannon, City Secretary, Abernathy*

*Brenda Craft, City Secretary, Royse City*

*Patricia Ervin, TRMC, City Secretary, Waco*

*Lila Fuller, TRMC, City Secretary, Nacogdoches*

*Michele Glaser, TRMC, City Secretary, Seabrook*

*Maria Hatchett, TRMC, City Secretary, Lamesa*

*Margaret Jackson, City Secretary, Pittsburg*

*Carol Langley, City Secretary, Montgomery*

*Terry Smith, City Secretary, Sachse*

*Anita Sparks, City Secretary, Rankin*

*Beth Staton, City Admin./City Secretary-Treas., Hedwig Village*

*Vicki Taylor, City Secretary, Lometa*

*Cindy Urrabazo, City Secretary, Pleasanton*

*Annette Villarreal, TRMC, City Secretary, McAllen*

*Gail Weir, TRMC, City Secretary, Ore City*

*Kathy Wingo, TRMC, City Secretary, Lucas*



Retired City Secretary Diane Callahan, TRMC, Highland Village, spoke to attendees at the banquet. *At right:* 2015 retired city secretaries Lila Fuller, TRMC, Nacogdoches, and Patricia Ervin, TRMC, Waco.

# Thank You To Our Scholarship Donors

*Thank you to all those who donated to TMCA scholarships!*

*Agent IT Solutions*

*Agent IT Solutions Scholarship*

*American Legal Publishing*

*American Legal Publishing Scholarship*

*Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA*

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship*

*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Central Texas Chapter of TMCA*

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship*

*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Bojorquez Law Firm*

*Susan Rocha Scholarship*

*Kirk Franklin*

*Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship*

*& Gold Seminar Sponsorship*

*Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson*

*Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship*

*Lone Star Chapter of TMCA*

*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, PC*

*2 McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarships*

*& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

*Municipal Code Corporation*

*2 Municipal Code Corporation Scholarships*

*& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

*MCCi*

*2 MCCi Records Management Scholarships*

*North Texas Chapter of TMCA*

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship*

*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA*

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship*

*Lila Fern Martin Scholarship*

*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Underwood Law Firm*

*Underwood Scholarship*

*& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*



## The Leadership Lessons Of Dr. Seuss

Over 200 were in attendance in Fort Worth in October for TMCCP's 2015 Graduate Institute Seminar, "The Leadership Lessons of Dr. Seuss," presented by Kathie Novak. The educational and interactive seminar explored innovative ways to enhance leadership development.

Gratitude to Krystal Hays of Municode for seminar photos.



# Betty Brown Honored By City of Leander With Betty Brown Community Center

On October 15, the city council of the City of Leander presented Betty Brown with a plaque announcing the dedication of the Betty Brown Community Center. The chief of police and many former mayors were in attendance. Betty Brown was the first city secretary/treasurer for the city.

In its executive summary, the City of Leander noted, “Betty Brown was Leander’s first City Secretary/Treasurer as a volunteer, and after the first eight months of service she was paid a dollar a month for her service and continued as city secretary/treasurer until 1984. She was a member of a committee that petitioned to have the city incorporated in 1977, and she was a strong advocate for the city’s first library. After leaving the city she continued her career in public service as a deputy city clerk for the City of Austin and she recently retired from Bickerstaff Heath Delgado where she served as their Election Specialist.

“Betty Brown has been a resident of Leander since 1968.”

A petition with a large number of signatures was presented for the Betty Brown Community Center.

Betty says, “This is a real honor for me, like the Lifetime Membership for TMCA. One of my daughters-in-law and my youngest grandddaughter go to an exercise class in the building two evenings a week. My granddaughter says that it is funny to have me watching them from the wall where the big plaque has been placed.”



# Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Lydia Lopez, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Hewitt*



Lydia Lopez, TRMC

On September 22 I attended the TML Board of Directors meeting in conjunction with the 2015 TML Annual Conference in San Antonio. The TML Board reception and dinner was held at the Briscoe Western Art Museum. This year's conference had a record number 2,759 registered attendees. TMCA, Inc., conducted a session entitled: "In the Real World: Making the Texas Open Meetings Act Work" which featured a panel of city officials. The session was a huge success and well attended. There was standing room only!

At the directors' meeting the following business items were discussed and considered:

- 1. Legislative Update.** General Counsel Scott Houston updated the Board on H.B. No. 1295 regarding vendor disclosure requirements. House Bill 1295, passed during the 84th Regular Legislative Session, provides that: 1) a governmental entity (including a city) is prohibited from entering into a contract with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties if the contract: (a) re-

quires an action or vote by the governing body before the contact may be signed; or (b) the contract has a value of at least \$1 million; 2) the disclosure must be on a form prescribed by the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC); and 3) a governmental entity must, not later than 30 days after receiving a disclosure, submit a copy to the TEC. In addition, the bill requires the TEC to adopt rules no later than December 1, 2015, to implement these requirements.

- 2. Consider FY 2014-15 Year-End Audit/Receive the Report of the 2015 TML Budget and Audit Committee.** The audit report was presented and approved.
- 3. Consider Legal Intervention and Proposed Budget Amendment Regarding City of Venus Engineering Enforcement Action.** The TML Executive Committee met by conference call on July 6, 2015, to discuss whether the League should intervene on behalf of a TML Member City, Venus, in a SOAH dispute with a state agency. The Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) is claiming enforcement jurisdiction

## TML REPORT

over cities, while the League's attorneys believe no such authority exists. This is not the first time that the TBPE has attempted to assert jurisdiction over a Texas city, and such actions are likely to continue in the future without intervention from the League. The Board approved ratification on intervention by the League and expenditure up total of \$40,000 to hire outside counsel to assist with the intervention.

4. **Budgeting for TML Employee Health Care Expenditures.** The 2015 TML Budget and Audit Committee recommend the Board adopt the following policy regarding budgeting for TML employee health care expenditures: Beginning with the 2016-2017 budget year, staff will recommend to each year's budget and audit committee that expenditures for staff health care expenses be capped at 8.85 percent of total budgeted staff salary expense. Further, staff will present sufficient briefing materials each year to the Budget and Audit Committee to permit the committee to make a thorough yearly review as to whether the capped health care amount continues to be the appropriate level. The board unanimously approved the recommendation.
5. **Consider Endorsing City Officials for Positions on the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors.** The board approved endorsement of the following: Douglas Athas, Mayor of Garland; Sheri Capehart, Mayor Pro Tem, Arlington; and Jungas Jordan,

Councilmember, Fort Worth.

6. **Asset Pooling Initiative.** TML Executive Director Bennett Sandlin presented details on the ongoing exploration of a potential new service. The League will continue to study this initiative.
7. **Legal Update.** General Counsel Scott Houston briefed the Board on municipal legal issues. The main topic of presentation was relative to the open carry legislation passed during the 2015 Legislative Session.
8. **Membership Services Report.** TML Deputy Executive Director Rachael Pitts provided a report on the current membership which totaled at 1,145.

The next scheduled meeting will be March 4, 2016.



# 2015 TML Conference

*September 22-25, San Antonio*

TMCA was well-represented this year at the Texas Municipal League’s annual conference. In addition to our booth presence in the exhibition hall, TMCA held a session, “In the Real World: Making the Texas Open Meetings Act Work” which featured a panel of city officials; it was a great success.



## TMCA Booth

*The TMCA Booth at the TML Conference was a hit! Thank you to TML Booth Committee Chair Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; Shelley Goodwin, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge; all volunteers; and the Alamo Chapter!*



*At top:* At the TMCA session, “In The Real World: Making The Texas Open Meetings Act Work.” *From left to right:* Attorney Alan Bojorquez, Bojorquez Law Firm; Mayor Linda Martin, Euless; and City Manager Corley Alexander, La Porte.

*Above:* Mayor Linda Martin; City Manager Corley Alexander; City Secretary Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, La Porte; and City Attorney Kathy Davis, Killeen.

*At left:* San Antonio Deputy City Clerk Leticia Saenz, TRMC, and City Clerk Leticia Vacek, TRMC, at the TMCA booth at the conference.

# IIMC Region IV Meeting

By IIMC Vice President **Mary Kayser**, TRMC

The 2016 Region IV meeting was held in New Orleans on December 2-4. The Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association was terrific hosts. We had a great welcome reception in the courtyard of the Maison Dupuy hotel in the French Quarter. What a great hotel for the meeting. On Thursday we had training session on “Getting the Job Done” and “What Are You Worth” from Marlaine Peachey, CMA, executive assistant to the mayor, Mandeville, Louisiana. We discussed what you need to be at your best do that you can do a professional job and then discussed values and where we can make changes and grow.

Thursday night the group went on a ghost tour of New Orleans with the Voodoo Bone Lady (*pictured*). It was a great opportunity to get out and see some of the haunted places in New Orleans that are off the typical tourist path.

Friday was the Region IV meeting. I spoke briefly on IIMC and where we were as we come to the end of 2015. You will see in the annual report that we will end 2015 in the red. The executive committee board and budget and planning have put things into place to prevent this from happening in 2016. I can assure you we do not take this lightly

and have made changes and this will not happen in 2016. IIMC is in good shape and moving forward with education and increasing membership.



Mary Lynne Stratta with the Voodoo Bone Lady during the ghost tour.

Please consider getting involved in IIMC through service on a committee. **Here is the link to the application.** The deadline is January 15, 2016. I look forward to seeing lots of Texas names!!

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, reported on the Municipal Clerks Education Foundation (MCEF). All the funds we donate go right back into scholarships for clerks. Those opportunities are open now (go to the Scholarship & Grant Information on IIMC’s website). If you are working on your CMC or MMC or want to attend the conference, apply for one of the scholarships. We do not want to leave any funds on the table. Mary Lynne also mentioned that

MCEF gets most of its funds from individual donations—if you can, **please contribute.**

We also heard from Roxanne Schneider, candidate for IIMC vice president. Region IV voted to support Roxanne for vice president.

## IIMC NEWS

Her website is: [www.roxanneforiimc.com](http://www.roxanneforiimc.com). Ballots will be coming out after the filing deadline of January 25, 2016.

Region Directors Mary Ann Hess and Diane Whitbey reported on the mid-year meeting and a great recap is in the [region newsletter that Dianne and MaryAnn prepared](#).

Next year's region meeting will be in Jackson, Mississippi.

Last but not least, we had an update on the 2016 IIMC Conference to be held in Omaha. This will be a great conference. Omaha is a great city with great facilities and lots to see and do. The room block is 65% full at this time. If you are planning to go, make those reservations now. It is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary for IIMC, so the All Conference event will be a 70's theme. Should be fun. [Here is a link to information and registration for the conference](#).

All in all, it was a great meeting. Our region directors are doing a great job and are representing Region IV well. I am honored to serve as your IIMC vice president and look forward to seeing you in Omaha.

## IIMC Bulletin

Congratulations to **Teresa Valdez, TRMC**, city secretary, Rockport, on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Longtime TMCA member Teresa Valdez earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) designation from TMCCP in 2002 (No. 402) and is enrolled in her third recertification. She is a member of the Central Texas Chapter of TMCA. Teresa currently serves on the TMCA Resolutions Committee.

# 2015 Chapter Honorees

*Congratulations to the following TMCA members on being chosen by their chapters as their 2015 Chapter Clerk of the Year. You are the stars of Texas government!*



Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo  
City Secretary, Odessa  
West Texas Chapter



Jeana Bellinger  
City Secretary, Brenham  
Capital Chapter



Barbara Boyd  
City Secretary, Center  
Pineywoods Chapter



Linda Byers  
City Secretary, Vernon  
Red River Chapter



Diane Callahan  
City Secretary (ret.), Highland Village  
North Texas Chapter



Danette Dunlap  
City Secretary, Abilene  
Bluebonnet Chapter



Arcelia Felix  
City Secretary, Mercedes  
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter



Amber Fuller  
City Secretary, Hubbard  
Central Texas Chapter



Melba Haralson  
City Secretary, Gladewater  
Northeast Texas Chapter



Jana Lewellen  
City Secretary, Robinson  
Central Texas Chapter



Jenny Page  
City Secretary, Frisco  
Lone Star Chapter



Jennifer Reyna  
City Secretary, Alamo Heights  
Alamo Chapter



Scarlet Swoboda  
City Secretary, Victoria  
Coastal Bend Chapter



Beth Walls  
City Secretary, Levelland  
South Plains Chapter



Sandra Watkins  
City Secretary, Deer Park  
Salt Grass Chapter  
**TMCA Municipal Clerk Of The Year**

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Lucretia Alvarez**

*City Secretary, Elgin*

Capital Chapter met on September 16 at the City of Bryan Justice Center with nineteen members present. Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, hosted the group, and thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to beautiful Bryan.

A special recognition for Capital Chapter Clerk of the Year for 2015 was presented to Betty Brown, TRMC, (retired from Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, LLP). It was presented by Chapter President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, who was the chapter's nominee for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year. Betty Brown has mentored many of the chapter clerks over the years as city secretary of Leander, deputy secretary of Austin, and elections specialist at Bickerstaff Heath. Betty also received a Lifetime Membership Award at the TMCA Annual Banquet in October, presented by TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station.

Chapter President Jeana Bellinger presented the September program on "Regulation of Firearms" with helpful hints for municipal awareness and changes before January 2016.

Congratulations to Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills, who received the McCreary Veselka Bragg and Allen Scholarship at the TMCA Annual



Betty Brown (retired Bickerstaff Heath), Capital Chapter Clerk of the Year, and Chapter President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, Capital Chapter nominee for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

## CAPITAL CHAPTER

Banquet in October. Their city received two honors during the TML Conference in September: the TML Municipal Excellence Award for Public Safety (fire safety project) and recognition for becoming a Scenic City.

Capital Chapter will be meeting on December 2 at 11:00 a.m. at the historic Simon Theatre in Brenham for our special ornament exchange and Christmas luncheon. Please contact Chapter President Jeana Bellinger at [JBellinger@cityofbrenham.org](mailto:JBellinger@cityofbrenham.org) if you would like to attend, or for more information about our chapter.



The Capital Chapter September meeting in Bryan. *Front row:* Chance Chatham, city secretary, Point Venture; Christina Cabrera, assistant city secretary, Bryan; Mary Goerig, assistant city secretary, LaGrange; Betty Brown, TRMC, retired elections specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; Rachael Lynch, TRMC, city secretary, Carmine; Violet Zbranek, retired city secretary, LaGrange. *Back row:* Debora Penberg, deputy city secretary, Leander; Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander; Julia Vicars, village secretary, Volente; Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron; Mary Lynne Strata, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Stacy Irwin, city secretary, Thorndale; Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville; Ian Whittendon, records management administrator, College Station; Lisa Oltmann, city secretary, LaGrange; Sara White, TRMC, city clerk, Round Rock; Tonya Sumner, city clerk, Thorndale. *Not pictured:* Chapter President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, and Chapter Secretary Lucretia Alvarez, city secretary, Elgin.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Amber Fuller, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Hubbard*

The Central Texas Chapter held a bi-monthly meeting on October 21. The City of Beverly Hills hosted the meeting at the City of Beverly Hills Community Room. Chapter President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Robinson, welcomed everyone, and the chapter enjoyed a delicious home-cooked meal prepared by Beverly Hills City Secretary Donna Hawkins. Chapter members were presented an informative presentation by Carrie Kuehl with Animal Birth Control Clinic. The chapter presented a retirement gift to Donna Hawkins, and Donna gave away fun Halloween center piece door prizes.

Upcoming chapter meeting dates: December – Chapter Christmas Party – Heitmillers Steak House; January – Hosted by City of Hewitt.

Chapter members present at the October meeting:  
 President Jana Lewellen, City Secretary, Robinson  
 Amber Fuller, City Secretary, Hubbard  
 Althea Wall, City Secretary, Morgan's Point Resort  
 Cresandra Polk, Records Coordinator, Waco  
 Crystal Briggs, City Secretary, Nolanville  
 Michelle Hicks, City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview  
 Lydia Lopez, TRMC, City Secretary, Hewitt  
 Donna Hawkins, City Secretary, Beverly Hills  
 Angel Flores, Beverly Hills  
 Ronda Cockerham, City Secretary, Italy  
 Christi Shivers, City Secretary, Mexia  
 Roshuna Wiley, Deputy City Secretary, Mexia  
 Amy Casey, City Clerk, Belton  
 Donna Barkley, City Secretary, Woodway  
 Michelle Ficker, Administrative Assist., Robinson




 TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Jenny Page, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Frisco*

## August Meeting

Many thanks to Lisa Henderson and the City of Plano for hosting the August 5 Lone Star Chapter meeting at Spring Creek BBQ in McKinney. The speaker was Plano Communications Director Steve Stoler who provided tips on “Working with the Media.” Mr. Stoler, a former professional news reporter, gave tips on the “Do’s and Don’ts” of working with the media, growing your relationship with a reporter, how to get good press, and turning something dull into an exciting and interesting news story.

Immediate Past President Janis Cable presented “Character First.” This month’s word was “Virtue.” The focus was on always doing the right thing, setting a precedent, being consistent, choosing associates wisely, and urging others to do the right thing: all characteristics that make a great clerk.

Other items discussed included Lone Star Chapter website and social media page update, a review of the Lone Star Chapter Bylaws, discussion of the proposed budget, proposed slate of officers and retiree recognition in October.

## September 2: Records Management Workday & Chapter Meeting

The Lone Star Chapter held its biannual Records Management Workday providing in-depth presentations on topics relevant to the city clerk/city secretary’s office. Presentations included a “Public Information Act Question-And-Answer Panel” made up of seasoned individuals in the field of records requests. The panel included Whitt Wyatt, senior attorney at Nichols Jackson Dillard Hager & Smith, LLP; Shanae Jennings, TRMC, city secretary, Irving; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Lisa Chaney, police records supervisor; and Susan Nguyen, police open records specialist, Garland. Other topics discussed were “Texas Open Meetings Act” presented by Zindia Thomas, Texas Attorney General’s Office; “Notary Public Law” presented by Marie Rovira, Texas Secretary of State’s Office; and “Alcohol Permitting Information” from Loretta Green and Amanda Collins from Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Seventy-one were in attendance from various departments and twenty-two cities, as well as the North Texas Municipal Water District. The event is the Lone Star Chapter’s largest fund raising event and allows the chapter to fund educational scholarships for members.



## LONE STAR CHAPTER

Due to the success of the event, the chapter has budgeted additional scholarships for the upcoming year.

After the Records Management Workday a regular monthly meeting was held and the members approved several items including the 2015-2016 budget, Articles of Incorporation and filing of the Articles as a 501(c)3, creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to revise and update the Lone Star Chapter website, and approved the following 2015-2016 slate of officers: Jenny Page, President; Alice Holloway, President Elect; Shelley George, Secretary; Deborah Sorensen, Treasurer; and Susie Quinn, Historian.

### October Meeting

The October meeting was special due to the presence of TMCA President Sherry Mashburn. President Mashburn was also celebrating her birthday and was honored with an individual birthday cake and a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday”!

President Mashburn honored retiree Kathy Wingo, formerly of Lucas, with a TMCA blanket for her many years of service to both TMCA and the Lone Star Chapter. Ms. Wingo beamed as she stated she was enjoying retirement and grandchildren, but planned to continue to participate in the chapter.

Outgoing President Vickie Schmid remarked on her year as the 2014-2015 president and encouraged each of the incoming officers to continue to lead the chapter to success. With




---

*Above right:* TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, presenting an embroidered TMCA blanket to retiree Kathy Wingo, TRMC. *Near right:* Incoming Lone Star Chapter president Jenny Page, TRMC, presenting outgoing president Vickie Schmid, TRMC, with appreciation gifts.

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

gratitude, President Schmid thanked each officer for their support and encouragement during her term. TMCA President Mashburn installed 2015-2016 Lone Star Chapter officers: President Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; President Elect Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point; Secretary Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; Treasurer Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, city secretary, Royse City; and Historian Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy, and compared their new positions to the qualities and strengths of rare gemstones. Incoming President Jenny Page commented on the vision for the upcoming year by comparing it to the recent TMCA seminar “The Leadership Lessons of Dr. Seuss,” and in particular, the book *Oh, the Places You’ll Go*, and posed the question to the membership, “Where will you go this next year?” Incoming President Page presented outgoing President Schmid with a framed certificate of appreciation, flowers, and thanked her for her outstanding leadership this past year.

Other topics discussed included final review of bylaws scheduled for adoption on November 4; Holiday/Anniversary Committee Chair Carole Kuykendall reported on the status of the annual Holiday Party to coincide with the Lone Star Chapter’s 10th Anniversary; and recognition of committee members for the past year. New members Rene Dowl, city secretary, Garland, and Liz Cappon, city secretary, Fairview, were welcomed, and congratulations were extended in regard to relocations by Carrie Smith, TRMC, city secretary, Anna (formerly of Parker), and Deborah Sorenson, TRMC, city secretary, Royse City (formerly of McLendon-Chisholm).



Above: TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, installs the new Lone Star Chapter officers.

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

Lone Star Chapter meeting attendees:

Kristy Ashberry, city secretary, Rockwall  
Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing  
Jacky Casey, TRMC, assistant to city secretary, Rockwall  
Vickie Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina  
Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen  
Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney  
Lisa Henderson, TRMC, city secretary, Plano  
Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point  
Carole Kuykendall, deputy city secretary, Greenville  
Kim McCranie, executive administrative assistant, Murphy  
Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson  
Debbie Newell, Greenville  
Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco  
Kristi Morrow, assistant city secretary, Frisco  
Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy  
Vickie Schmid, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Richardson  
Alice Snyder, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano  
Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm  
Lisa Stewart, deputy city secretary, The Colony  
Denise Vice, TRMC, assistant city secretary, McKinney  
Kathy Wingo, TRMC, retired  
Jo Ann Wright, assistant city secretary, Pilot Point  
Jenny Huckabee, city secretary, Aubrey  
Rene Dowl, city secretary, Garland  
Liz Cappon, city secretary, Fairview

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC**  
*Administrative Supervisor, McAllen*

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter met in September and October. The September meeting was hosted by City of Pharr at Pharr Economic Development Corporation. Our guest speaker was Jose Perez, Alton Assistant Chief of Police, of City of Alton, and he spoke on House Bill 910 – Cities & Firearms. The October meeting was hosted by City of San Juan at the San Juan Memorial Library where a special recognition was held for Annette Villarreal, TRMC, on her retirement from City of McAllen.

To join the LRGV Chapter or for more information, on this chapter, please contact Baudelia Rojas at [baudelia.rojas@alton-tx.gov](mailto:baudelia.rojas@alton-tx.gov), as it is a great way to network and get business done. 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/lrgvsecretaries](http://www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries).



*Above photos: The LRGV Chapter meeting in September in Pharr.*

## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER



*Above photos:* The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter at their October meeting in San Juan. Retiring McAllen City Secretary Annette Villarreal, TRMC (*top right photo*) was recognized at this meeting.

The cities of the LRGV Chapters members include: Alamo, Alton, Brownsville, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elsa, Granjeno, Harlingen, Hidalgo, La Feria, La Joya, La Villa, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Los Indios, Lyford, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, Port Isabel, Palmhurst, Raymondville, Rancho Viejo, San Benito, San Juan, South Padre Island, Sullivan City, and Weslaco.

### Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter Officers:

President Baudelia Rojas, TRMC, City Secretary, Alton

Vice President Ana Valdez, TRMC, City Secretary, Peñitas

Secretary/Treasurer Sandra Guajardo, Interim City Secretary, San Juan

Historian Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC, Admin. Supervisor, McAllen



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Mary Supino, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Arlington*

Greetings to our fellow chapters from the North Texas Chapter!

A big thank you to Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, for hosting our August 12 business luncheon. TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, was present for our meeting.

Loretta Greene, districting licensing supervisor, TABC, joined us to discuss liquor permitting. Loretta began her career with the TABC in April of 2001 as an administrative technician in the Fort Worth District Office. She was promoted to an accounts examiner in 2003, and in 2005 Loretta was awarded the “Alan Shivers Jr. Award” for Employee of the Year. During 2009, Loretta was acting as the regional lead for licensing in the Dallas Region and was promoted to regional licensing supervisor in 2010. Prior to the TABC, Loretta worked for the Marshall Independent School District for 12 years.

Loretta provided the group with copies of her presentation to explain the questions we had sent to her previously, such as what is the significance of the “BG” permit, and what a “growler” is. She also provided an update on recent legislation, and helpful contact information.



TABC Districting Licensing Supervisor Loretta Greene addressed the North Texas Chapter in August.

## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

TMCA President Sherry Mashburn spoke to the chapter about “Servant Leadership” and what that means to us. She explained five very important points for us to remember as public servants. 1) Be conscious of the offerings we’ve received; 2) Serve to express gratitude; 3) Serve to transform yourself; 4) Honor our profound interconnection; and 5) Serve to align with a natural unfolding. She stated it is important for us to be there for one another, our chapter, our communities, and any other organizations we may be involved in.

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: July 15 meeting minutes, monthly treasurer report for July 2015, and the third quarterly report (April–June 2015).

Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, hosted our September 17 meeting at the beautiful Haltom City Public Library. City Manager Tom Muir welcomed our chapter to Haltom City and joined us for our discussion and lunch.




---

*Top right:* Chapter members at their August meeting in Richardson.

*Near right:* Chapter President Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington; retiring Highland Village City Secretary Diane Callahan, TRMC; and TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station.

## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Jon Stigliano of Strategic Solutions Group talked to us about “Creating a Cadence of Personal and Professional Success.” Jon defined success as the progressive realization of a pre-determined worthwhile personal goal.

How do you define success? Technically, there are as many definitions of success as there are people defining it. Don’t compare your definition of success to other people’s definition.

Process of success is determined by: your attitudes, your behaviors, others’ attitudes, and others’ behavior.

Success begins with your attitude. Take control of how you think. Don’t let others’ behaviors dictate your feelings. It’s your attitude that creates your feelings.

There are many areas of success: career, health, financial, community, social, cultural, educational, spiritual and family. People tend to focus on one or only a couple and therefore neglect others. Try setting at least one goal for each area of success. This keeps the ‘wheel’ of success moving more smoothly.

President Mary Supino administered the oaths of office to the chapter’s 2015 board officers: Vice President Carol



*At top:* The NTMCA Chapter members at their September meeting in Haltom City.

*Above left:* Speaker Jon Stigliano of Strategic Solutions Group spoke to the members.

*Above right:* The new NTMCA board took the oath of office.



## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Westworth Village; Treasurer Sheila Morales, city secretary, Copper Canyon; Secretary Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville; and Historian Laura Bell, TRMC, city secretary, Addison. Vice President Borges administered the oath of office to Mary Supino, who will be serving her second term as president of the chapter.

The 2014-2015 meeting schedule was presented by incoming President Mary Supino.

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: the August 12 meeting minutes, the treasurer's report for August 2015, FY2015-2016 budget, transfer of \$596.50 from "Professional Seminar" to "Special Project Fund," revisions to NTMCA bylaws, 2015-2016 slate of officers, and contributions to scholarship funds for: TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship, TMCA Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship, and NTMCA Alyce Deering Scholarship.

Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary, Highland Village, was presented with a certificate of recognition for her retirement and was recognized for her outstanding commitment and leadership to the NTMCA over the past year.

Christel Pettinos, TRMC, city secretary, Coppell hosted our October 21 at the Coppell Fire Training Center.

Coppell Police Chief Mac Tristan joined our chapter this month to talk to us about "Leadership Concepts: Becoming the Best Version of You." He spoke to and interacted with the attendees, and shared the following information:



Coppell Police Chief Mac Tristan addressed the chapter in October.

Becoming the best version of you includes picking one thing you will work on to refine to make better. Improve yourself to become a better employee, spouse, friend, etc. There are things you can do that no one else can do. His theory of human behavior is that, "people do stupid stuff!" *Why?* They believe it will make them happy, or provide instant gratification. He said thoughts lead to decisions; decisions lead to actions; actions create habits; habits form our character; and character determines our destiny. There are

four areas of you/me: physical (taking care of ourselves); emotional (relational); intellectual (feeding your brain); and spiritual (what you believe in). He said we can all improve in something!

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: the September 16 meeting minutes, the treasurer's report for September 2015, the FY 2015 fourth quarter report, and a budget amendment of \$767 for overages on our scanning project.

The NTMCA is always looking to expand our membership and meet new clerks in our area. For anyone interested in attending our meet-

## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

ings or joining our chapter, please see our chapter website [www.ntmca.org](http://www.ntmca.org) or contact Mary Supino at [Mary.Supino@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Mary.Supino@arlingtontx.gov) or 817-459-6186. We are very fortunate to be able to have amazing speakers to come to our meetings to share information and knowledge with us in order to enhance our leadership skills. We would love to share these opportunities for professional development with more of our colleagues. Please join us at an upcoming meeting to see what our chapter has to offer you.

The NTMCA will meet on December 9 at the MCL Grand in Lewisville for our Holiday Celebration. Please see our website for more information regarding meetings and upcoming events: [www.ntmca.org](http://www.ntmca.org).



October meeting attendees:

President Mary Supino, TRMC, City Secretary, Arlington  
 Vice President Carol Ann Borges, TRMC, City Secretary, Westworth Village  
 Treasurer Sheila Morales, Town Secretary, Copper Canyon  
 Secretary Amy Shelley, TRMC, City Secretary, Colleyville  
 Historian Laura Bell, TRMC, City Secretary, Addison  
 Art Camacho, TRMC, City Secretary, Haltom City  
 Diane Cockrell, TRMC, City Secretary, Decatur  
 Tammy Dixon, TRMC, Town Secretary, Bartonville  
 Jean Dwinell, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Coppell  
 Janice England, TRMC, City Secretary, Saginaw  
 Asucena Garcia, TRMC, Admin. Assistant to the City Secretary, Decatur  
 Christine Green, City Secretary, University Park  
 Amanda Hartwick, Comm. Specialist/Dep. City Secretary, University Park  
 Julie Heinze, City Secretary, Lewisville  
 Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary, Fort Worth  
 Veronica Lomas, TRMC, Records Manager, Southlake  
 Erika McComis, City Secretary, Bridgeport  
 Aimee Nemer, TRMC, City Secretary, Richardson  
 Christel Pettinos, TRMC, City Secretary, Coppell  
 Ingrid Rex, executive assistant to the town manager, Flower Mound  
 Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative specialist, TMCA/TMCCP  
 Monica Solko, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, North Richland Hills

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Sherry Roberts, TRMC**

*City Secretary/Office Manager, White Oak*

The Northeast Texas Chapter welcomed TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, at their fall meeting on October 2 in Canton. Canton City Secretary Debra Johnson greeted us at the senior citizens building because Canton's City Hall is getting a makeover. Debra always makes sure that chapter members leave the meeting with a "Trade Day" calendar and parking pass, and we thank you!

Chapter President Sherry Roberts, TRMC, presided over the business meeting, which included the approval of the June minutes and latest treasurer's report. There were no scholarship applications received, which led to discussion about reducing the scholarship requirements. There will be more discussion at the December meeting.

After 26 years with the City of Ore City, city secretary Gail Weir, TRMC, has decided to retire. Gail spent 14 of these years as city secretary. Chapter President Sherry Roberts presented Gail with a Waterford Crystal cross as a retirement gift from the Northeast Texas Chapter.



Attending the meeting from left to right back row: Rachél Gafford, Overton; Sereca Huff, Van; Sherry Roberts, President, White Oak; Doris Crockett, Vice-President, Bullard; Gail Weir, Ore City; Shelly Griffin, Winnsboro; and Debra Johnson, Canton. Front Row: Sherry Mashburn, TMCA President, College Station; Fran Wendeborn, Rusk (Retired); and Kristan Kahler, Ore City.

## NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Gail has always been a tremendous asset to our chapter and we will miss her uplifting spirit at meetings and seminars. However, we hope that you will still attend our chapter meetings! We welcome Kristan Kahler as Gail's replacement and wish them both the best of luck!

TMCA President Sherry Mashburn encouraged attendance at the October 8 Annual Business Meeting during the Graduate Institute in Fort Worth where there would be decisions on several important items.

President Mashburn stated that her theme this year was service – service leadership, and encouraged leading by serving others in the following five areas:

1. Serve to discover abundance
2. Serve to express gratitude
3. Serve to transform yourself
4. Serve to honor profound inner connection, and
5. Serve to align with natural order

Our December meeting was set for Wednesday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. at Traditions Restaurant in Tyler. Chapter members always enjoy a Grinch gift exchange with gifts limited to \$20. (Since the meeting, it has been decided that December 16 would be a more appropriate day for chapter members.) I hope to see all of our members there!

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Panhandle Chapter

By **Kimberly Sloat, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Canadian*

Since the last TMCA newsletter the Panhandle Chapter met twice: August 27 and October 15 for our bi-monthly meetings. At both meetings we convened at The Amarillo Club in Amarillo with 13 members present for the August meeting and 11 members present for the October meeting. We also had 13 members in attendance for the TMCCP Graduate Institute in October in Fort Worth.

The August meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman. Members ate lunch and had a round table discussion. The minutes and the treasurer's report were presented and approved. The meeting was adjourned.

President Salgado called the October meeting to order and welcomed all the attendees. She introduced our two guests: Potter County Judge Nancy Tanner and TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station.

Judge Tanner spoke about her position. The hardest and most rewarding task of her position is being able to help those with mental illnesses; she is in the process of implementing



The Panhandle Chapter at their October meeting with visiting TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station.

## PANHANDLE CHAPTER

a program to help them get back on their feet and stay out of trouble. The most fun thing about her position is marrying people.

TMCA President Mashburn spoke about “Service Leadership.” She elaborated on the following five reasons to serve: serve to discover abundance; serve to express gratitude; serve to transform yourself; serve to honor our inner connection; and serve to align with a natural unfolding. We were very excited to have Sherry attend our meeting, and we hope she enjoyed her stay.

Our Panhandle Chapter President Cheryl Salgado will soon be the TMCA president for 2016. We had 62% of our chapter present at the TMCA Banquet to support her when she was sworn into office. She is a leader to us all and we couldn’t be more proud that she is the one representing not only our chapter but our organization.

---

*Top right:* Panhandle Chapter members at the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in Fort Worth. *Near right:* Panhandle Chapter members with newly-sworn-in 2016 TMCA President Cheryl Salgado at the TMCA Banquet.



## PANHANDLE CHAPTER

Our next scheduled meeting is December 17 at 11:00 a.m. at the Amarillo Club. We will be having our annual Christmas Party and gift exchange where we will install our two-year (2016-2017) term officers.

*At right:* Incoming 2016 TMCA President Cheryl Salgado at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in Fort Worth with her outstanding "security detail"—fellow members of the Panhandle Chapter.

*The following attendees attended one or both of our August and October meetings; some attended TMCCP Graduate Institute:*

President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, City Secretary, Spearman  
 Vice President Karen Price, TRMC, City Secretary, Pampa  
 Secretary Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, City Secretary, Canadian  
 Treasurer Machiel Covey, TRMC, City Secretary, Clarendon  
 Historian Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, City Secretary, Canyon  
 Charlene Gardner, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Pampa  
 Kristina Solomon, City Secretary, Tulia  
 Kim Rehkopf, City Secretary, Dumas  
 Frances Hibbs, TRMC, City Secretary, Amarillo  
 Andrea McDonald, TRMC, Administrative Assistant, Amarillo  
 Nelwyn Ward, City Secretary, Memphis  
 Kathy Styles, TRMC, City Secretary, Perryton  
 Frances Childers, City Secretary, Dalhart  
 Rosa Mendez, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Friona  
 Lindy Forsyth, TRMC, City Secretary, Lefors  
 Stella Sauls, TRMC, City Secretary, Borger



## 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 El Mejicano in Wichita Falls on September 16 at 1:00 p.m. President Byers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted. The minutes of June 24 were approved, as well as the treasurer's report through September 16.

President Byers provided an update on all of the upcoming seminars offered by TMCCP. Most members planned to attend the TMCCP Graduate Institute on October 8-9. TMCA board member Marie Balthrop, TRMC, provided information on the TMCA Strategic Plan. She explained this is about the mission and vision of TMCA. She stated she wanted us to know that, as a member of the board, the board does appreciate the input they receive and encouraged everyone to respond to TMCA President Sherry Mashburn request for comments.

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Kim Hemmi, city secretary, Scotland; and Jen Driebergen, deputy city clerk, Wichita Falls, will serve on a committee to find a family from Faith Refuge for the chapter to purchase Christmas gifts for them. In the past the chapter's donation along with the donations of the individual members has allowed us to purchase several gifts for a family. We have found this truly rewarding





## RED RIVER CHAPTER

when we are able to bless another family at Christmas.

Members discussed the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar we attended in San Marcos. It was a very educational and informative seminar.

A nominating committee was formed with the following members: Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon; Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City; Tracy Norr, city clerk, Wichita Falls; and Kim Hemmi, city secretary, Scotland. The committee will bring back nominations for officers at the December meeting.

The chapter had a lengthy discussion on the Affordable Care Act reporting requirements for cities. President Byers provided some useful handouts. This was a great time to share information and learn from each other.

Our next meeting will be held December 9 at El Mejicano Restaurant. 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](mailto:jdolan@burkburnett.org) or 940-569-2263.

Members present at the September meeting:

Linda Byers, City Secretary, Vernon

Janelle Dolan, City Clerk, Burkburnett

Sandy Page, City Secretary, Bowie

Marie Balthrop, City Secretary, Holliday

Janice Newman, City Secretary, Iowa Park

Amy Anderson, City Secretary, Lakeside City

Tracy Bankston-Smith, Administrative Assistant, Lakeside City

Kim Hemmi, City Secretary, Scotland

Tracy Norr, City Clerk, Wichita Falls

Jen Driebergen, Deputy City Clerk, Wichita Falls

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Doris Speer, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Tomball*

### August Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter returned from its summer hiatus with a well-attended meeting on August 12 in Baytown. Baytown Assistant City Manager Ken Toller greeted the chapter's members and visitors on behalf of the City of Baytown. Julie Robinson, city administrator, Dickinson, presented "Managing through a Personal Crisis" and invited members to join Women Leading Government, a new organization through ICMA and TCMA, promoting lifestyle solutions for municipal employees.

The Salt Grass Chapter unanimously nominated Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park, for the 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year award.

### September Meeting and 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Information Seminar

On September 9 the Salt Grass Chapter hosted its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Information Seminar at the Deer Park Courts and Theater Building in Deer Park. The speakers were: Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte; Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball; K.C. Rodgers, public safety informa-



## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

tion services supervisor, Friendswood; Bonnie Zaber, government information specialist, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, State and Local Government Division; Mary Ann Powell, attorney at law, Olson and Olson, LLP; and Jennifer Namie, paralegal, Olson and Olson, LLP. The speakers presented processing public information requests, the basics of public information, requesting attorney general opinions, personnel records exceptions, processing requests for law enforcement records, managing electronic records and social media, managing court records, and providing cost estimates to approximately 129 attendees.

Immediately following the chapter's Public Information Seminar, the Salt Grass Chapter held its September meeting. Vice President Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., welcomed those in attendance, and thanked the City of Deer Park for hosting both the Public Information Seminar and the Salt Grass meeting.

Reports were received from the Bylaws Committee, the Policy and Procedures Manual Review Committee, and the Retirement Committee, with recommendations approved by chapter members. The chapter was advised that Beth Staton,



*Top right:* Attendees at the chapter's Public Information Seminar.

*Near right:* Members at the September Salt Grass Chapter meeting following the seminar.

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

city secretary, Hedwig Village, will retire October 30 with a total of 40 years of service.

### TMCA Honors Sandra Watkins with 2015 TMCA Clerk of the Year Award

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association honored Sandra Watkins (*pictured*), the city secretary of Deer Park, as its 2015 Municipal Clerk of the Year at its Annual Banquet in Fort Worth on October 8.



Watkins has served as city secretary in Deer Park since 1985. She manages a staff of five that administers municipal and special elections, maintains official records and issues licenses and permits.

### October Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held its October 14 meeting at the historic Wynne Home Arts Center in Huntsville. Chapter President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, called the meeting to order, welcoming those in attendance.

---

The chapter met in October at the historic Wynne Home Arts Center in Huntsville. *At top:* Huntsville City Secretary and Salt Grass Chapter President Lee Woodward, TRMC. *Near right:* Huntsville Deputy City Secretary Clasina Watson, TRMC.



## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Jaree Hefner, marketing/PR specialist, La Porte, and Kristi Wyatt, director of communications & intergovernmental relations, presented “Emergency Preparedness for PIOs.”

Following the presentation, reports were received from the Scholarship and Nominating Committees; the slate of officers for the November 11 election was approved; and revisions to the “Committee Responsibilities and Procedures Manual” were adopted. Additionally, donations of funds to the TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd, TMCA Lila Fern Martin, and TMCA Dr. Joyce Snay scholarships, and to the TMCA 2016 President Travel Stipend Fund, were approved unanimously.

The City of Missouri City, recipient of TML’s “Over 25,000 Public Safety Municipal Excellence Award,” was recognized by the chapter. Lee Woodward reminded everyone of the IIMC Region IV meeting coming up in December and encouraged everyone to attend.

City Secretary Beth Staton of Hedwig Village retired on October 31 with a total of 40 years of service, with 20 of those years with the City of Hedwig Village.

The next Salt Grass Chapter meeting was set for November 11 in Nassau Bay. Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically




---

*At top:* Chapter Vice President Paula Favors, during the meeting at the historic Wynne Home Arts Center. *Near right:* At Hedwig Village City Secretary Beth Staton’s retirement party.

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

held on the second Wednesday of the month, January through April and August through December; guests are always welcome!

For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, at [lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov).

Members in attendance at the October meeting:

Shannon Bennett, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Deer Park

Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy

Leticia Brysch, city secretary, Baytown

Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

Olga Garza, city secretary, Southside Place

Tracy Garcia, administrative assistant/deputy registrar, Tomball

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Jennifer Namie, honorary member, Olson & Olson

Dixie Roberts, TRMC, city clerk, Alvin

Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball

Karen Vannerson, honorary member, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

Sandi Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park

Clasina Watson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Huntsville

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# South Plains Chapter

By **Jodie House**

*City Secretary, Crosbyton*

Happy Fall from the South Plains Chapter!

Our chapter met September 16, 2015 for lunch. We were fortunate to have Sue Castle with Xcel Energy host our event at Xcel's Jones Station in Lubbock.

The crew at the plant were kind enough to give us a tour of the facility, and shared with us valuable information on electricity.



Members in attendance:

Rosa Angle

Selia Arellano, city secretary, Floydada

Lillian Atkinson, city secretary, Dickens

Jo Ann Beard, TRMC, city secretary, Smyer

Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton

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

Amanda Cummings, city secretary, Shallowater

Ida Davis, dep. city secretary, Levelland

Lora Dockery, city secretary, Sundown

Mechele Edwards

Kathy Field, deputy city secretary, Slaton

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe

Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock

Thomas Harris III, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Lubbock

Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city sec./treas. (ret.), Lamesa

Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton

Patricia Isaguirre, city secretary, Hale Center

Monica Lopez, administrative assistant, Hedwig Village

Cynthia Mason, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Post

Terri McClanahan

Rosa Mendez, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friona

Elana Quintanilla, city secretary, Ransom Canyon

Kim Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls

Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city mgr./city secretary, Morton

Renee Wilbanks, city secretary, Idalou

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

Janise Hooper

Tori Jackson

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Diana Franco**  
*City Secretary, Kermit*

The West Texas Chapter meeting was held in Monahans at the Jazz Cafe on September 16. Regular business was conducted at the beginning of the meeting and Chapter President Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland, read the oath of installation of historian to Diana Franco, city secretary, Kermit.

Special guest TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, gave a presentation on “Leadership and Service,” highlighting on the effect we have on society as a whole, and also observing the impact of our contributions in our communities, people environment, and situations.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Mi Piaci Italian Restaurant in Odessa on December 9 where two scholarships will be awarded, and the upcoming retirement of Big Lake City Secretary Evelyn Ammons will be honored.

The West Texas Chapter will also be holding their annual gift exchange and wish Evelyn a happy retirement.



Attendees of the September 16 meeting in Monahans (*from left to right*): Lorena Marquez, city secretary, Monahans; Lorena Valle, deputy city secretary, Monahans; Mayra Acosta, Monahans; Diana Franco, city secretary, Kermit; Crystal Montez, deputy city secretary, Odessa; Sara Copeland, city secretary, Andrews; SueAnn Lopez, deputy city secretary, Midland; Norma Grimaldo, TMRC, city secretary, Odessa; Amy Turner, TMRC, city secretary, Midland; Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; and Karla Mata, deputy city secretary, Midland.



At right: President Amy Turner, TRMC, administers the oath of office to Historian Diana Franco.



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Dara Crabtree, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Seagoville*

On October 2 the Yellow Rose Chapter met at Red Oak City Hall, hosted by Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak, for our bi-monthly meeting.

Chapter members were presented with a very informative presentation from TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, on the importance of service and why we serve.

There was discussion and action regarding the Nominating Committee Report and the chapter members voted on the 2015-2016 officers and committee members. Officers elected were: President Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville; Vice President Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson; Secretary Kisha Morris, city secretary, DeSoto; Treasurer Susan House, assistant city secretary, Mesquite; and Historian Jesse Elizondo, deputy city secretary, Burleson.



Front row (left to right): Treasurer Susan House, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Mesquite; Secretary Kisha Morris, city secretary, DeSoto; President Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville; Vice President Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson; Historian Jesse Elizondo, deputy city secretary, Burleson. Second row: Amber Villarreal, assistant city secretary, Waxahachie; Marlena Tinker, executive assistant to city secretary, Cedar Hill; Sherry Reeves, TRMC, city secretary, Grandview; Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Vicki Collins, TRMC, retiree; Angie Arenas, TRMC, city secretary, Lancaster; Pam Woodall, city secretary, Ovilla; Mary Jones, city secretary, Duncanville. Back row: Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak; Cindy Gross, TRMC, city secretary, Balch Springs; Sonja Land, TRMC, city secretary, Mesquite; Keely Wells, executive secretary, Mesquite; Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne; Belinda Berg, city secretary, Cedar Hill; Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, city secretary, Grand Prairie; TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Angie Wade, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Venus; Rana Gamel, administrative assistant, Venus; Kristin Downs, administrative assistant, Duncanville; and Mayra Rios, assistant city secretary, Lancaster.

## YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

In addition, at this meeting the chapter recognized recent retirees Donna Batchler, TRMC, city secretary, Ennis, and Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield. The membership approved the August 6 meeting minutes and received the end of the year financial report. There was a legislative session roundtable was provided by Legislative Committee Chair Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson.

The Yellow Rose Chapter will meet on December 3 at the Ruthe Jackson Center in Grand Prairie for our Holiday Celebration. Guests are welcome to attend this meeting or any future meeting. For more information on our chapter please contact: President Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville, at 972-287-6819 or [dcrabtree@seagoville.us](mailto:dcrabtree@seagoville.us).



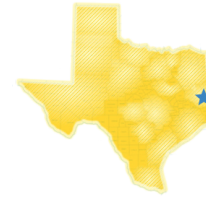
TMCA Annual Awards Banquet in Fort Worth on October 8. *Left to right:* Lori Saunders, TRMC, city secretary, Waxahachie; Susan House, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Mesquite; and Belinda Huff, city secretary, Cedar Hill.

# TMCA Chapters



## HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Brenda Craig, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Kerrville  
830-258-1117  
[brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov](mailto:brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov)



## PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

Kara Atwood, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Lufkin  
936-633-0211  
[kara@cityoflufkin.com](mailto:kara@cityoflufkin.com)



## ALAMO CHAPTER

Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Leon Valley  
210-684-1391  
[s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov](mailto:s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov)



## LONE STAR CHAPTER

Jenny Page, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Frisco  
972-292-5025  
[jpage@friscotexas.gov](mailto:jpage@friscotexas.gov)  
[tmcalonestarchapter.com](http://tmcalonestarchapter.com)



## RED RIVER CHAPTER

Linda Byers, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Vernon  
940-552-2581  
[lbyers@vernontx.gov](mailto:lbyers@vernontx.gov)



## BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

Cindy Stafford, President  
City Secretary, Stephenville  
254-918-1212  
[cstafford@stephenvilletx.gov](mailto:cstafford@stephenvilletx.gov)



## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

Baudelia Rojas, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Alton  
956-432-0760  
[baudelia.rojas@alton-tx.gov](mailto:baudelia.rojas@alton-tx.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries](http://www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries)



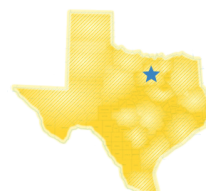
## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Lee Woodward, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Huntsville  
936-291-5403  
[lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov)



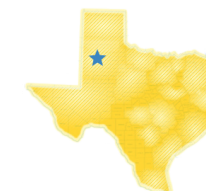
## CAPITAL CHAPTER

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Brenham  
979-337-7567  
[jbelling@cityofbrenham.org](mailto:jbelling@cityofbrenham.org)



## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Mary Supino, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Arlington  
817-459-6188  
[mary.supino@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:mary.supino@arlingtontx.gov)  
[ntmca.org](http://ntmca.org)



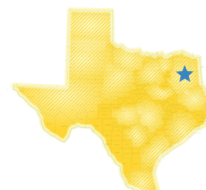
## SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Brenda Shaw, TRMC, President  
City Manager/City Secretary, Morton  
806-266-8850  
[bshaw@crosswind.net](mailto:bshaw@crosswind.net)



## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Jana Lewellen, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Belton  
254-933-5817  
[jlwellen@beltontexas.gov](mailto:jlwellen@beltontexas.gov)



## NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Sherry Roberts, TRMC, President  
City Secretary/Office Mgr., White Oak  
903-759-3936  
[sroberts@cityofwhiteoak.com](mailto:sroberts@cityofwhiteoak.com)



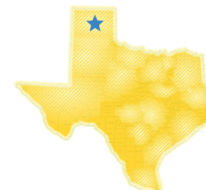
## WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

Amy Turner, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Midland  
432-685-7432  
[aturner@midlandtexas.gov](mailto:aturner@midlandtexas.gov)



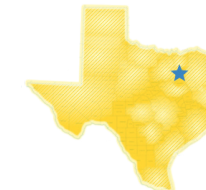
## COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

Irma Parker, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Port Aransas  
361-749-4111  
[iparker@cityofportaransas.org](mailto:iparker@cityofportaransas.org)



## PANHANDLE CHAPTER

Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, President  
City Sec./Asst. City Mgr., Spearman  
806-659-2524  
[citysec@ptsi.net](mailto:citysec@ptsi.net)



## YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

Dara Crabtree, TRMC, President  
City Secretary, Seagoville  
972-287-6819  
[dcrabtree@seagoville.us](mailto:dcrabtree@seagoville.us)