

TMCA NEWS



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TMCA President
Cheryl Salgado, TRMC
City Secretary/Asst. City Mgr., Spearman

President's Message "Are You Utilizing Your Values?"

As 2016 approaches its close, we begin to reflect back about what has transpired throughout the year. In doing a self-evaluation, I want to leave you with a message I found worthy from our last seminar of the year. Value, it is what each of us want and what others look for in us.

At the TMCCP Graduate Institute seminar in Galveston, Professor Marcia Staff delivered lessons on ethics. She spoke of how values play a big role in ethics. One of the exercises was to review a list of twenty values, then narrow those choices down several times until we ended up with our two top core values. It was interesting to see what two values remained from the longer list. Any two values could not be considered any less than others. What may be important to one person may not be as important to another. Values are both instilled in us and learned depending on how, when, and even where we grew up. Also, factors like age, race, gender, hometown size, and even what era our parents were from help establish our values.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Personal values are the basis for how we make decisions that affect us daily. We all want to feel valued and we want to be of value in our personal lives and in our jobs. Before you can expect to be valued by others you must first be the giver of value. Reciprocity is the first action to being more valued. The first step is to decide what your needs and goals are. What is it you want, where is it you want to be? Then work through that lens to achieve what is important to others. Do not always expect others to see your worth. Unless you are meeting the needs of the recipient, your value can easily be overlooked. Most people's agendas will be different than your own, but learn what is important to that person and look for a path to help them reach their destination and goals. Have the attitude of being of service to others, a servant leader.

The most cited traits important in a leadership role are: intelligence, compassion, diligence, dependability, honesty, and competence. Some will add to that list. They also want their leaders to be

imaginative, determined, courageous, fun-loving, and friendly. Most of us would like to be admired for possessing these traits. So become mindful of portraying these traits. They are the foundation of a good character. People who like their job and are valued will perform better. When people are happy and satisfied, they display more of these traits resulting in valuable work, care for their family, and effective leadership in their communities. Concern for others and being able to put their needs before your own sometimes is a must. It doesn't mean that your needs aren't as important, but it will make a difference with your life. Help others get what they want, and you are likely to receive that treatment in kind.

In the "Leadership Musts" that were listed in the September issue of *TMCA News*, the first two "musts" refer to values.

- You must give more than you get in return. Why? Because it's no longer all about you.



Photo by Paul Traves, f16photo.com

On behalf of the membership, 2017 President Lydia Lopez presents 2016 President Cheryl Salgado a plaque of appreciation for her service. View more banquet photos on [page 9](#).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Starting today, adjust your vocabulary by replacing the words I, Me, and Mine with We, Us, and Ours.

- You must care more about others than they care about you. Why? Because only those who are unselfish and compassionate can be trusted to lead.

Use your values to contribute to your worth and to those who matter in your life. I encourage the members, especially new clerks, to become invaluable in your office. Becoming active in TMCA can help you accomplish that, and you can also add value, ideas, and leadership to our organization.

Time passes so quickly, this year especially, reminding me that each day we must make a difference somewhere, somehow, or to someone. With the holidays nearing, this is the season we think of most to be giving. May your values stay strong and may you be rewarded with gratitude. It is better to give than to receive.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president, to learn from your fellowship, and for your support. I appreciate the value you have given back to me. As you enter into a new year utilize your values and let them shine bright. Bless you all!

Correction: In the September newsletter "President's Message," I mistakenly stated that the TMCA board had adopted the "Leadership Musts" developed by La Porte Chief of Police Ken Adcox. The board thought that Mr. Adcox' list was worthy of sharing with you, but no formal action was taken to adopt the list for our Association.
—President Salgado

TMCCP Certificates Earned

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

Course 1

Cheryl Brown, Kerrville
Ginger Choate, Flower Mound
Lorri Coody, Jersey Village
Holly Nagy, Converse
Zolaina Parker, Watauga
Kacey Weiss, Brenham

Course 2

Linda Ames, Denton
Giani Cantu, Lake Jackson
Karri Castellow, Friendswood
Cynthia Chapman, Cleburne
Kerri Craig, Horseshoe Bay
Andrea Cunningham, New Braunfels
Roxanne De Leon, Elmendorf
Amy Dial, Royse City
Norma Duncan, Heath
Cinda Etheridge, Rusk
Jennifer Evans, Texarkana
Isabel Fernandez, Buda
Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball
Kimberly Hemmi, Scotland
Tonya Hopper, Crowell
Laura Kennemer, Quinlan
Tammie Mitchell, Farwell
Kathy Moore, Kennedale
Holly Owens, Westworth Village
Zolaina Parker, Watauga
Kimberly Pence, Corinth
Brittani Porter, La Vernia
Marissa Quintanilla, Willis
Kristina Vega, Gonzales
Amber Villarreal, Waxahachie
Elizabeth Walker, Weslaco
Sydney Wynn

Course 3

Lorri Coody, Jersey Village
Sara Copeland, Andrews
Andrea Cunningham, New Braunfels
Zolaina Parker, Watauga
LaToshia Williams, Port Arthur

Course 4

Frances Aguilar, Manor
Amy Anderson, Lakeside City
Carolyn Anderson, Kemah
Sara Copeland, Andrews
Kerri Craig, Horseshoe Bay
Andrea Cunningham, New Braunfels
Roxanne De Leon, Elmendorf
Cinda Etheridge, Rusk
Kimberly Hemmi, Scotland
Laura Kennemer, Quinlan
Zolaina Parker, Watauga
Kimberly Pence, Corinth
Brittani Porter, La Vernia
Stephanie Storm, Wylie
Kristina Vega, Gonzales
Vicki Watson, Vidor
LaToshia Williams, Port Arthur

2016 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominees

The following 16 TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2016 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!



Marie Balthrop, TRMC
City Secretary, Holliday
Red River Chapter



Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary, Brenham
Capital Chapter



Art Camacho, TRMC
City Secretary, Haltom City
North Texas Chapter
Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year



Rebecca Garza, TRMC
City Secretary, Lubbock
South Plains Chapter



Alice Holloway, TRMC
City Secretary, Pilot Point
Lone Star Chapter



Sonja Land, TRMC
City Secretary, Mesquite
Yellow Rose Chapter



Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt
Central Texas Chapter



Gretchen Mercer, TRMC
City Secretary, Canyon
Panhandle Chapter



Hilda Pedraza, TRMC
City Clerk, Pharr
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter



Crystal Roan, TRMC
City Secretary, Webster
Salt Grass Chapter



Sherry Roberts, TRMC
City Sec./Asst. City Mgr, White Oak
Northeast Texas Chapter



Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC
City Secretary, Victoria
Coastal Bend Chapter



Grace Tamez, TRMC
City Secretary, Helotes
Alamo Chapter



Tonya Todd, TRMC
City Secretary, Wink
West Texas Chapter



Teresa Valdez, TRMC
City Secretary, Rockport
nominated by Ruby Beaven
Central Texas Chapter member



Lee Woodward, TRMC
City Secretary, Huntsville
nominated by Patrice Fogarty
Salt Grass Chapter member

TMCCP SEMINAR

Election Law Seminar

January 25-27, 2017, Frisco, Texas • *Early Registration Deadline: January 11, 2017*

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**. Use our schedule to **plan the sessions** you would like to attend **ahead of time, with back-up options**—to 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 25, **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 25—the Election Law Seminar **begins at 6:30** 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, TEC Reports, Forms, & Regulations"
- "Candidate Packets: Applications, Filings, & Petitions"
- "Charter Amendment Elections, Poll Watchers & Inspectors"
- "Cultivating Confidence & Presence in the Workplace" (*Designed for clerks with at least 5-7 years of experience*)
- "Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks"
- "Election Technology"
- "ISD Elections: What You Need to Know"
- "Joint Elections"
- "Local Option Petitions & Elections"
- "Mail Order Ballots & FPCA Ballots"
- "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"
- "What Happens Before And After An Election?"

What's In Your Toolbox?

By TMCA Immediate Past President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**
City Secretary, College Station

Tool: *a device or implement used to carry out a particular function.*

In late 2014 the TMCA board began a strategic planning process to establish a pathway for the future success of our association, education and certification programs, and our profession. A SWOT (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats) analysis was conducted to clarify our organization's vision and establish the goals necessary to that end. One of the things we learned in the SWOT analysis is that although TMCA/TMCCP has legitimacy/recognition and is well established and respected, for the membership, there is a lack of assistance in how to make its skills and knowledge marketable and attractive when applying and interviewing. A perceived threat was that cities are devaluing the city secretary/municipal clerk profession.

Awhile back, I participated in a webinar that covered branding ourselves as leaders and communicating our value to others. My co-presenter was Joanne Tilton, city clerk (retired), Manteca, California. The California clerks had created an "elevator speech" to help clerks respond professionally to the question asked, "What is a city clerk, and what do you do?" Too many times the response was, "I attend council meetings and take minutes." I presented the idea for our own "elevator" speech to the TMCA board, and President Salgado asked me to head up the development of an "elevator" speech as a tool for Texas clerks to help them communicate their true value to the organization and the community. This "elevator"

Here is the latest tool for your toolbox:

"Functioning much like the Secretary of State, the City Secretary/Municipal Clerk is the local official who maintains the integrity of the election process, ensures transparency and access to city records, facilitates the city's legislative process, and is the recorder of local government history. The City Secretary acts as the compliance officer for federal, state, and local statutes, including the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act, and serves as the filing authority for campaign finance reports and financial disclosure statements."

This **elevator speech** can be used in any way you see fit: **framed and on your desk; posted on your webpage; or printed on the back of your business cards.** We hope that you find this tool useful when communicating your true worth to your council, your city, and your community.

WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?

speech addresses Strategic Initiative #4: PROMOTION OF THE PROFESSION—TMCA enhances and communicates the identity and vital role of the municipal clerk to a city's success; Strategic Action 5: Emphasize to members the important role a municipal clerk performs as an officer of the municipality. My partners in this endeavor included President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; and Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock. TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC, and Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC, also provided their input. Our draft was presented to the TMCA board at the November 2016 meeting, tweaked, and formally adopted by the board.

Upcoming Educational & Networking Opportunities

January 25-27, 2017, Frisco

TMCCP Seminar: "Election Law"

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 4 or Recertification seminar credit

April 6-7, 2017, McAllen

TMCCP Seminar: "Creating a Servant Leadership Culture"

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 1 or 2 or Recertification seminar credit

June 15-16, 2017, College Station

TMCCP Seminar: "Municipal Budget Cycle"

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 3 or Recertification seminar credit

August 17-18, 2017, San Marcos

TMCCP Seminar: "Legislative Update"

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 2 or Recertification seminar credit

October 26-27, 2017, Austin

TMCCP Seminar: "Graduate Institute"

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 1 or Recertification seminar credit

Apply to Serve as a Trustee On The TMCA Board of Directors

By TMCA Board Trustee and Nominating Policy Ad-Hoc Committee Member **Shelley George, TRMC**
City Secretary, Allen

Have you ever thought about serving as a TMCA Board of Directors trustee but didn't know exactly how to apply? Well, the board has heard you, and responded by updating the nominating procedures to encourage participation from across the state chapters.

The biggest change is formally promoting the application process. Much like the committee recruitment process, the Nominating Committee will announce the annual application process for serving on the TMCA Board of Directors. The annual deadline for applications will be May 1. The new **nomination application** will be available year round on the TMCA website; however, only applications received by the deadline will be considered in that appointment year.

Application requirements were enhanced to add the following:

- Applicants must have a minimum of two years of TMCA committee service
- Mayor or city manager must formally support applicant's nomination by signing the application form
- Application must include a letter of recommendation from an active or retired city secretary or a chapter president

Please remember to consider time commitment for service on the board. The board meets four times a year—usually in March, July, October, and November. All meetings are held in Dallas with the exception of the October meeting, which is held at the TMCCP Graduate Institute

Seminar. Attendance is mandatory, and more than one absence results in automatic resignation from the board.

If you are interested in applying to serve as a trustee for 2018, please read the "Requirements for Service as an Association Trustee" for all the requirements and to learn more about the process.

This policy update is in response to Strategic Action 1, Strategic Initiative #6 of the TMCA Strategic Plan which reads, "Establish a formal trustee application process for consideration of Nominating Committee to encourage diversified representation."

Special appreciation is extended to the Nominating Policy Ad Hoc Committee members appointed by President Gibson-Salgado for their work in bringing forward the enhanced policy: Chair Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon; and Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen.

Finally, to apply as a candidate for 2018 trustee by the May 1, 2017, deadline, please mail or email the required **nomination application along with the letter of recommendation to the 2018 TMCA Nominating Committee Chair Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Odessa, 411 W 8th Street, Odessa, Texas, 79761, or ngrimaldo@odessa-tx.gov.**

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION'S Annual Banquet

October 27, Galveston

TMCA held a wonderful annual banquet this year at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston on October 27. TMCA members were recognized, scholarships were awarded, 2016 retirees were honored, TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominees were honored, the 2016 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year was recognized, and the 2017 TMCA officers were sworn into office. After the banquet, attendees enjoyed a cruise on the Colonel Paddlewheel Boat sponsored by Municipal Code Corporation, the Salt Grass Chapter, and CobbFendley.

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 in on **October 26, 2017, in Austin!**

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



Photographer Paul Traves has generously made high-quality copies of these photos available to view [in our gallery](#). Prints of these candid photos are available to order: f16photo.com.

Colonel Paddlewheel Boat Cruise

Thank you to the Municipal Code Corporation, the Salt Grass Chapter, and CobbFendley for sponsoring the wonderful post-banquet cruise!





Colonel Paddlewheel Boat photo © Moody Gardens



2016 TMCA BANQUET



2016 TMCA Clerk of the Year

Congratulations to Haltom City City Secretary Art Camacho, TRMC!

Photo by Paul Traves, fl1photo.com



Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary, Morton, presents the 2016 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Award to Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, at the TMCA banquet.

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, a nominee must be an **active member 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 his outstanding achievements as an exemplary public servant and invaluable mentor and advocate for city secretaries, **Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City**, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as our 2016 honoree.

The TMCA North Texas Chapter nominated Art for this prestigious honor. As part of the nomination statement, Fort Worth Assistant City Secretary Ron Gonzales, TRMC, stated, “Art continually leads by example and exhibits a pattern of service to others, personally and professionally. He is a thoughtful leader, a trusted and sought-out mentor, and a wonderfully animated and generous friend. I am honored to know Art and have been fortunate to receive his counsel and wisdom on several occasions.”

In his speech, Art thanked the chapter for their repeated nominations for this award, and hum-

bly lauded his fellow nominees: “Because of my longevity, I was able to acquire the needed score, but I know there are several clerks mentioned this evening who displayed all of the qualities and are deserving of such an award.”

In addition to the North Texas Chapter and the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, Art thanked his city staff, City Manager Keith Lane and Deputy City Secretary Donna Pliska, TRMC, who he said was both his “right arm” and his “right mind.” He also thanked his city council; members Walter Grow and Dr. An Truong were in attendance. Art thanked his family who were

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Photo by Paul Traves, f16photo.com

in attendance: his sister, Cecilia Villa, and her husband Art; and his wife Robbie, “for all your support throughout the years of my city clerk service. I know there were many sacrifices you made so I could be able to acquire my certification, and also all of the ‘alone’ times you have spent while I was busy attending seminars and chapter meetings. And I also want to apologize for the many times you were the ‘sounding board’ to my frustrations that I didn’t leave at the office. Even as we approach 42 years of marriage, you still have my heart and I love you very much.” He also thanked his late parents, Arturo Sr. and Elisa Beth Camacho, for encouraging their children “not only to pursue education, but also to serve humanity to our fullest extent.”

On the timing of this award, Art said: “I spent over 20 years in the oil and gas industry before beginning my municipal livelihood at Ranger in 1999. Six years later, I was employed at Azle until 2008, and then was hired as the city secretary in Haltom City, where I hope to finish my career.

“What is ironic about this award is that it comes off the heels of one of the toughest times I have ever encountered as a city secretary. We had a Charter Committee appointed in early 2015 that had 16 meetings to place charter amendments on a November 2015 ballot, and because of all of the new Loop 820 highway reconstruction, our Economic Development Corporation doubled the number of meetings they normally schedule. Also, due to the fact that several of our council members—elected in May 2015—were novices, they became heavily involved in all aspects of our city operations, the city budget, working with other boards and commissions, and devoting time to community involvement. Because of their commitment toward change, their meetings doubled also. I clerked 79 meetings in 2015 without missing a posting or minutes deadline and, so far, have clerked 55 meetings this year.



“On a personal note, I also suffered the loss of my dad right before Christmas in December last year. My family has been very blessed in that, prior to his passing, we have stayed intact, which really defies the odds. Adding to my even closer personal difficulties, my wife was hospitalized three times within a year and I barely avoided another heart bypass surgery because of a clogged artery on the backside of my heart. It’s been tough, but even these items were not the end of my plight.

“The enigma of this award tonight is that I made my biggest mistake ever as a city clerk this last March. I made a huge error on our 2016 General Election ballot that was eventually remedied in time by our election contractor, Tarrant County, but at

a cost that would equal the annual salary of many of the clerks here tonight. Don’t misunderstand me: I treat city elections very seriously. I once dismissed an Early Voting Election Judge because she was making influential statements to voters regarding a candidate. We are sworn to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, which carries in it the provisions for an impartial and fair election process for selecting our local leaders. My dad spent three-and-a-half years of his life in a Japanese Prisoner of War camp in WWII defending this privilege, so I can’t help but take it personally. But, I had made a huge error.

“My council was very gracious and we came to an agreeable situation in handling this costly oversight. I have to tell you that when the mistake was fully realized and I was faced with the duty of reporting it to my superiors—I am hired by the Council—my heart sank, my palms were sweaty, and my pulse was racing. But I dismissed this and immediately went to my city manager with the distressing news and also called the mayor. I sent each council member an email the next morning detailing the exact sequence of events leading up to this and left them with a decision to make in regard to my employment. I took full responsibility

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for my actions and didn't fabricate any excuse for my mistake.

"I heard someone once say, 'To those of you beginning your career as a clerk in the TMCA program, if you can ever grasp and take hold of one definite objective throughout this whole series of instructional training you are given, it is for you to maintain the intestinal fortitude in pursuing that which is right and just, and exemplify it to your citizens, your staff, and your council daily. You may be questioned on your knowledge and experience, but don't ever let your ethics be doubted. That is the TMCA.' Oh, wait... I remember now: I said that in my TMCA presidential acceptance speech three years ago. You see, after saying that, there now came a time that I had to 'Put up or shut up'; that I 'gotta Walk the Talk.' It's easy to dictate from a speaker stand what a clerk should do in times of job adversity, but it's another thing when it's you finding yourself in a position of uncertainty. What do you do?"

"I can't answer for you. I can only answer for myself. I was able to 'uphold the Code'—the **Code of Ethics** that we promote in our association, on the final page of tonight's program. If I, as a former TMCA president, would lie or throw my deputy secretary under the bus for my failure, I have done nothing but completely disregard the very core of the ethics of our group. It becomes a lie when you can't live it. One council member called me after the executive session was over to see if I was okay and he also stated that my honesty through this situation was a prevalent factor in the rendering of their decision.

"So I share this award tonight with all clerks who 'live it,' and each day we are challenged as to the manner in which we value our profession. But there

has to be something that drives our priorities. I don't know how each of you cope with the problems and difficulties you encounter in your city. Maybe you listen to a 'Positive Thinking' CD on your way to work. Or maybe you get to work early, close the door, take off your shoes, and then sit on your desk yoga style and repeat a mantra over and over in meditation. Whatever it is that prompts and directs you to confront your problems forward with sincerity, stay with it.

"I have a slightly different variation that helps me to stay focused and balanced. It's a little morning devotion and it works, for me at least. Because having the incentive to do the right thing didn't end for me when my role as TMCA president expired in 2014 and President-Elect Sherry Mashburn took my place. But when is it over? Is it over when this award, with its fine wood and metal engraving, finds its place on my office wall? No, it isn't over. Will it be over when, hopefully, about six years from now, you get a retirement invitation for some cake and punch and drive to Haltom City and watch Peggy and her crew give me a TMCA blue retirement blanket? No, it's still not over—not for me.

"You see, and I may be a little politically incorrect in stating this, but it will be over when I rise from a kneeling position and He wraps His nail-scarred hands around me in a deep embrace and says, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.' Then, for me, it's over.

"This mistake situation was tough and it wasn't easy to remedy on both sides. But if, after hindsight, there is left no doubt that honesty and integrity is the most vital part of my city secretary department and our actions guarantee this, then I wouldn't have it any

other way. I want to implore this mindset to each of you clerks tonight because where you are, where you work, and where you serve your citizens, you are your city's 'Clerk of the Year.' There is no one else filling this position.

"Thank you again for selecting me to receive this prestigious award. I will always treasure this because I have always had a passion for TMCA and I hope to forever exemplify the standards of our profession, even when I no longer am sitting behind a city clerk's desk."

Art Camacho has served the citizens of Haltom City as city secretary since 2008. Prior to that, he served as city secretary of the City of Azle from 2005 to 2008, and as city secretary of the City of Ranger from 1999 to 2005. He received his Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification in 2003 and is enrolled in his third recertification. Art has also received his Certified Municipal Clerk designation from IIMC.

Throughout his 17 years as a municipal clerk, Art has been very active and enthusiastic about his profession. He served as TMCA president in 2014, previously serving as trustee and in every officer position on the TMCA executive board since 2007. Art also served on the TMCA Certification (2003-2006) and Advisory

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Management Committees (chair, 2016-2017). He has been a valued instructor for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar for many years and has co-authored chapters in the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook for several editions.

On the local level, Art has served on numerous committees on the North Texas Chapter from 2005 through 2016; he previously served as president and vice president of the Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA from 2002-2003. His dedication was recog-

nized by his selection as Clerk of the Year for both the Bluebonnet and the North Texas Chapters.

As a leader of TMCA, Art is constantly thinking about new initiatives to increase membership at both the state and local levels. During his year as president in 2014, TMCA set a new high in TMCA memberships, breaking the previous record set in 2012. He has personally funded memberships at both the state and local levels, and funded TMCCP scholarships for city secretaries in need of financial

assistance for their continuing education.

His outstanding leadership is also responsible for the Adopt-a-Clerk Program where tenured city secretaries are encouraged to communicate with new and/or neighboring city secretaries and take them to a monthly chapter meeting. This program has gained acclaim statewide as a way to embrace city secretaries from the smallest to the largest cities in Texas.

2017 President's Acceptance Speech

Lydia Lopez, TRMC, City Secretary, Hewitt, was elected the 65th president of TMCA during the Annual Business Meeting on October 27 in Galveston. She presented this acceptance speech to attendees of the Annual Banquet.

It is an honor to stand before you as the 65th incoming president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. As I accept this role of service, I have much to be grateful for and many to thank. I must first acknowledge my heavenly Father who has led me to this role of servant leadership. Next, I must give thanks to my parents, Ramon and Mary Tagle, who have shaped the person that I am. I am also most fortunate to have a wonderful sister, Annette Gomez, who has always provided love and encouragement. To my three beautiful daughters, Delia, Catherine, and Lisa, thank you for being so understanding by sacrificing your needs while I pursued a career versus being a stay-at-home mom.

It is often said behind every successful man is a great woman. I would reverse the phrase to state, "Behind every successful woman is a GREAT man!" To my best friend and husband of almost 25 years, Albert Lopez, thank you for being such a wonderful source of support in all my personal and professional goals. As most of my predeces-



2017 President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, City Secretary, Hewitt

sors would agree, our husbands cook, clean, and do their fair share or more of maintaining a household.

Now, there are two very special women present tonight who played a significant role in my life. First, I want to recognize Nana Baugh, former city secretary for the City of Waco. Her wisdom and leadership has left an indelible impression on me. Nana was willing to take a chance on a young woman just out of junior college

trying to find her first "real" job. I will be forever grateful to you for believing in me and giving me an opportunity to begin a career in municipal government. Little did I know then, that this would be my passion and a lifetime career.

The other special woman is Patricia Ervin (affectionately known as Trish), who I often give credit for raising me. We spent a wonderful 20 years working together side by side. Once she became city secretary for Waco, she promoted me as assistant city secretary. When

2017 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

the opportunity came for me to apply and interview for the city of Hewitt, she unselfishly encouraged me to do so. Both of these strong women are an inspiration and we have a bond that will last a lifetime. To the members of the Central Texas Chapter, you are like fine jewels and I appreciate each one of you!

The city of Hewitt is fortunate to have the best library director in the state of Texas. Waynette Ditto is present along with her wonderful husband Jim. Thank you for your constant support and encouragement. We are proud to say that our library is the second most used public library in the greater Waco area.

Also present this evening are Mayor Ed Passalugo and his lovely wife Jeanne, and Council Member Bill Fuller and his lovely wife Shirley. As we all know, the support of your council is imperative to your success. Both of these men show their appreciation for the work I do. Thank you both for your unwavering support. It means more to me than you will ever know.

To the TMCA executive board, trustees, and the remainder of our member-



Waco reunited (from left to right): Former Waco Assistant City Secretary Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; former Waco City Secretary Nana Baugh; and retired Waco City Secretary Patricia Ervin, TRMC, at the TMCA banquet.

ship, I look forward to leading you in 2017. My service on the board has been such a delightful learning experience. I value our association, as we are united, supportive, and continuously working towards promoting professionalism and excellence in our field. Our certification and education programs are top quality. Our Education Director Dr. Amy Holt has led us in to the twenty-first century with online courses. Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, Administrative Assistant Miriam Sheehan, and Project Specialist Alexandra Burke are a great resource and support to the membership as well. Let me assure you that this executive board and trustees are here to

listen to your ideas, recommendations or concerns.

Texas municipal clerks serve at the international level with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). In fact, our representation dates back to the 1960's with Harold G. Shank, CMC, Dallas. TMCA Past President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, served as president of IIMC in 2009-2010. TMCA Past President Mary Kayser, TRMC, is currently serving as president elect of

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IIMC. We need to support her efforts to represent this great state and our association next year as the next IIMC President. Both of these fine women are strong leaders and excellent mentors. If it were not for both of these women, I may have never stepped foot on this platform to begin my journey as a trustee on the board.

Let us continue the hard work of our past leaders. Specifically, I want to ensure that our Strategic Plan stays on the forefront in 2017. The membership approved the Strategic Plan at TMCA Business Meeting in 2014. The six identified Strategic Initiatives are as follows:

1. **Promotion of TMCA**—TMCA, Inc., is recognized for promoting excellence in municipal clerk education and certification and for providing a professional network for sharing knowledge and best practices relative to ethical and efficient municipal government.
2. **Promotion of Municipal Clerks Education and Certification Through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program (TMCCP)**—TMCCP provides a diversified certification program that addresses the educational needs of municipal clerks at all levels of experience.
3. **Promotion of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Credential**—TRMCs are recognized by city officials and citizens as ethical professionals whose leadership and technical skills are vital to a city's success.
4. **Promotion of the Profession**—TMCA enhances and communicates the identity and vital role of the municipal clerk to a city's success.

5. **Partnerships**—TMCA/TMCCP cultivates, fosters, and builds partnerships with other organizations such as the attorney general, IIMC, the secretary of state, Texas City Managers Association, Texas Municipal League, the University of North Texas, etc., to enhance and promote the critical role of municipal clerk.

6. **Governance and Organizational Structure**—TMCA fosters an environment where all members feel relevant and welcome, and the TMCA board is responsive to the needs and desires of its members.

Finally, I want to encourage each of you to be an advocate of our profession. Stand ready to define and explain your role in municipal government. Municipal clerks are a direct link between government and their citizenry. We are responsible for recording the city's history. Municipal clerks hold the record for being the oldest public servants in local government. We conduct elections, process public records and have the responsibility for managing/retaining these records for the city. We are leaders in our communities. John C. Maxwell stated, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." My challenge to you is to be the *best* leader you can be!

2017 TMCA Executive Board

The TMCA officers were installed at the Annual Banquet on October 27

Photo by Paul Traves, fl6photo.com



Front row, ascending from left to right:

President Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt

Vice President Marie Balthrop, TRMC
City Secretary, Holliday

Secretary Shelley George, TRMC
City Secretary, Allen

Treasurer Kim Sutter, TRMC
City Secretary, Eules

Trustee Jannette Goodall, TRMC
City Clerk, Austin

Trustee Amanda McCrory, TRMC
City Secretary, Burleson

Second row, ascending from left to right:

Immediate Past Pres. Cheryl Salgado, TRMC
City Secretary/Asst. City Manager, Spearman

Trustee Aimee Nemer, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

Trustee Maria Jackson, TRMC
City Secretary, Missouri City

Trustee Laure Morgan, TRMC
Asst. City Manager/City Secretary, Hemphill

Trustee Christi Shivers, TRMC
City Secretary/Finance Director, Mexia

Trustee Cara McPartland, TRMC
Asst. City Admin./City Sec./Court Clk., Wimberley

Trustee Peggy Cimics, TRMC
City Secretary, Cibolo

New Executive Board Trustees

Introducing Peggy Cimics, Jannette Goodall, Amanda McCrory, Cara McPartland and Laure Morgan



Peggy Cimics, TRMC

"I am honored and excited about the opportunity to serve and contribute to such an outstanding organization."

Peggy Cimics, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of the City of Cibolo since 2005. She was previously the administrative assistant to the Cibolo city manager. Peggy served 25 years in the Air Force. She started her career as an Air Traffic Control & Warning Operator and the last ten years she was a Master Military Training Instructor teaching basic training to students at Lackland Air Force Base. Retiring from the military in 1994, she spent 10 years working at a mediation and arbitration firm handling cases of maritime law, medical malpractice and personal injury.

Professional Affiliations

Peggy earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2010 (No. 578) and is enrolled in her second recertification. She has held membership in TMCA for 11 years and has been active in the Association, includ-

ing several years of committee service (Scholarship [chair], Nominating, Retirement, and Municipal Clerk of the Year).

Peggy is a member of the TMCA Alamo Chapter and has served on several chapter committees: Nominating, By-Laws, Scholarship, Banquet, City Secretary of Year, and Legislative. She was named the Alamo Chapter City Secretary of the Year in 2014. Peggy's other professional memberships include the Society for Human Resource (SHRM).

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Peggy's community activities include being involved in the Wreaths Across America Program. She is married, and her husband Ed is an elected official in the City of Live Oak. They have four children and four grandchildren. Peggy's hobbies are traveling (cruising), puzzles, and crafts.



Jannette Goodall, TRMC

"Since joining TMCA, I have been very fortunate to develop friendships and identify clerks who idealize what it

means to be a public servant. As someone who is new to the profession, I was deeply honored to be asked to serve as a trustee and look forward to contributing to TMCA to advance our profession, especially in the area of records management because we all know 'records management is fun.' I look forward to the opportunity to continue my own professional development while helping others do the same."

Jannette Goodall, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of the City of Austin for three-and-a-half years. She previously held the position of Austin's records and information management officer for twelve-and-a-half years.

Jannette is a valued speaker for TMCCP's educational seminars. Her other speaking engagements include the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators Conference, the ARMA International Conference, the IIMC Academy, the American Public Transit Association Seminar, and she has been engaged as an IIMC Conference concurrent session speaker (2009, 2013-2016). She is a co-author of the tenth edition of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

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Professional Affiliations

Jannette earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2014 (No. 718) and is enrolled in her first recertification. She has held membership in TMCA since 2011 and has been active in the Association, including two years of service on the Technology Committee and two years of service on the Open Records Steering Committee. Jannette is an active member of the TMCA Capital Chapter; her committee service has included Chapter Clerk of the Year Committee.

Jannette has been a member of ARMA International since 1993; a member of the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators; and has been a Certified Records Manager since 2009. Jannette is an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk.

As an IIMC member she has served on the Records Management Committee (2013-2017, chair 2016). She served as board secretary for the National Association of Government Archivist and Records Administrators for 2013-2017. Jannette was co-chair of the Southwest Region Certified Records Manager (CRM) Conference in 2011. In the Austin Chapter of ARMA International, she has served as past chapter president (2008-2009); seminar chair (2006-2008); education chair (2004-2006); and was Chapter Member of the Year in 2006, 2008 and 2010.

Family and Hobbies

Jannette loves to read, bake, but most importantly loves driving around Ireland visiting castles and pubs (not always in that order). She has two furry family members: Brownie, a 15-year-old lab-chow mix, and Coushie, a 9-year-old long-haired calico kitty.



Amanda McCrory, TRMC

"I am honored and overjoyed to have been nominated and appointed to the TMCA executive board as a trustee. TMCA's priority of education and elevation of the profession of city secretary/clerk has been a driving force for me. The constant support of TMCA through educational programs, programs that change to keep up with our growing roles, and fellowship both locally and state-wide have given me confidence to reach a higher level in my own city. This appointment will give me the opportunity to give back to an association and membership who have given me more than I can repay. I will serve with dedication and strive to continue the positive direction for the future."

Amanda McCrory, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of the City of Burleson for nine years. Her previous employment at the City of Burleson includes four years as deputy city secretary and three years as executive assistant to city secretary and executive director of administration.

Professional Affiliations

Amanda earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2009 (No. 560) and is enrolled in her second recertification. Amanda is a UNT Certified Paralegal. She earned her Certified Municipal Clerk status from IIMC in 2012.

Amanda has held membership in TMCA since 2003 and has been active in the Association with service on

the Audit Committee, the Open Records Steering Committee, and the Retirement Committee. She is a valued speaker at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Amanda is a member of the Yellow Rose Chapter of TMCA. She has served as their vice president from 2015-2016. Her committee service for the chapter includes Budget, Legislative (chair), Holiday, and the Nominating Committee for Officers and Committees (chair). Amanda has served on IIMC's Elections Committee (2013-present [vice chair, 2014; chair, 2015]). She was a member of the ARMA International Fort Worth Chapter member from 2007-2013, and served as the chapter's secretary from 2010-2013.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

In her community, Amanda is a Burleson Independent School District Sports Hall of Fame Officer (2014-present). She is also a Burleson Heritage Foundation member (2009-present). She was a member of the Burleson Big Red Booster Club from 2010-2015, serving as their secretary from 2013-2014. She served as the Elk Touch Down Club treasurer from 2012-2014. Amanda was the Cemetery Board staff liaison from 2008-2014. Amanda has been a Burleson Be Healthy Community Board member since 2015.

Amanda has two sons, Parker, 22, a senior at University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) majoring in Public Administration, and Jaron, 19, a sophomore at Northwest Vista College transferring to UTSA, majoring in Construction Project Management. Amanda enjoys hiking, and recently started a quest to visit as many national parks as possible.

NEW TRUSTEES



Cara McPartland, TRMC

"I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to serve as a TMCA board trustee and give back to an organization that has provided so much support to its members for so many years.

It is an honor to be a part of such a respected group of individuals and I look forward to helping TMCA promote its goals and objectives. I am very excited to contribute to TMCA's continued success and share in the ongoing growth of TMCA as it looks toward an even brighter future as the leading source of professional and personal development for municipal clerks in Texas."

Cara McPartland, TRMC, has served as the city secretary and municipal court clerk of Wimberley since 2007, and also assumed the additional position of assistant city administrator in 2015. Prior to working in municipal government, Cara enjoyed over twenty years working in broadcast operations and engineering for the ABC television network-owned station in Houston. Subsequent to earning a B.S. in Legal Studies-American Jurisprudence and prior to her move to Wimberley, Cara also worked as a part-time paralegal.

Professional Affiliations

Cara earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2010 (No. 586) and is enrolled in her second recertification.

Cara has held membership in TMCA for a decade. She has volunteered as a convener at the Election Law

Seminar. Cara has served on several TMCA committees including Municipal Clerk of the Year (2010, 2011 chair); Scholarship (2012, 2014 chair). TML Booth (2013), Retirement (2015 chair), and Membership (2016 chair).

Cara is a member of the Capital Chapter and currently serves on the Scholarship Committee. Cara and her fellow Retirement Committee members also helped develop policies and procedures for a proposed mentoring program as part of a 2015 special project assignment from former TMCA President Sherry Mashburn. Cara is also a member of IIMC and has completed four Athenian Dialogues as part of its Athenian Leadership Society. She is a former member of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians and Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers and holds a lifetime General Radiotelephone Operator License from the Federal Communications Commission.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Cara is a member of Cypress Creek Church, is married to Austin native and federal government manager Bryan McPartland, and is the mother of Rachel McPartland, currently a senior at Texas State University seeking a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. Her favorite activities include spending time with her 5-year old granddaughter, Lily, who started kindergarten this year at Scudder Primary School in Wimberley. Cara's other hobbies are enjoying the beautiful outdoors in Wimberley, cooking for family and friends, exploring Texas Hill Country towns, family picnics, seeing live music in and around Austin, and traveling.



Laure Morgan, TRMC

"I joined TMCA in January 2001 as a newly appointed city secretary for the City of Hemphill. I had little knowledge at the time of the voluminous knowledge and duties that a city secretary must be

equipped to perform. I was so happy that there was support, knowledge, and education available to me, so that I could serve my citizens in a professional, legal, and ethical manner. The amount of knowledge and duties that most city secretaries must absorb and perform is vast, so having such a professional organization with a professional staff and board and the knowledge we need just a phone call or mouse click away is such a great support system. We are professionals that our cities cannot do without, so we must be humble yet proud while stressing the vitality of the role we serve. I am proud to be part of an organization that strives to emphasize the professionalism, necessity, and ethical obligations of the profession of city secretary to the communities we serve, to our city councils, and to city managers. I enjoy meeting and making friends with fellow city secretaries from all over to glean knowledge from their experience and knowledge. I am honored to be selected for appointment to the TMCA executive board, an honor to which I will serve to the best of my abilities to be a listener and a voice for all city secretaries from small and large cities and from all areas."

Laure Morgan, TRMC, has served as the assistant city manager/city secretary of Hemphill since 2015. She served as Hemphill's city secretary/office manager from

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2001-2015, and as accounting clerk/billing clerk from 1994-2001. In 2002 she was recognized as the City of Hemphill Employee of the Year.

Laure earned her TRMC in 2009 (No. 557) and has met all requirements for her second recertification in 2018. Her Master of Public Administration was conferred by Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, in May 2015; she graduated Summa Cum Laude. She was nominated for Graduate Student of the Year in 2015 by SFASU Department of Government. Her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting was conferred in May 1987 by Texas A&M University.

Laure has been a TMCA member since 2001. She has served on TMCA's Nominating Committee, Resolutions Committee, Audit Committee (2012, 2013 chair), Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, and TML Booth Committee. She is a member of the Pineywoods Chapter of TMCA where she currently serves as vice president.

Professional Affiliations

Laure is a member of the Texas Municipal Courts Association and a member of Texas Municipal Human Resources Association. She is the author of Capstone Project: "Fiscal Transparency in Small Municipal Governments in Texas: Does Size Matter?" Laure is a member of Stephen F. Austin State University Chapter: Pi Alpha Alpha Public Administration Honor Society. She was included in the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges in 2014.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

In her community, Laure serves on the Sabine County Space Shuttle Columbia Memorial & Museum Committee. She is also a volunteer for the Hemphill ISD Educational Foundation's Putting on the Ritz Fundraiser.

Laure's daughter, Macy Morgan Ladner, is a math instructor at Lufkin High School in Lufkin, Texas, having

graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Stephen F. Austin State University. Laure says, "She is my most important accomplishment and my joy." Laure spends a lot of time with her mother, sister, and other family members. She has two nephews and a niece that make her very proud.

Her hobbies include walking, riding bikes, exercising, dancing, doing Zumba, going to concerts, and traveling. "I lost 115 pounds since July of 2015, so I am now a certified Zumba instructor and Cize instructor. I love teaching these and helping people have fun while exercising and getting healthy. I would like to get certified to teach Zumba Kids, so that I can hold classes for children to encourage them to have fun while exercising and staying active." Laure is also very interested in history, especially Southern United States history, and genealogy. She loves touring old plantations, old homes, and buildings to observe the architecture and customs of the time. She loves to read books of all kinds.



Scholarships

Congratulations to the TMCA members who applied for and were awarded scholarships for 2017! This year the TMCA Major Scholarship Awards included Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship awards; Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship awards; 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 (two scholarships), Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen (two scholarships), Municipal Code Corporation (two scholarships), and the Underwood Law Firm. Three MCCi Records Management Scholarships were also awarded.

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

At top, left to right: Julie Morgan (right), Senior Revenue Consultant, McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, presents an MVBA Scholarship to Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio. MCCi Territory Manager Russell Haddock, TRMC, presents a MCCi Records Management Scholarship to Thelma Gilliam, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place. Dale Barstow, vice president sales, Municipal Code Corporation, presents a scholarship to Jean Dwinell, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Coppell. Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater, is presented the Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson Scholarship by firm partner Richard Hill. Leticia Saenz, TRMC, deputy city clerk, San Antonio, is awarded the Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship by President Kirk Franklin.

Above, from left to right: Richard Frommeyer, codification consultant, presents the American Legal Publishing Scholarship to Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia. Audi Sciumbato, attorney, Underwood Law Firm, presents the Underwood Law Firm Scholarship to Kim Smith, city secretary, Hallsville.

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At top, from left to right: Dale Barstow, TRMC, vice president sales, Municipal Code Corporation, presents a scholarship to Sara Copeland, city secretary, Andrews. MCCI Territory Manager Russell Haddock, TRMC, presents a MCCI Records Management Scholarship to Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy. Julie Morgan (left), senior revenue consultant, McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, presents an MVBA Scholarship to Jo Ann Touchstone, TRMC, city secretary, Lakeway. TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC, presents the Agent IT Solutions Scholarship to Carol Ann Borges, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Southlake. Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC, presents a Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship to Ruby Beaven, TRMC, asst. city secretary, Rockport.

Above, from left to right: Dottie Palumbo, attorney, Bojorquez Law Firm, presents the Susan Rocha Scholarship to Frances Aguilar, TRMC, city secretary, Manor. Russell Haddock, TRMC, presents a MCCI Records Management Scholarship to Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Spring Valley, is presented a Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship by Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC. Renée Dowl, TRMC, city secretary, Garland, is presented a Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship by Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC. Vicki Watson, city secretary, Vidor, is presented a Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship by Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC.

Not pictured/present: Asucena Garcia, TRMC, acct. gen./admin. assistant city secretary, Decatur—Franklin Legal Pub-

lishing Scholarship; Deborah Hale, assistant city secretary, Collinsville—Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship; Caitlyn Huddleston, city secretary, Gainesville—Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship; SueAnn Lopez, deputy city secretary, Midland—Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship; and Carrie Smith, TRMC, city secretary, Anna—Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship.

Thank you to this year's **Scholarship Committee** for their service: Chair Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary, Cibolo; Barbara Boyd, TRMC, city secretary, Center; Tina Broussard, TRMC, city secretary, Beaumont; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; and Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary/director of HR, Levelland.

2016 TMCA Retirees

Congratulations to TMCA members who retired in 2016!

Evelyn Ammons, city secretary & city manager, Big Lake

Mary Jo Collins, city secretary/assistant city manager, Brownfield

Jean Gilmore, city secretary, Clyde

Nancy Hale TRMC, city secretary, Spur

Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills

Teresa Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay

Debbie Pierce, city secretary, Carthage

Marla Porter, TRMC, city secretary, Conroe

Sherry Reeves, TRMC, city secretary, Grandview

Amelia Sanchez, city secretary, Kyle

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Jana Taylor, city secretary, Fairfield

Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony

Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle

Thank You To Our Scholarship Donors

Thank you to all those who donated toward TMCA scholarships during 2016!

*American Legal Publishing
American Legal Publishing Scholarship*

*Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

*Bojorquez Law Firm
Susan Rocha Scholarship*

*Kirk Franklin
2 Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarships
& Gold Seminar Sponsorship*

*Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship*

*Lone Star Chapter of TMCA
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

*McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, PC
2 McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarships
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

*Municipal Code Corporation
Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

*MCCi
3 MCCi Records Management Scholarships*

*North Texas Chapter of TMCA
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

*Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund
Lila Fern Martin Scholarship fund
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

*Underwood Law Firm
Underwood Scholarship
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

2016 TMCA BANQUET



Attendees posed for the camera in Galveston accessories! Clockwise from top left: TMCA 2017 President Lydia Lopez, TRMC (center), and the Central Texas Chapter attendees; the Northeast Texas Chapter attendees; attendees from the Red River Chapter; TMCCP/TMCA Administrative Specialist Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, and Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC; and Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC; and Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary, Hemphill, and Michelle Merchant, office clerk, Hemphill.

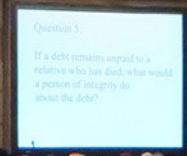
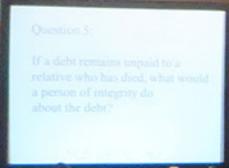


Graduate Institute Seminar

The TMCCP Graduate Institute on "Ethics" in Galveston on October 27-28 was a great success! Speaker **Marcia Staff**, professor of Business Law and Chair of the department of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Law in the College of Business at UNT, was very engaging, and attendees said they really valued their time with her.



Speaker Dr. Marcia Staff



At the seminar registration table: TMCCP Admin. Director Peggy Burnside and Education Dir. Dr. Amy Holt

2016 TML Conference

October 4-7, Austin

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 great session, “**The Digital Age: Taming Your Texts, Tweets, and Other Digital Records,**”

which featured speakers (*pictured below at left*) **Alan Bojorquez**, attorney, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC; **Laura Mueller**, attorney, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC; **Corby Alexander**, city manager, La Porte; and **Patrice Fogarty**, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte.



TMCA Booth

The TMCA Booth at the TML Conference was a hit! Thank you to TML Booth Committee Chair Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano; Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary, Hemphill; and the Hill Country Chapter and all volunteers!

Thank you to volunteers Lucretia Alvarez, TRMC; Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown; Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet; Tina Keys; Charlene Lindsey; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Sabrina Maulsby, city secretary, San Saba; Christina McDonald, TRMC, city secretary, Marble Falls; Tanya McNutt, TRMC, deputy city secretary, College Station; Cara McPartland, TRMC, asst. city adm./city sec./ct. clk., Wimberley; Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon; Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano; Laure Morgan, TRMC, asst. city mgr./city secretary, Hemphill; Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley; Kim Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian; Jo Ann Touchstone, TRMC, city secretary, Lakeway; and Martha Campos Velasquez, TRMC, city secretary, Luling.



IMLA Honors Attorney Alan Bojorquez

Congratulations to attorney **Alan Bojorquez** on winning the **International Municipal Lawyers Association's Marvin J. Glink Private Practice Local Government Lawyer of the Year Award!**

IMLA states: "In addition to the traditional qualities of excellence in the practice of law, the award seeks to recognize a private law practitioner who has provided outstanding service to the public and who possesses an exemplary reputation in the legal community, the highest of ethical standards, and who revels in maintaining a life that balances a passion for professional excellence with the joy of family and friends. In addition, the award seeks to recognize a person who exhibits qualities of openness and humility, coupled with a sincere concern for the interests of others, including the professional development of newer practitioners."

Alan Bojorquez, principal, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC, has dedicated himself to serving Texas municipalities. Alan is a friend and supporter of municipal clerks/city secretaries throughout Texas, and has partnered with TMCA to provide continuing education for municipal clerks. Alan is a frequent speaker at TMCCP educational seminars, including the biennial TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar following each Texas legislative session. As an affiliate of TML, TMCA also pres-

ents a concurrent session each year at the Annual TML Conference. For the last three years Alan has served as a moderator for the panel session, which is comprised of municipal officials serving and discussing the practical and legal implementation of the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Public



Information Act. Alan holds it all together and in his own unique way inserts bits of practical legal advice during the presentation.

Most importantly, Alan authors the *Texas Municipal Law and Procedure Manual* published by TMCA. He has revised and supplemented the *Manual* on an annual basis for the past 10 years. In 2014 Alan expanded and reorganized the *Manual*, and for the first time the *Manual* was published in electronic

format in addition to the traditional hard copy. The new sixth edition covers a variety of municipal topics including but not exclusive to open records, open meetings, economic development, human resources, municipal court, and municipal finance. It also includes duties and responsibilities of governing bodies, mayors, municipal clerks, finance directors, municipal judges, human resource directors, and boards and commissions members. The *Manual* is an important resource for city officials, law firms specializing in municipal law, and other governmental entities. It is also a textbook for TMCA's certification program.

In 2011 Alan established a TMCA scholarship in honor of the late Susan Rocha, a fellow attorney and frequent speaker for the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminars. Alan continues to sponsor the Susan Rocha Scholarship on an annual basis, and in so doing he continues to contribute toward the continued education and professional development of Texas municipal clerks.

IIMC NEWS

Getting Involved In Your Organization By Volunteering On an IIMC Committee

By IIMC President Elect **Mary Kayser, TRMC**
City Secretary, Fort Worth

As president elect of the **International Institute of Municipal Clerks**, I encourage you to volunteer for an IIMC committee.

Involvement is the key to growth and development. The core and essence of any member organization like IIMC rests with its volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help an organization in many ways: fundraising, conference planning, coordinating special projects, and developing new ideas. IIMC needs committee members who are prepared to work. Committees meet to review the previous year's accomplishments, and discuss strategies and objectives for the upcoming year. The majority of committee work is done throughout the year through teleconferences, email, or mail.

View the committee information on the **IIMC website**. If you are not yet a member of IIMC, join IIMC using the **membership form**.

The deadline to apply is **January 15, 2017**.

IIMC Bulletins

Congratulations to Frances Aguilar, TRMC, city secretary, Manor; Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Myrna Rios, TRMC, assistant city clerk, Austin; and Baudelia Rojas, TRMC, city secretary, Alton, on receiving the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

Frances Aguilar has earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) Certification from TMCCP, and will graduate in January 2017. Frances has been a member of TMCA for several years, and is also a member of the Capital Chapter of TMCA.

Diane Cockrell earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2002 (No. 391). She is enrolled in her third TRMC recertification. Diane has been a member of TMCA for almost two decades and has served on the Resolutions Committee. Diane is a member of the North Texas Chapter of TMCA.

Myrna Rios earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2016 (No. 794). She is enrolled in her first TRMC recertification. Myrna has been a member of TMCA for several years.

Baudelia Rojas earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2014 (No. 725). She is enrolled in her first recertification. Baudelia has been a TMCA member for several years, and has served on the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee. She is also active in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter of TMCA.

Congratulations to Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville, on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from IIMC.

Karen Thomspson earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2006 (No. 490). She is enrolled in her third recertification. Karen has been a TMCA member for almost two decades, and has served on the TMCA Audit Committee twice. She is also active in the Capital Chapter of TMCA.

Congratulations to Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point, on being approved by IIMC to become one of their Athenian Leadership Society Fellows, having completed ten Athenian Dialogues.

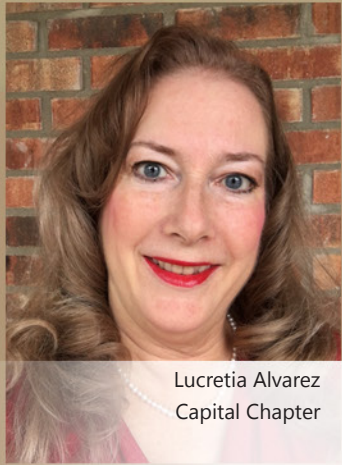
IIMC NEWS



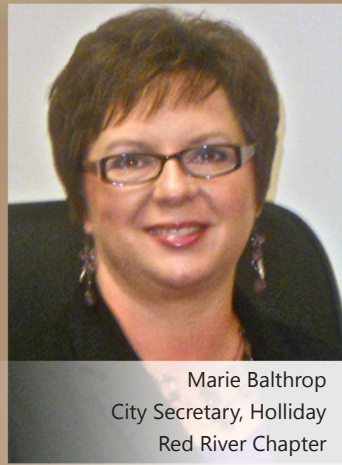
Above: At a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on November 14. Participants were IIMC President Vincent Buttiglieri, Immediate Past President Monica Martinez Simmons, President Elect Mary Kayser, TRMC, and Vice President Stephanie C. Kelly.

2016 Chapter Honorees

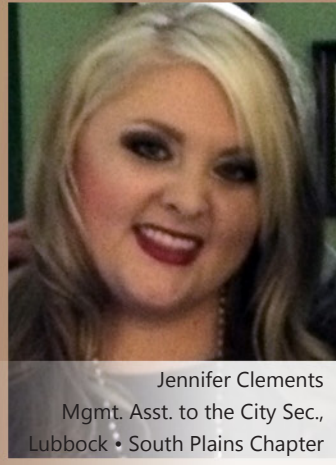
Congratulations to the following TMCA members on being chosen by their chapters as their 2016 Chapter Clerk of the Year. You are the stars of Texas government!



Lucretia Alvarez
Capital Chapter



Marie Balthrop
City Secretary, Holliday
Red River Chapter



Jennifer Clements
Mgmt. Asst. to the City Sec.,
Lubbock • South Plains Chapter



Sonja Land
City Secretary, Mesquite
Yellow Rose Chapter



Lydia Lopez
City Secretary, Hewitt
Central Texas Chapter



Gretchen Mercer
City Secretary, Canyon
Panhandle Chapter



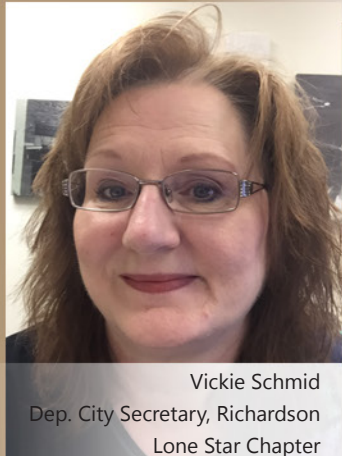
Hilda Pedraza
City Clerk, Pharr
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter



Crystal Roan
City Secretary, Webster
Salt Grass Chapter



Sherry Roberts
City Sec./Asst. City Mgr., White Oak
Northeast Texas Chapter



Vickie Schmid
Dep. City Secretary, Richardson
Lone Star Chapter



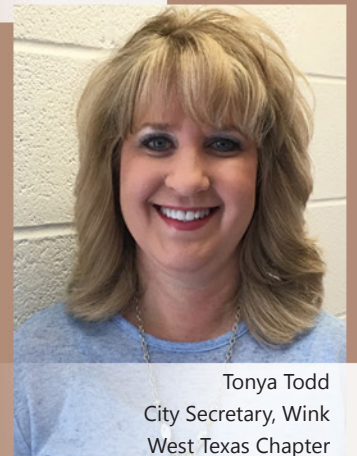
Mary Supino
City Secretary, Arlington
North Texas Chapter



Scarlet Swoboda
City Secretary, Victoria
Coastal Bend Chapter



Grace Tamez
City Secretary, Helotes
Alamo Chapter



Tonya Todd
City Secretary, Wink
West Texas Chapter

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC**

City Secretary, Leon Valley

The Alamo Chapter Officers met on August 24 at the City of Balcones Heights City Hall/Justice Center. We were warmly welcomed by Mayor Suzanne De Leon and City Administrator and TCMA President-Elect David Harris.

We had a special visit from Krystal Hays, South Central Regional Sales Manager of Municipal Code.

Vice President Leticia Saenz, TRMC, San Antonio on behalf of the City Clerk/City Secretary of the Year Nominating Committee and all members of the Alamo Chapter, presented Grace Tamez, TRMC, City of Helotes with a plaque acknowledging Grace as the Alamo Chapter TMCA, Inc. Nominee for the TMCA 2016 City Clerk/City Secretary of the Year.

We are all so proud of Grace and her accomplishments. Congratulations Grace....in the eyes of the Alamo Chapter TMCA, you are the City Clerk/City Secretary of the Year!!!

Nominating Committee Chairperson, Kymberlee Buntyn presented the preliminary 2017-2018 slate of officers and reminded everyone that the members would be voting on these positions at the next meeting.



Alamo Chapter Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes.

Members present at this meeting were: President: Sandra Passailaigue, City of Leon Valley; Vice President Leticia Saenz, City of San Antonio; Secretary: Debra Howe, City of Castroville; Treasurer: Lisa Hernandez, City of Natalia; Historian: Grace Tamez, City of Helotes; Joy Hart, Franklin Legal Publishing; Diane Gonzales, City of Olmos Park; Kymberlee Buntyn, City of Castle Hills; Debby Goza, City of Live Oak; Peggy Cimics, City of Cibolo; Yolanda Benitez, Retiree; Jennifer Reyna, City of Alamo Heights; Brenda Dennis, City of Schertz, Carole Vanzant, City of Fair Oaks Ranch; Delia Flores, City of Balcones Heights; and Brittani Porter, City of La Vernia.

ALAMO CHAPTER

Upcoming Events and Important Information:

- Our next Regular Meeting will be hosted in the City of Helotes on November 9th at 11:30 a.m. with a door prize provided by the City of Castroville.
- Regular meetings will resume in January 2017.
- The Alamo Chapter TMCA, Inc. Banquet has been scheduled for Sunday, December 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the Leon Valley Conference Center.

The Alamo Chapter wishes you all a very safe and happy holiday season!

If you are in our area and would like to join the Alamo Chapter, we would love to have you. Please contact the Alamo Chapter Membership Committee at CitySec@helotes-tx.gov or cityadmin@cityofnatalia.com for more information.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Lucretia Alvarez

The Capital Chapter met on Wednesday, September 21 at the Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta Law Firm with nineteen members and three guests present. RaeAnn Morris, Elections Specialist with the Bickerstaff firm hosted the group and provided the lunch.

Lunch was served first and the meeting began at 11:00 a.m. for the business portion of the meeting led by Capital Chapter's President, Jeana Bellinger, City Secretary, City of Brenham.

The Capital Chapter currently has sixty-nine members with new members Ann Franklin, City Secretary, City of Bastrop and Debbie Loesch, Administrative Assistant, Bojorquez Law Firm.

Capital Chapter State Clerk of the Year nominee is Jeana Bellinger, City Secretary, City of Brenham, and the Capital Chapter Clerk of the Year is Lucretia Alvarez, former City Secretary, City of Elgin.

Capital Chapter scholarships are available each quarter, and scholarship chair Rachel Austin, City Secretary, Jonestown announced there were no scholarships requested this quarter from the scholarship fund. The chapter voted to provide \$500.00 from the scholarship fund this quarter



CAPITAL CHAPTER

to be donated to the fundraiser for Sandra Watkins, City Secretary, City of Deer Park, to aid in her recent health expenses.

Congratulations to Capital Chapter members Frances Aguilar (Manor) and JoAnn Touchstone (Lakeway) for receiving special scholarships at the TMCA Graduate Seminar on October 27 in Galveston.

Capital Chapter will meet at the City of San Marcos in December. Please contact Jeana Bellinger at JBellinger@cityofbrenham.org if you would like to attend one of our meetings or gather more information about our chapter.

Those attending the September meeting included:

Frances Aguilar, City Secretary, City of Manor
Lucretia Alvarez, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Elgin – Secretary
Rachel Austin, City Secretary, City of Jonestown - Vice President
Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Brenham - President
Melissa Brunner, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Flatonia
Chance Chatham, Village Secretary, Village of Point Venture
Jamie Pettijohn-Case, TRMC, City Secretary, City of San Marcos
Tammy Cook, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, City of San Marcos
Ann Franklin, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Bastrop
Seth Gipson, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Hutto
Jannette Goodall, TRMC, City Clerk, City of Austin
Barbara Grant, City Secretary, City of Woodcreek
Lacie Hale, City Secretary, City of West Lake Hills - Treasurer
Debbie Loesch, Administrative Assistant, Bojorquez Law Firm
Christine Martinez, Retired City Secretary, City of Hutto
Cara McPartland, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Wimberly
RaeAnn Morris, Elections Specialist, Bickerstaff Law Firm
Robyn Ryan, City Secretary, City of Rollingwood - Historian
Karen Thompson, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Pflugerville
JoAnn Touchstone, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Lakeway
Lluvia Tijerina, Administrative Assistant, City of Manor
Jennifer Vetrano, City Secretary, City of Kyle

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

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

The Central Texas Chapter of Municipal Clerks held a quarterly meeting on September 28, 2016. The City of Morgan’s Point Resort hosted the meeting at their City Hall. Jana Lewellen, President of the Central Texas Chapter, City Secretary, Robinson, welcomed everyone and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Althea Wall, City Secretary, City of Morgan’s Point Resort.

Dane Legg with Lott, Vernon, & Company, P.C. gave a presentation regarding the importance of internal controls in Municipal Government. Lydia Lopez, City Secretary of Hewitt and future TMCA President, gave a brief overview of the events for the upcoming Graduate Institute “Ethics” Seminar in Galveston, Texas, and also reminded the chapter of the importance of volunteering on TMCA Committees.

Upcoming chapter meeting dates:

December – Chapter Christmas Party – Location to be announced

March – City of Waco



Pictured: Front Row: Judy Keally, Michelle Hicks; Middle Row: Crystal Briggs, Jana Lewellen, Lydia Lopez, Esmeralda Hudson; Back Row: Althea Wall, Krystal Hays

Chapter members present at the September meeting:

- President Jana Lewellen, City Secretary, Robinson
- Althea Wall, City Secretary, Morgan’s Point Resort
- Crystal Briggs, City Secretary, Nolanville
- Michelle Hicks, City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview
- Esmeralda Hudson, City Secretary, Waco
- Lydia Lopez, TRMC, City Secretary, Hewitt
- Judy Keally, City Secretary/City Administrator, Teague
- Krystal Hays, MuniCode Corp.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Rebecca Huerta, TRMC**

City Secretary, Corpus Christi

Members of the Coastal Bend Chapter attended the October 2016 Graduate Institute on Ethics in Galveston, Texas, including Chapter President Irma Parker, City Secretary of Port Aransas; Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary of Kingsville; Scarlet Swoboda, City Secretary of Victoria; Mandy Grant, City Secretary of Port Lavaca; Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary of Corpus Christi; and Theresa Bowe, City Secretary of Yoakum. Dr. Marcia Staff's ethics presentation was entertaining, informative and thought-provoking. It was one of the best ethics trainings I have ever attended. My chapter also thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful evening excursion on the paddleboat, graciously hosted by the Salt Grass Chapter, Municode, and Cobb Fendley. We definitely took advantage of the fun photo opportunity available at the seminar, which is included at right.

The Coastal Bend Chapter has a surprise in store for the attendees of the January TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Stay tuned to learn more... until then, hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holiday season!

Anyone interested in joining the Coastal Bend Chapter, or for general inquiries, can contact Chapter Secretary Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary-Corpus Christi, at (361) 826-3105 or rebeccah@cctexas.com.



Chapter members at the TMCCP seminar in Galveston. Top row, from left to right: Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary of Corpus Christi; Scarlet Swoboda, City Secretary of Victoria; Mandy Grant, City Secretary of Port Lavaca; and Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary of Kingsville; bottom row, from left to right: Theresa Bowe, City Secretary of Yoakum; and Irma Parker, City Secretary of Port Aransas.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC**
Deputy City Secretary, McAllen

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter met in August and September. The August meeting was hosted by City of Port Isabel at the beautiful Port Isabel Event & Cultural Center with guest speaker Kirk Franklin from Franklin Legal Publishing speaking on the topic of Ordinances, Resolutions and Proclamations. The September meeting was hosted by City of South Padre Island at City Hall where guest speaker Miguel Flores, RGVEZ Education and Training Director spoke on Active Shooter Incidents. The October meeting was cancelled.

To join the LRGV Chapter or for more information, on this chapter, please contact Baudelia Rojas, City Secretary, at 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.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter Officers:

President Baudelia Rojas, TRMC, City Secretary, Alton

Vice President Ana Valdez, TRMC, City Secretary, Peñitas

Secretary/Treasurer Elizabeth Walker, City Secretary, Weslaco

Historian Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, McAllen



At top: The chapter met in Port Isabel in August. Above: Guest speaker Kirk Franklin, Frankln Legal Publishing.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

The cities of the LRGV Chapter 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.



Above and at right: The chapter at their September meeting in South Padre Island with speaker Michael Flores, RGVEZ Education and Training Director (above, front row, second from left).



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Carol Borges, TRMC**

Deputy City Secretary, Southlake

Greetings TMCA Members!

The NTMCA had a great FY 15-16 under the continued leadership of President Mary Supino. Mary's dedication to our Chapter is immeasurable and we are all grateful to have served with her. Thank you Mary! Over the year, we enjoyed many training opportunities with outstanding speakers and membership involvement.

Thank you to Christine Green, City Secretary of University Park, for hosting our August meeting. The meeting was held in the city's library conference room with a beautiful view of Preston Center Plaza with its upscale shops and eateries. Lisa Carver skillfully demonstrated the art of "Dealing with Difficult People". Lisa's wonderfully humorous personality left us with encouragement and tools to better deal with the challenges we face every day when meeting with the public. Lisa discussed specific personality types and action plans for how to deal with them and reminded us we can only control our own attitudes and behaviors.

Thank you, too, to Lori Payne, City Secretary of Southlake, for hosting our September meeting. The meeting was held in the beautiful



Pictured left to right, front row: Monica Solko (North Richland Hills), Carol Borges (Southlake), Mary Supino (Arlington), Amy Shelley (Colleyville), Laura Bell (Addison); second row: Susie Hiles (Azle), Ron Gonzales (Fort Worth), Alicia Richardson (North Richland Hills), Miriam Sheehan (TMCCP), Linda Rhodes (Lake Worth), Diane Cockrell (Decatur), Norma Zenk (Azle), Ingrid Rex (Flower Mound); back row: Peggy Burnside (TMCCP), Lindsay Wells (Euless), Kim Sutter (Euless), Aimee Nemer (Richardson), Jean Dwinnell (Coppell), Lori Payne (Southlake), Laurie Garber (Carrollton), Erika McComis (Bridgeport), Kelly Edwards (Westlake), Art Camacho (Haltom City)

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Town Hall building located in the heart of Southlake Town Square where shopping and community events are a daily occurrence. Randy Pennington shared his expertise on how to “Flourish – Winning in a World of Upheaval and Uncertainty”. Randy’s distinct style and good nature inspired us to remain calm in the face of chaos. As Randy put it, “to remain relevant, you must learn to flourish in the new normal - faster, better, cheaper, friendlier is the new mandate.” As municipal leaders we need to manage ourselves, our staff, and our responsibilities to Council and residents with the utmost professionalism and calm.

FY 16-17 is starting out on a very strong note with member involvement increasing as we revisit our short and long-term goals and annual budget. With transparency being a top priority, we intend to deliver detailed financial reporting to our members while continuing

to provide excellent educational opportunities. This year’s Board includes Carol Borges (Southlake), Sheila Morales (Copper Canyon), Amy Shelley (Colleyville), Laura Bell (Addison), and Monica Solko (North Richland Hills). We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

As always, we encourage our members to maintain their membership and volunteer for our many committees. We’d like everyone to have a chance to showcase their individual talents in service of the Chapter. No job is too large when we work together!

In closing, I’d like to thank our Board and Committee members for their dedication to the NTMCA!

Above right: Speaker Lisa Carver; near right: Speaker Randy Pennington.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By **Kimberly Sloat, TRMC**

City Secretary, Canadian

Since the last newsletter the Panhandle Chapter of Texas Municipal Clerks met twice; August 18, 2016 and October 20, 2016, for our bi-monthly meetings at The Amarillo Club, Amarillo, Texas with the following members attended the meetings.

The August meeting was called to order by Vice President Sloat. Members had lunch then had a round table discussion and open forum on city operations and procedures.

The October meeting was called to order by President Price. Members had lunch then had a discussion about the Department of Labor's new threshold for exempt and non-exempt employee status with Canadian's City Attorney, Angelique Weaver. Ms. Weaver also discussed other issues such as contracted vs. employed personnel and accumulating comp time vs. overtime.

The Panhandle Chapter hosted a Records Management Workshop conducted by Megan Carey and Bonnie Zuber with Texas State Library and Archives in Amarillo on September 8-9, 2016. We had a limit of 40 seats and had to start turning people away at 46. It was a two day workshop that involved workbooks and exercises;



The Panhandle Chapter's September Records Management Workshop in Amarillo. At right: Speaker Bonnie Zuber, Texas State Library and Archives.

PANHANDLE CHAPTER



Speakers Megan Carey and Bonnie Zuber of Texas State Library and Archives visited the annual Amarillo Chamber of Commerce BBQ.

it was very hands-on and informative. Amarillo was having its annual Chamber of Commerce BBQ cook-off downtown and the trainers were treated to the function by the City of Amarillo. Megan and Bonnie made a point to go to the Cadillac Ranch just West of Amarillo where visitors can spray paint their names on the iconic Cadillac's.

TMCA President Cheryl Gibson-Salgado has been on the road most of this year visiting all of the other chapters. This year has been a great adventure for

her and we are excited to hear all about it.

We have had two new members join since the last newsletter, Kim Fowler from Perryton and Ginger Burnett from Hedley.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Amarillo Club. We will be having our annual Christmas Party and exchange "Dirty Santa" gifts.

The meetings were adjourned.

Members in attendance at the meetings:

Karen Price, TRMC, City Secretary, Pampa-President

Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, City Secretary, Canadian- Vice President

Machiel Covey, TRMC, City Secretary, Clarendon- Secretary

Kristina Solomon, City Secretary, Tulia- Treasurer

Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC/CMC, City Secretary, Spearman - Historian

Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, City Secretary, Canyon

Frances Hibbs, TRMC, City Secretary, Amarillo

Andrea McDonald, TRMC, Administrative Assistant, Amarillo

Nelwyn Ward, City Secretary, Memphis

Stella Sauls, TRMC, City Secretary, Borger

Kim Rehkopf, City Secretary, Dumas

Patricia Phipps, City Manager/City Secretary, Friona

Kim Fowler, City Secretary, Perryton

Katy Williams, Perryton

Ginger Burnett, City Secretary, Hedley

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Kara Atwood, TRMC**

City Secretary, Lufkin

The Pineywoods Chapter held their quarterly meeting on October 19th at the Lufkin Convention Center. Following lunch, the meeting was called to order. The Chapter was pleased to welcome Kirk Franklin, of Franklin Legal Publishing who gave a presentation regarding the preparation of Proclamations, Resolutions and Ordinance. Thanks again to him for his great presentation.

Normal chapter business followed, with the approval of minutes and financials. The Pineywoods Chapter Clerk of the Year award was presented to City Secretary Ellie Monteaux, City Secretary, City of Livingston. Congratulations to this wonderful lady.

The chapter's next meeting will be held January 18th in the City of Crockett.

Pineywoods Chapter Clerk of the Year

Congratulations to **Ellie Monteaux, TRMC**, city secretary, Livingston, the recipient of the 2016 Pineywoods Chapter TMCA Clerk of the Year.

Ellie has been employed by the City of Livingston since July of 2000, gaining experience in multiple departments including accounts payable, purchasing, payroll and human resources. On August 1, 2007, Ellie was promoted to the office of city secretary for the City of Livingston, at which point she became a member of TMCA and continued her membership ever since. In 2014 Ellie became a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and a member of the IIMC Athenian Leadership Society. Ellie continues both memberships to date.

Ellie has earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk designation in 2013. She was awarded the 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2015 Pineywoods Chapter Scholarships as she pursued her TRMC certification and recertification. The scholarships helped her advance her education by attending TMCCP seminars such as Election Law, Graduate Institute,



At right: Ellie Monteaux, TRMC, city secretary, Livingston

Legislative Update, Public Funds Investment, Open Records, and Office Administration. In addition to those pursuits, Ellie was the recipient of the TMCA Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship in 2010.

Ellie was honored as the Pineywoods Chapter Clerk of the year in 2013 and 2016.

At present Ellie continues to advance her education through TMCCP recertification and the IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk program.

Ellie's favorite quote: "Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER



Above: The Pineywoods Chapter at their October meeting in Lufkin. *At right:* Meeting speaker Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing.

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 Johnny Carino's in Wichita Falls on September 21. President Balthrop called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted. The minutes of June 15, 2016 were approved, as well as the Treasurer's Report through August 31, 2016.

After discussing upcoming seminars, the President Balthrop introduced Drew Whittington, Government Capital Corporation(GCC). Drew provided information on GCC's financing options and product offerings. Drew explained how GCC is able to provide financing options to Cities, Economic Development Corporations, and Voluntary Fire Departments.

Janelle Dolan, Cathy Mills, and Tracy Norr 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 when we are able to bless another family at Christmas.

Our next meeting will be held December 7 at Johnny Carino's. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings. For more information about the chapter contact Janelle Dolan, City Clerk, City of Burkburnett, at jdolan@burkburnett.org or 940/569-2263.

Members in attendance at the meeting:

Sandy Page, City Secretary, Bowie; Janelle Dolan, City Clerk, Burkburnett; Alicia Smith, City Secretary, Boyd; Cathy Mills, City Secretary, Henrietta; Marie Balthrop, City Secretary, Holliday; Kim Hemmi, City Secretary, Scotland; Tracy Norr, City Clerk, Wichita Falls; and Linda Byers, City Secretary, Vernon.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

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

August 10: Chapter Meeting in Webster

The Salt Grass Chapter returned from its summer hiatus with a well-attended meeting on August 10 in Webster. Chapter President Paula Favors, TRMC, City Secretary, Wharton, welcomed those in attendance and gave a special welcome to two new Salt Grass Chapter members who were recently hired by their respective cities as the new City Secretary, Tomika Lewis, City of Stafford, and Alun Thomas, City of Dickinson. President Favors introduced Amanda Thorin, Senior Programs Liaison, Community & Environmental Planning, Houston-Galveston Area Council, who presented an exciting program on “Better Together: H-GAC and You.”

The Salt Grass Chapter unanimously approved partnering to underwrite a special dessert reception at the TMCA Annual Banquet in October on the Colonel Paddlewheel Boat immediately following the banquet, and also to provide each conference attendee a canvas bag with goodies from the Salt Grass Chapter.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

September 14: Chapter hosts 15th Annual Public Information Seminar and Chapter Meeting in Deer Park

On September 14 the Salt Grass Chapter hosted its 15th Annual Public Information Seminar at the Deer Park Courts and Theater Building in Deer Park. Speakers Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, City Secretary, La Porte; Leah Hayes, Attorney, Olson and Olson, LLP, Kathy Cobb, Records Specialist, City of Deer Park; and Akilah Mance, Attorney, Olson and Olson, LLP, presented the basics of the Public Information Act (PIA), processing public information requests, requesting Attorney General opinions, PIA exceptions for police personnel records, open records issues for police personnel files, open records/public information procedures, and managing electronic records and social media to approximately 70 attendees.

Immediately following the 15th Annual Public Information Seminar, the Salt Grass Chapter held its September 14 meeting. Chapter President Paula Favors, TRMC, City Secretary, Wharton, welcomed those in attendance, and thanked the City of Deer Park for hosting both the Public Information Act Seminar and the Salt Grass Chapter meeting.

Reports were received from the Chairs of the Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Committee.

The chapter approved the purchase of gift cards for door prizes for the upcoming TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in Galveston in October.

Everyone is looking forward to the annual December Holiday Luncheon and Installation, which will be held December 7 at Texas Land & Cattle.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

President Paula Favors congratulated those members who passed their exams held prior to the recent TMCCP seminars. We are so proud of the members who make their continuing education a priority.

October 12: Chapter Meeting in West University Place

The Salt Grass Chapter held its October 12, 2016, meeting at the City of West University Place. Chapter President Paula Favors, TRMC, City Secretary, Wharton, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Akilah Mance, Attorney, Olson and Olson, LLP, held a very informative training session on Public Information and Criminal Discovery Issues for Law Enforcement.

Following the presentation, reports were received from the Nominating Committee, Policy & Procedures Manual Review Committee, Annual Public Information Act Seminar Committee and the Scholarship Committee with lengthy discussion between chapter members. 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.

President Paula Favors reminded the chapter of a recent benefit for Sandi Watkins, City Secretary, Deer Park, which was held on Octo-



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

ber 1. Sandi is battling cancer and this benefit was to help with mounting medical expenses. Any individual may still donate and a donation from the chapter was discussed and will be on the next agenda for approval.

The following Salt Grass Chapter meeting was scheduled for November 9 in Dickinson and will be held at the Dickinson Historic Railroad Center.

Invitation

The Salt Grass Chapter will hold their 2016 Annual Installation Banquet/Holiday Luncheon on December 7 at Texas Land & Cattle, 8015 West FM 1960, in Houston. Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically 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 Paula Favors, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Wharton, at pfavors@cityofwharton.com.

Members in attendance at the October 2016 Salt Grass meeting:

Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village
 Karri Castellow, Records Clerk, Friendswood
 Crystal Dozier, TRMC, City Secretary, Hunters Creek Village
 Anna Evelyn, Assistant City Secretary, West University Place
 Paula Favors, TRMC, City Secretary, Wharton
 Marisela Garcia, TRMC, City Secretary, Nassau Bay
 Tracy Garcia, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Registrar, Tomball
 Olga Garza, City Secretary/Court Administrator, Southside Place
 Thelma Gilliam, TRMC, City Secretary, West University Place
 Sharon Harris, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, La Porte
 Maria Jackson, TRMC, City Secretary, Missouri City
 Megan Kaltenbach, Deputy City Secretary, Huntsville
 Jennifer Namie, Honorary Member, Paralegal, Olson and Olson
 Michelle Perez, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Friendswood
 Crystal Roan, TRMC, City Secretary, Webster
 Dixie Roberts, TRMC, City Clerk, Alvin
 Gladis Sanchez, Records Specialist, La Porte
 Pauline Small, TRMC, Retired City Secretary, Webster
 Doris Speer, TRMC, City Secretary, Tomball
 Heather Van Dine, Records Clerk, Friendswood
 Karen Vannerson, Honorary Member, Consultant, Linebarger
 Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP
 Melinda Welsh, TRMC, City Secretary, Friendswood
 Lee Woodward, TRMC, City Secretary, Huntsville

Others present were:

Mandy Barnett, Records Clerk, Wharton
 Jared Cullar, Detective, Wharton
 Ben Evans, Detective, Wharton
 Susie Murray, PD Support Services Supv., West University Place
 Ariel Soltura, Detective, Wharton

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By **Jodie House**

City Secretary, Crosbyton

Happy Fall ya'll!

The South Plains Chapter of TMCA met for lunch on Wednesday, September 21 in Lubbock. The City of Anton hosted the meeting at Ruby Tequilas. Guest speaker was Rick Vanderpool. Rick is a photojournalist and shared some of his beautiful collection with the group.

Members and guest in attendance were:

Lillian Atkinson, Zanea Carpenter, Sue Castles, Toni Chrestman, Ofelia Corral, Donna DeBusk, Lora Dockery, Kathy Field, Kirk Franklin, LeAnn Gallman, Becky Garza, Teresa Grimaldo, Laurie Garcia, Maria Hatchett, Jodie House, Patricia Isaguirre, Angelica Luna, Terri McClanahan, Magen Murchison, Kim Perez, Lisa Richardson, Brenda Shaw, Lama Shoukfeh, Sharon Trumble, DeAnn Villegos, Beth Walls, Renee Wilbanks, Kase Wilbanks, Rick Vanderpool



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

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

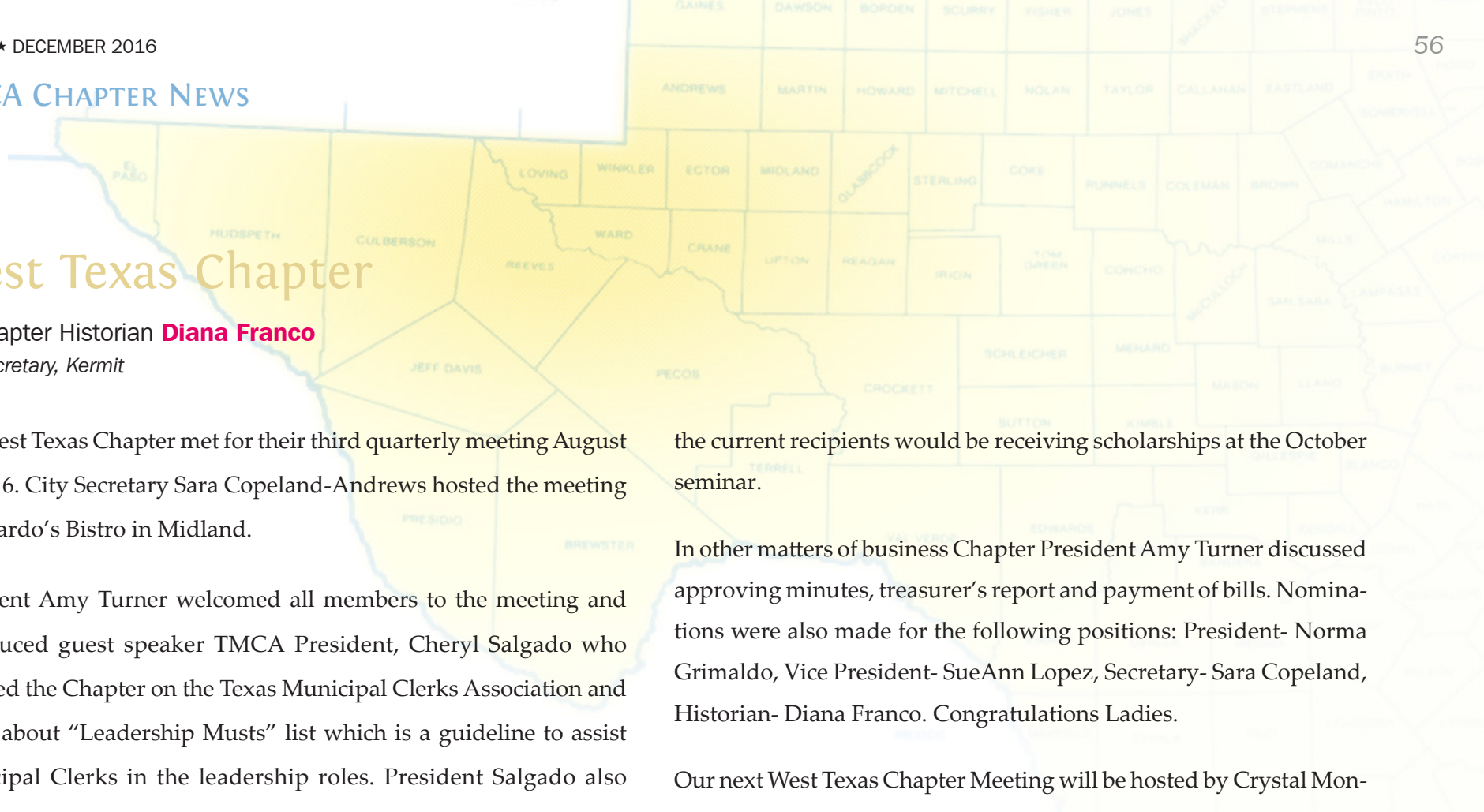
The West Texas Chapter met for their third quarterly meeting August 17, 2016. City Secretary Sara Copeland-Andrews hosted the meeting at Gerardo’s Bistro in Midland.

President Amy Turner welcomed all members to the meeting and introduced guest speaker TMCA President, Cheryl Salgado who updated the Chapter on the Texas Municipal Clerks Association and spoke about “Leadership Musts” list which is a guideline to assist Municipal Clerks in the leadership roles. President Salgado also encouraged members to join the scholarship program and mention

the current recipients would be receiving scholarships at the October seminar.

In other matters of business Chapter President Amy Turner discussed approving minutes, treasurer’s report and payment of bills. Nominations were also made for the following positions: President- Norma Grimaldo, Vice President- SueAnn Lopez, Secretary- Sara Copeland, Historian- Diana Franco. Congratulations Ladies.

Our next West Texas Chapter Meeting will be hosted by Crystal Montez on November 16, 2016 in Odessa.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Dara Crabtree, TRMC**

City Secretary, Seagoville

The Yellow Rose Chapter held bi-monthly meetings on August 4, hosted by City Secretary Cathy DiMaggio at the City of Grand Prairie, and on October 6, hosted by City Secretary Lori Saunders at the City of Waxahachie.

In August, along with excellent food and conviviality, the chapter was honored to have guest speaker Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth, give a presentation and field questions regarding the Public Information Act. A great amount of knowledge and information was shared among the entire chapter. Also on the agenda was the presentation of Yellow Rose Scholarship awards and the recognition of the 2016 Yellow Rose Clerk of the Year award, which was presented to Sonja Land, TRMC, city secretary, Mesquite. Other notable items were chapter reports and the unveiling of the new Yellow Rose Chapter logo, a six month collaborative creation of the entire chapter.

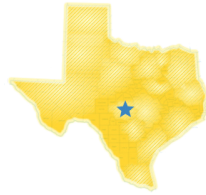
In October the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal while the new 2016-2017 chapter officers were considered and sworn in. This year's Yellow Rose President is Amanda McCrory, City Secretary of Burleson and Vice-President Susan House, Assistant City Secretary of Mesquite. All Yellow Rose Chapter committee chairs and members were also considered and installed. Lastly, October marked the launch of the new Official Yellow Rose Chapter website, an online portal for chapter



members to easily manage membership, finance, communication, history and promotion of Yellow Rose Chapter and TMCA information. The new web address is yellowrosetmca.com, and we hope it serves as an example of the continuous dedication TMCA clerks have for their education and profession.

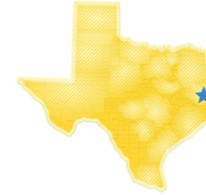
Our next meeting will be the annual Yellow Rose Holiday Board Meeting December 1. All guests are welcome to attend this or any future meeting. For more information on our chapter please contact President Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson at amccrory@burlesontx.com or visit our website at yellowrosetmca.com.

TMCA Chapters



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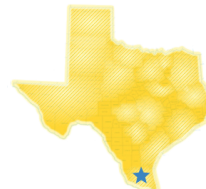
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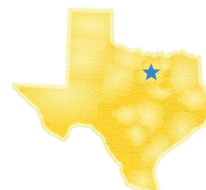
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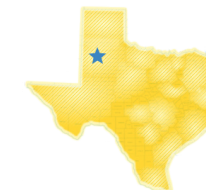
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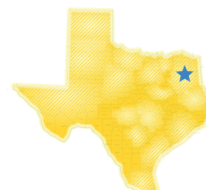
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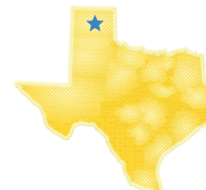
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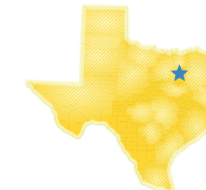
COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

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