

TMCA NEWS



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TMCA President Lydia Lopez, TRMC City Secretary, Hewitt

President’s Message “A Year To Remember”

Upon reflection of all that occurred throughout 2017, I wanted to emphasize and re-evaluate comments that I made during my acceptance speech. I stated the importance of continuing to focus on our Strategic Initiatives summarized as follows:

1. Promotion of TMCA
2. Promotion of Municipal Clerks Education and Certification through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program (TMCCP)
3. Promotion of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerks’ Credential
4. Promotion of the Profession
5. Partnerships—Cultivating, Fostering, and Building Partnerships
6. Governance and Organizational Structure

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board has committed to evaluate our progress of these initiatives annually and began that process at the November 17 meeting of the year.

During my chapter visits I did my best to be an advocate for these initiatives as well. I am most proud of our profession. We must continue to work hard to educate and communicate to our citizens, city council, and other city staff the significant role we play in municipal government.

Pursuing and obtaining the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) credential demonstrates our desire to be true professionals. Bringing value and professionalism to your organization through certification is an accomplishable goal no matter where you are in life. Our program is a model program on the international level through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). I commend and encourage those of you in the process of certifying or recertifying.

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. —Malcom X

Promoting our profession is incumbent on us all on a daily basis. Consider speaking engagements to local schools, Boy or



Photo by Paul Traves, f16photo.com

2017 TMCA President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, is presented an engraved crystal recognition award by 2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, on behalf of the TMCA membership, in gratitude for her year of exemplary service.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Girl Scouts troops, or public events. What better way to educate the general public about our role in municipal government! The Association works on promoting our profession during the annual Texas Municipal League conference. Education Director Dr. Amy Holt sends out personal letters to all mayors and/or city managers of non-participating or inactive members to promote our program. She also contacts new city managers and works to reach city managers through Texas City Manager's Association (TCMA).

One final point that I made during my chapter visits was to ensure that our members know that the Executive Board works for the membership. We want to hear your views, input, or recommendations. Feel free to communicate any concern to any **board member**. The success of our organization depends on its members.

In closing, this year has been a phenomenal one for me. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the 65th president of TMCA, Inc. My service on the board has helped me grow in many ways. I have had the pleasure of meeting many professional municipal clerks and visited a number of beautiful scenic cities full of history and culture. The hospitality of this great state is second to none. The memories will remain in my heart always. Thank you for your support throughout this year.

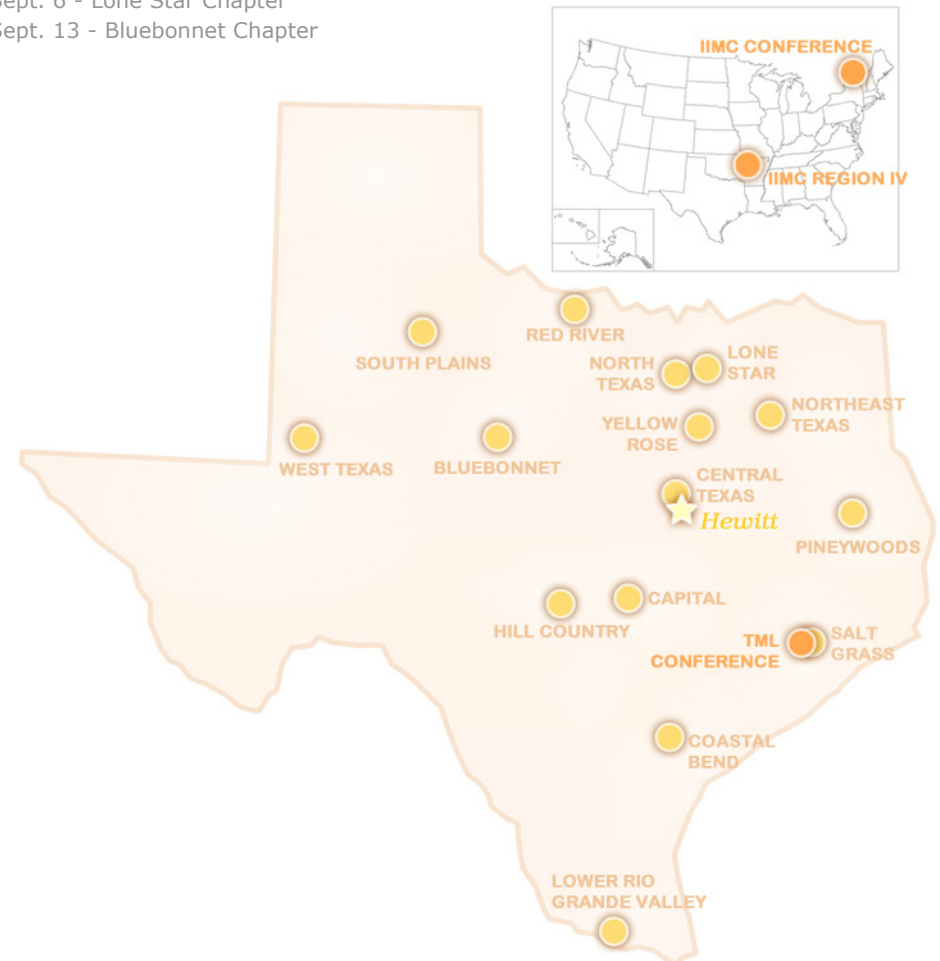
Best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a prosperous new year!

President's Travels

Thank you to TMCA President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, City Secretary, Hewitt, for representing TMCA in her travels across Texas—and to Arkansas and Canada—this year! She visited fourteen of our chapters, attended the TML and IIMC Conferences, and the IIMC Region IV meeting.

Feb. 23 - Hill Country Chapter
 March 8 - Coastal Bend Chapter
 March 29 - Central Texas Chapter
 May 22-25 - IIMC Conference (Montreal)
 April 5 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
 June 1 - Northeast Texas Chapter
 June 22 - North Texas Chapter
 July 12 - Capital Chapter
 Sept. 6 - Lone Star Chapter
 Sept. 13 - Bluebonnet Chapter

Sept. 20 - West Texas Chapter
 Oct. 3-6 - IIMC Conference (Houston)
 Oct. 12 - Yellow Rose Chapter
 Oct. 18 - Pineywoods Chapter
 Nov. 29 - Red River Chapter
 Dec. 6-8 - IIMC Region IV (Arkansas)
 Dec. 13 - Salt Grass Chapter
 Dec. 20 - South Plains Chapter



2017 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominees

The following 15 TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2017 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!



Red River

Marie Balthrop, TRMC
City Secretary, Holliday



Bluebonnet

Danette Dunlap, TRMC
City Secretary, Abilene (now retired)



Lower Rio Grande Valley

Arcelia Felix, TRMC
City Secretary, Mercedes (now retired)



Capital

Jannette Goodall, TRMC
City Clerk, Austin



Alamo

Lisa Hernandez, TRMC
City Admin./Secretary, Natalia



Coastal Bend

Rebecca L. Huerta, TRMC
City Secretary, Corpus Christi



Central Texas

Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt



Pineywoods

Laure Morgan, TRMC
Asst. City Mgr./City Sec., Hemphill



Lone Star

Susie Quinn, TRMC
City Secretary, Murphy



Salt Grass

Crystal Roan, TRMC
City Secretary, Webster



Panhandle

Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year
Cheryl Salgado, TRMC
City Sec./Asst. City Mgr., Spearman



South Plains

Brenda Shaw, TRMC
City Secretary, Morton



Hill Country

Elaine Simpson, TRMC
City Sec./HR Mgr., Granite Shoals



North Texas

Kim Sutter, TRMC
City Secretary, Euless



West Texas

Amy Turner, TRMC
City Secretary, Midland

TMCCP SEMINAR

Election Law Seminar

January 25-26, 2018, Frisco, Texas • Early Registration Deadline: January 10, 2018

Join us for the 46th annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco! The seminar covers a multitude of topics. You may choose from a selection of **breakout sessions** to best meet your needs.

If you hold your own elections and are new to elections or would like a refresher, we recommend registering for our popular pre-seminar session, “Step By Step: Conduct of an Election,” held prior to the seminar.

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: sessions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To accommodate everyone, there is a policy of no seat-saving.

We look forward to seeing you in January! ★



Wednesday, January 24, optional Pre-Seminar Session:

- **10:00 a.m.-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)

Thursday, January 25, and Friday, January 26—the Election Law Seminar **begins at 8:00 in the morning on Thursday**. 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
- Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks
- ISD Elections: What You Need to Know
- Joint Elections
- Local Option Petitions & Elections
- 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
- TML Legislative Update on Elections
- Update from the Texas Secretary of State’s Office
- What Happens Before And After An Election?



Hurricane Harvey Aftermath Support

Affected by Hurricane Harvey? Receive financial support from your fellow TMCA members

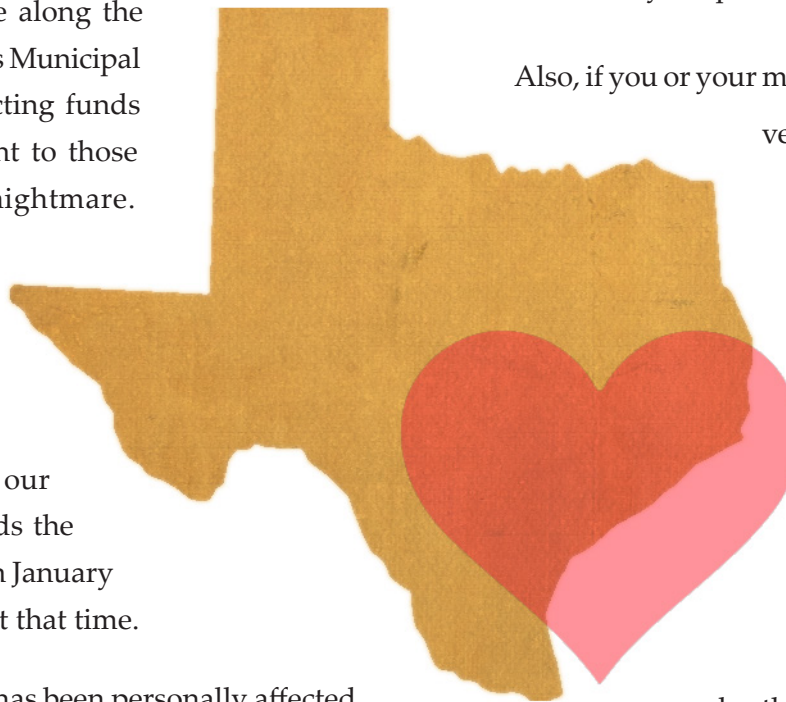
By TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC**

We all remember that the coast of Texas was damaged by Hurricane Harvey earlier this year, but unless you live near the affected area it can be hard to fully grasp how the destruction continues to affect daily life along the coast. As an organization the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., is collecting funds to provide a little encouragement to those who are still living with this nightmare.

We collected donations at the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in October, and we will continue to collect donations through **January 31, 2018**.

You are welcome to donate via our **online store**. Anyone who attends the **TMCCP Election Law Seminar** in January will be able to donate in person at that time.

If you are a TMCA member who has been personally affected and sustained damage due to Hurricane Harvey, please make sure to contact our office (via Dr. Holt at amy.holt@unt.edu or by calling our office at 940-565-3488) and have your name placed on our list to receive a modest boost of funds. The deadline to do this is **January 31, 2018**.



Once all funds are collected we will distribute those donations to affected individuals to hopefully provide a little encouragement and love from your peers in the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

Also, if you or your municipality has been affected by Hurricane Harvey and you are pursuing TMCCP certification or recertification, please make sure to **apply for a scholarship or travel stipend for 2018 seminars**. TMCA President Lydia Lopez decided to forego a reception at the TMCA Awards Banquet this past October, and instead use the money to increase the amount of seminar registration scholarships and travel stipend funds we have available for 2018. If you have been affected by the hurricane, please apply for this scholarship money. More information about the specific requirements for seminar registration scholarships and travel stipend funds can be found **here**. Please make sure to apply early for these funds. **You may apply beginning December 1, 2017.**

Continuous Improvement, 1% Improvement, Incremental Change

By TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC**; Fort Worth Assistant City Secretary **Ron Gonzales, TRMC**; and Huntsville City Secretary **Lee Woodward, TRMC**

If you had a chance to read the article forwarded to the **TMCA Yahoo Group** by Lee Woodward, city secretary, Huntsville, ("**Personal Best**") by Atul Gawande in the October 3, 2011, edition of *The New Yorker*) then you will know that whatever you choose to call it, improvement on the margins can have a big impact. In other words, small changes (or incremental improvements) can significantly impact outcomes. The application of the continuous improvement framework can increase organizational capacity as work processes are improved over time. This is especially important in the public sector where municipalities are expected to do more with less. Even during times when your municipality cannot hire another employee, pay for a new software package, or bring in the top trainer in a certain field, everyone in the organization can look for ways they can

improve individually or as a work group by just one percent.

So how can we implement initiatives to evaluate (and improve) our efficiencies? One way is to start noticing how a particular task is done and how much time it takes to complete—break down the process. Are you duplicating steps? Can the process be organized better or be combined with an adjoining task for a better flow? Create a step-by-step checklist or standard operating procedure (SOP) that outlines the task. Once it is completed, have someone who is unfamiliar with the task, perhaps someone outside your office, perform the task using the checklist or SOP and ask that person to provide an objective opinion on your process. This could identify rudimentary flaws in the task or process and make your job

Many improvements come from rethinking an office layout, especially one that has not been changed in ten years or longer (as Canyon City Secretary Gretchen Mercer did to move conversations and office visitors to a better waiting area by just moving furniture) or rethinking which equipment or materials need to be at hand and which do not.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, 1% IMPROVEMENT, INCREMENTAL CHANGE

easier, save you time, and provide better service to your customers. Sometimes we have been doing the same things the same way for years and fail to realize that the process needs to be reviewed and updated. This is where feedback from the outside person can help identify ways to streamline your office and increase efficiencies. Implementing a continuous improvement strategy can help generate solutions or alternatives for problems encountered while performing tasks in the office. Further, continuous improvement can enhance a process that was already performing satisfactorily.

Changes can be identified along three primary tracks—physical/ergonomic, process, and mindset—and you can likely best find quick wins by considering all of them. Physical or ergonomic updates require looking around your workspace. Are the files you use most kept in cabinets furthest from you or in another office or work area? Does a staffer travel across the office many times a day to get to a scanner or copier that could

be kept closer? How about adding a headset for an employee who is interrupted and running back to grab a phone all day? Many improvements come from rethinking an office layout, especially one that has not been changed in ten years or longer (as Canyon City Secretary Gretchen Mercer did to move conversations and office visitors to a better waiting area by just moving furniture) or rethinking which equipment or materials need to be at hand and which do not.

The next area of review is the process your work entails. Think about reconsidering approval hierarchies and wait times they incur, how material is put together for reports or agendas, and some of the physical items you worked on above. Changing who does what, where they do it, and in what order may garner opportunities to streamline. Even better, discussing this as a staff brings new eyes to what is done and why, making it possible to weed out some of the “we’ve always done it this way.”

This may naturally lead you to the third focus, mindset. Conversations about moving things around and revising work processes will hopefully help everyone think about the benefits of continuous improvement. We have all read about the need to manage time better, checking email only once or twice a day rather than having to get off task twenty times an hour, etc. Try some of these techniques, but also think about the work you actually do in your office. When do you perform best, what meeting times fit your schedule, what unpleasant tasks should you conquer first and get out of the way? Approaching work with a positive attitude or feeling renewed by reorganizing your calendar and having some small successes early in the morning may set you up for better productivity all day. Generating a team approach to what would make everything function optimally can bring forth great ideas for improvements. Get everyone’s head in the game.

It can be as simple as moving a container

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, 1% IMPROVEMENT, INCREMENTAL CHANGE

of paper clips to your desktop rather than keeping them in a drawer you open each time you need one. The focus is on small and continuous improvements rather than great leaps. These are sometimes harder to see and harder to celebrate, but they can make a difference. Once you have a fresh perspective, the successes may come fast and furiously for a while. If they do, make sure to discuss and manage them well, so people are willing to try them and not just change for the sake

of changing. If changes do not come quickly, there is no reason to give up. Remember changes can make things run more slowly at first as individuals learn to work in the new system. Perhaps your office is already pretty streamlined and it is just taking a while to find the things that need a new look. (Spend a moment with the Autumn 2013 issue of *Management Focus* magazine **learning about the work Sir Dave Brailsford did with British Cycling, pages 10-13.**)

We would like to know what you do to implement continuous improvement in your office, too. Please reach out to one of the authors or post your ideas to the TMCA listserv (another good reason to be on the listserv and read the messages every day!). Our hope is that we can all share ways we have focused on continuous improvement so that the new year will be filled with 1% improvements for all!

TMCCP Certificates Earned

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

Course 1

Brenda Acuña, Presidio
 Linda Ames, Denton
 Kelly Ballard, Keller
 Imelda Barrera, Pharr
 Vickie Berglund, Missouri City
 Wendy Blocker, Sansom Park
 Erika Brady, Austin
 Amy Casey, Belton
 Robyn Densmore, Georgetown
 Norma Duncan, Heath
 Isabel Fernandez, Buda
 Maria Franco, San Angelo
 Laurie Garber, Carrollton
 Lily Garcia, Harlingen
 Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball
 Deborah Hale, Collinsville
 Tonya Hopper, Crowell
 Jennifer Huckabee, Aubrey
 Caitlyn Huddleston, Gainesville

Patricia Isaguirre, Hale Center

Tammy Lofton, Waskom
 Jamee Long, Annetta
 Susana Marin, Mansfield
 Holly Owens, Keene
 Kathryn Roberson, Arlington
 Stephanie Schutte, Wake Village
 Rachel Shelly, Cresson
 Kimberly Smith, Hallsville
 Lluvia Tijerina, Manor
 Vickie Watson, Vidor

Course 2

Brenda Acuña, Presidio
 Maria Franco, San Angelo
 Bonnie Hambrick, Athens
 Rachel Shelly, Cresson
 Kimberly Smith, Hallsville
 Kacey Weiss, Brenham

Course 3

Brenda Acuña, Presidio
 Vickie Berglund, Missouri City
 Amy Casey, Belton
 Bonnie R. Hambrick, Athens
 Jennifer Huckabee, Aubrey
 Tomika Lewis, Stafford
 Amanda Morales, La Feria
 Brittani Porter, La Vernia
 Maria Rodriguez, Pearland
 Angela Smith, Cleveland
 Lluvia Tijerina, Manor
 Kasi Wright, Wortham
 Heather Van Dine, Webster

Course 4

Brenda Acuña, Presidio
 Belinda Berg, Cedar Hill
 Vickie Berglund, Missouri City
 Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball
 Bonnie Hambrick, Athens
 Lola Hazel, Giddings
 Amanda Morales, La Feria
 Kacey Weiss, Brenham

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION'S

Annual Banquet

October 26, 2017, Austin

TMCA held a wonderful annual banquet this year at the Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel in Austin on October 26. TMCA members were recognized, scholarships were awarded, 2017 retirees were honored, TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominees were honored, the 2017 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year was recognized, and the 2018 TMCA officers were sworn into office.

The following pages in this special TMCA newsletter section offer a glimpse of the banquet. We hope to see you next year at the TMCA banquet on **October 25, 2018, in South Padre Island!**

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



2017 TMCA President Lydia Lopez, TRMC (at right), administers the oath of office to 2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, at the Annual TMCA Banquet.

2017 TMCA Clerk of the Year

Congratulations to Spearman City Secretary/Asst. City Manager Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC!

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 her outstanding achievements as an exemplary public servant and invaluable mentor and advocate for city secretaries, **Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman**, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as our 2017 honoree.

Cheryl Gibson-Salgado was nominated by Pampa City Secretary Karen Price, TRMC, and the TMCA Panhandle Chapter for this prestigious honor. TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Ron Gonzales, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Fort Worth, made the official presentation to Cheryl at the banquet.



Municipal Clerk of the Year Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman, was awarded the 2017 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Award at the October TMCA banquet. She is pictured here with Panhandle Chapter members who were in attendance at the banquet.

2017 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

Cheryl has served the citizens of Spearman as city secretary since 1986. She received her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification in 2000, and has met the requirements for recertification two times. She is currently enrolled in her third recertification. She also received her Certified Municipal Clerk designation in 2004 from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Now in her 32nd year as a municipal clerk, Cheryl has been very active and enthusiastic about the city secretary profession. She served as president of TMCA in 2016 and prior to that served seven years on the TMCA Executive Board in the offices of president elect, vice president, treasurer, and trustee. Cheryl has also served on the TMCA Advisory Management, Audit, Resolutions, and Municipal Clerk of the Year committees. She has served as an instructor for the Annual TMCA Election Law Seminar and co-authored a chapter in the latest edition of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

On the local level Cheryl served as president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and historian of the Panhandle Chapter of TMCA



Committee Chair Ron Gonzales, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Fort Worth, made the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year award presentation to Cheryl at the banquet.

from 1995-2015, as well serving on numerous committees in the Panhandle Chapter from 2000-2009. Her dedication was recognized with her nomination as Municipal Clerk of the Year on three other occasions: 2008, 2011, and 2012.

As part of the 2017 nomination statement, Karen Price stated, "We all agree that Cheryl's work ethic and professionalism is the epitome

of a municipal clerk. She has the ability to influence, guide, teach, and direct as she works right alongside you. She is always there to assist, encourage, mentor, or just talk to members of our profession as well as other city staff and the citizens of Spearman whom she so willingly serves."

Cheryl's gracious acceptance speech acknowledged those who had contributed to her life and profession. She challenged the audience of public servants to invest in their cities and careers as municipal clerks. She also encouraged them to extend a helping hand to a neighboring municipal clerk that may be struggling and to "do a little more than you think you can, and have a ripple effect!"

2018 President's Acceptance Speech

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, City Secretary, Holliday, was elected the 66th president of TMCA during the Annual Business Meeting on October 26 in Austin. She presented this acceptance speech to attendees of the Annual Banquet.

Good evening and welcome to the 2017 TMCA Annual Awards Banquet. I have to say that in October of 2001 when I accepted the position of city secretary in Holliday, I never dreamed I would be standing before you today as president of our organization. As a matter of fact, when I was hired, I didn't know a thing about being a city secretary or the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. During my interview for the position I was told that I would take minutes at city council meetings, and "keep the books." Like many of you I soon realized that my job included so much more! I am so grateful that part of the terms of my employment were to obtain my certification. I attended my first seminar in January of 2002, and graduated with my TRMC in January 2005, and I am currently finishing up my third recertification. I cannot express enough how invaluable the Certification Program was for me and still is today, and cannot imagine how I ever would have made it through these past 16 years without the education, support, and friendships I have gained through our organization and education program.



2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC

When I was asked in 2012 to serve as a trustee on the TMCA Executive Board, I have to admit, I was a little unsure at first. It was my son Gage's senior year in high school and I was determined I was NOT going to miss a minute of it. I was concerned about how my service would affect our small office, and honestly I doubted my abilities a little. There have been so many great leaders in our organization and they definitely left some big shoes to fill. But with the support of my mayor and city council, a little persuasion from Lydia Ozuna and LeAnn Gallman, and the support of my sweet family, I decided to accept the position of trustee. What I knew for sure was that this opportunity would broaden my ability to serve others, and that was very meaningful to me.

I was so fortunate that I grew up with two parents that taught me from a young age to serve others. I watched my parents volunteer countless hours at school, church, and community functions, and I am pretty sure over the years my daddy cooked enough meat for different fundraisers

2017 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

and events to feed the entire world at least once. I witnessed my parents give of their time and talents pretty much every time there was an event in Throckmorton, Texas. Mom still volunteers today and I am forever grateful that they instilled a servant attitude in me.

You see each of us have unique gifts and talents that we are meant to share. What are yours? I encourage each of you to look for ways you can use your God-given talents to serve in your homes, communities, your cities, and our organization. Many of you have already stepped up and volunteered to serve on committees in the upcoming year—and I thank you! I encourage others to **volunteer** to be convenors or instructors at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar, say yes if you are asked to serve on an ad hoc committee, apply to serve on the TMCA Executive Board, **offer** to help at the registration table or scan for attendance during TMCCP seminars, or serve on a committee or as an officer in your **local chapters**. Step up and step out of your comfort zone and freely give of your time and talents. As Elizabeth Andrews once said, “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” As municipal clerks, I know there are times when we are certain there are not enough hours in the day, but I believe we all have a heart for service, or we would not be working in this profession.

At top right: The TMCA Executive Board joins the banquet attendees in applauding incoming president Marie Balthrop. *Near right:* 2017 TMCA President Marie Balthrop pictured with Red River Chapter members who were present at the banquet.



Photos by Paul Traves, fl6photo.com



2017 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Hurricane Harvey devastated several Texas cities this past August. I was very proud to be a Texan as I witnessed countless acts of service as people from all different professions stepped up to volunteer for recovery and relief efforts. During the TML Annual Conference, Wichita Falls City Clerk Tracy Norr and I had the privilege of getting to volunteer at the Houston Food Bank as part of a TML service project. Tracy and I worked in the office sorting the donations that came in the mail. It was amazing to see all of the donations that came in. Donations of \$1.00 or \$2.00 with notes saying I don't have much to give but I want to give what I can; donations that were given in honor of a child's birthday because the child decided that rather than receive gifts he or she wanted the money to be donated to help others in need; matching donations from employers that matched dollar for dollar what their employees gave. It was so inspiring to see Texans helping Texans. Then to see our members and vendors give donations to help our own members that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. I encourage each of us



2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday, with her mayor pro-tem Gary Bernal (*at far right*) and his wife Melodi; at far left is her mayor Allen Moore and his wife Dana.

to give however we can through gifts of time, money, other resources, or through prayer as we support our fellow municipal clerks that are still recovering.

Our mission statement says, "The Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program are dedicated to providing an educational and pro-

fessional development program for novice and experienced municipal clerks." I believe part of how this mission is accomplished is through opportunities to serve. Service allows us to grow professionally and personally as we gain confidence, learn new skills, and network with others. Serving others adds meaning to our lives and gives us the ability to make a difference. Isn't that something we all strive to do? 2005 Past President Mary Lynne Stratta encouraged us to tell our story, and in 2015 Past President Sherry Mashburn called us to a year of service, and encouraged us to not only tell our story, but to live it and let it show. I challenge each of us to look for ways to promote our profession through our service and to be servant leaders in our cities and communities. As we do this I challenge each of us to print out the **TMCA Code of Ethics** and read it monthly, and remember the example we are setting for others. Our values and ethics are the foundation on which we build our leadership skills, and I believe it is important for us reflect upon and commit to upholding our Code of Ethics.

2017 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

I am very blessed to be able to stand before you tonight as the 66th president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. I want to recognize my fellow Executive Board members present and past—each of you had a part in helping me grow into this position. Peggy Burnside, Dr. Amy Holt, Miriam Sheehan, and Alexandra Burke—thank you for making our organization and education program the gold standard and internationally recognized program that it is. To Lydia Ozuna and LeAnn Gallman—thank you for seeing something in me that I could not see in myself at the time, and encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone and serve on the TMCA Executive Board. To my fellow Red River Chapter members—thank you for your friendship and never-ending support. My Mayor Allen Moore and his wife Dana, and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Bernal and his wife Melodi, thank you for taking the time to be here this evening and for allowing me the time away from the office

to serve our state organization. My sweet friend Sonja Gravitt, who is always beside me supporting and uplifting me during the good, the bad, and the ugly times in life. A special thanks to my family... my high school sweetheart, husband of 27 years, and the man I cannot imagine my life without, Gary—thank you for your unwavering encouragement, your deep belief in my abilities, your love, and for your great sense of humor. When I take life way too seriously you always make me smile and laugh when I need it the most! My son Gage—who can melt any heart with the flash of his smile, I am so proud of the man you have become and am grateful for your kind heart, big hugs, and for how you make me feel like a Rockstar. My mom, Joanne Self, thank you for encouraging me when I was younger to participate in activities that made me speak or perform in front of a crowd. Your love, support, and belief in me throughout my life are a huge part of why I am able to stand

before this group today. I would also like to recognize my sister Diane and her husband Charlie, who were unable to be here tonight. Diane always set the bar high for me, and she and Charlie have both been two of my biggest cheerleaders. And finally—I would like to recognize the empty chair at the table in memory of my daddy, Joe Self. He deeply inspired me with his service to his country, to our family, to his community, and through stories people told after he passed away about ways he served others without anyone else knowing. He truly understood what it meant to serve others and leave a legacy, and I strive to be the servant leader that he was.

I will leave you with this quote from Dolly Parton: "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are an excellent leader." Let's help each other be excellent leaders in 2018. Thank you.

2018 TMCA Executive Board

The TMCA officers were installed at the Annual Banquet on October 26

Photo by Paul Traves, f16photo.com



Seated, from left to right:

Secretary Maria Jackson, TRMC
City Secretary, Missouri City

Immediate Past President Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt

President Marie Balthrop, TRMC
City Secretary, Holliday

President Elect Kim Sutter, TRMC
City Secretary, Euless

Vice President Shelley George, TRMC
City Secretary, Allen

Trustee Aimee Nemer, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

Standing, from left to right:

Trustee Jannette Goodall, TRMC
City Clerk, Austin

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

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

Trustee Lee Woodward, TRMC
City Secretary, Huntsville

Trustee Teresa Valdez, TRMC
City Secretary, Rockport

Trustee Peggy Cimics, TRMC
City Secretary, Cibolo

Trustee Cara McPartland, TRMC
City Secretary, Salado

Trustee Amanda McCrory, TRMC
City Secretary, Burleson

New Executive Board Trustees

Introducing Teresa Valdez, TRMC, and Lee Woodward, TRMC

Teresa Valdez, TRMC

Teresa Valdez has served as the city secretary of the City of Rockport since 2013. She was previously the city secretary of the City of Bastrop from 1999-2013.

“I am blessed to be a part of the City of Rockport, who supports and allows me professional growth. I am deeply honored to be considered and chosen as a trustee for the TMCA Executive Board. I look forward to serving TMCA and my fellow city clerks and secretaries. As I continue my professional journey, I encourage all city secretaries and clerks to pursue their goals and dreams and know that TMCA is here to assist them.”

Professional Affiliations

Teresa earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2002 (No. 402) and recertified in 2007, 2012, and 2017. She also holds the Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Teresa has held membership in TMCA since 1999 and has been an active member of the Association. She has served on the Scholarship, Audit, and Resolutions TMCA committees, and has been a volunteer convener at the annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Teresa has held membership in TMCA’s Coastal Bend Chapter and Capital Chapter. In the Capital Chapter she has served as their president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and historian. She has also served on several Capital Chapter committees: Nominating, Silent Auction, Membership, Audit, By-Laws, Clerk of the Year, and Scholarship. The Capital Chapter awarded her their Clerk of the Year award in 2010 and nominated her for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2016.

Teresa served as Texas Municipal League Region 10 Secretary from 2000-2003; she is a current member of TML Region 11. She is a member of IIMC and has served on their Membership Committee.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Teresa’s hobbies include fishing, gardening, various do-it-yourself crafts and furniture makeover, and spending time with family. She serves as Church Council Secretary for Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Rockport. Teresa is married to Joel Valdez; her four adult children are: Dustin Miertschin, Weston Miertschin, Dillon Miertschin, and Tiffany Valdez.

Lee Woodward, TRMC

Lee Woodward has served as the city secretary of the City of Huntsville since 2009.

“It is a pleasure and an honor to serve our members. I had no idea what to expect when I joined the City of Huntsville in 2009, but TMCA has continually provided mentors, opportunity, and superior education and development. I am so excited to continue this journey and share what I learn and experience for the benefit of our profession and our citizens.”

Professional Affiliations

Lee earned her TRMC Certification in 2012 (No. 663) and recertified in 2017. She holds a B.S. in Psychology, with a minor in Biology, from Texas A&M University, College Station, 1990. Lee has received both the MMC and CMC designations from IIMC; she

NEW TRUSTEES

is also an IIMC Athenian Leadership Society Fellow and approved facilitator. She is a graduate of the Texas Certified Public Manager program through William P. Hobby Center for Public Service. Lee is also a Leadership Beaumont graduate. She holds a National Association of Parliamentarians credential as a Registered Parliamentarian.

Lee has held membership in TMCA since 2009 and has been an active member of the Association. Her committee service includes the Advisory Management, Resolutions, and Scholarship Committees, as well as four years on the Certification Committee (chair, 2016-2017). She is an active member of the Salt Grass Chapter, where she has held the offices of president, past president, vice president, secretary, and historian. Her Salt Grass Chapter committee service includes: Bylaws; three years on the Clerk of the Year and Policy Manual Updates Committees (as a member of the executive board); liaison to the Honorary Member Committee while serving as chapter historian; Scholarship; Audit; Retirement (member 2013, chair 2016); liaison to the Banquet and Public Information Act Seminar Committees while serving as chapter vice president; Outreach Committee (founding member 2014, chair 2016-2017); liaison to the Nominating, Scholarship, & Bylaws Committees while serving as chapter president; Nominating; and Honorary Member Committee (chair, 2017).

Lee is a valued speaker at the annual TMCA Election Law Seminar. She also presents at the H-GAC Election Law Seminar. She was a 2017 presenter for both the TML Newly-Elected Officials Conference and the annual Salt Grass Chapter Public Information Seminar. Lee is a co-author for the tenth and eleventh editions of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

Lee is a chair and member of committees of the Texas State Association of Parliamentarians, Brazos Valley Unit member, and member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. She is a member of the Texas Association of Municipal Officers, cooperating member of the Texas City Management Association, member of Texas

Women Leading Government, and charter member and charter officer of the TWLG Gulf Coast Chapter (vice president, 2016-2017). Lee is a 2017-18 SHSU High Potential Employee Leadership Academy member. She is also a judge for parliamentary procedure competitions in 2016 and 2017 for the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Texas.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Lee is a City of Huntsville representative on the Board of Directors of Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce for 2017 and 2018. She is a member of the Huntsville Independent School District Strategic Design Committee (2015-2017).

Her community activities include membership in Daughters of the American Revolution; presentation of courses on parliamentary procedure; kite-making; and knitting as part of City of Huntsville Wynne Home Arts Center classes. She is a committee member for the National Book Awards Festival at SHSU. She has participated as costumed character for annual General Sam Houston Folk Festival. She has been a Huntsville High School Reality Fair student facilitator. Lee provides Local Government Day opportunities for area children to learn about City and Council, and she also conducts City U. for public education on local government. She is a scholarship application reviewer for the Anita Borg Institute for the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (GHC), 2016 and 2017 Conferences. Lee is a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Lee enjoys time with her two strays, Jackie Sherrill Woodward and Andy Pandy Woodward, and entertaining with friends on the back patio. She loves to read, travel, cook, go to the movies, and study other languages.



Photography by Paul Traves, fl6photo.com

Scholarships

Congratulations to the TMCA members who applied for and were awarded scholarships for 2018! This year the TMCA Major Scholarship Awards included four Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship awards; four Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship awards; the Susan Rocha Scholarship (funded by the Bojorquez Law Firm); and individual scholarships from the following vendors: American Legal Publishing, Franklin Legal Publishing and Franklin Digital Solutions, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen (two scholarships), Municipal Code Corporation (two scholarships), Municipal Code Corporation Innovations (two scholarships), and the Underwood Law Firm.

At top, left to right: Jennifer Vetrano, city secretary and assistant to city manager, Kyle, is presented an MCCI Records Management Scholarship by Russell Haddock; Christina Cabrera, assistant city secretary, Bryan, is presented a Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship by Kirk Franklin; Slater Elza presents the Underwood Law Firm Scholarship to Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Tracylynn Garcia, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Tomball, is presented the Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson Scholarship by Karolyn Williams; Krystal Hays presents a Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship to April Hilbrich, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria. Second row, left to right: Steven Whigham presents a McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship to Tonya Hopper, city secretary, Crowell; Colleen Engle presents the American Legal Publishing Scholarship to Diane Rasor, TRMC, city administrator/city secretary, Newark; and Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, presents the Bojorquez Law Firm's Susan Rocha Scholarship to Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville.

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



Scholarships *(continued)*

Top row, left to right: Krystal Hays presents a Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship to Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Kirk Franklin presents a Franklin Digital Solutions scholarship to Tammy Lofton, city secretary, Waskom; Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley, is presented a McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship by Steven Whigham. *Second row, left to right:* Dr. Amy Holt presents a Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship to Giani Cantu, city secretary/finance director, Richwood; and presents Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarships to Ellie Monteaux, TRMC, city secretary and assistant city manager, Livingston, and Kathryn Hoover, TRMC, city secretary, Gilmer.

Not pictured/present: Kara Atwood, Lufkin—Lila Fern Martin Scholarship; Leticia Brysch, Baytown—MCCI Scholarship; Amy Dial, Royse City—Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship; Rachél Gafford, Overton—Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship; Kristi Gilbert, Argyle—Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship; Ursula Paddie, Lampasas—Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship; and Laura Rex, Big Sandy—Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship.

Thank you to this year's Scholarship Committee for their service: Chair Beth Walls, TRMC, Levelland; Janine Butler, TRMC, Littlefield; Amber Fuller, TRMC, Hubbard; Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, Grand Prairie; Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, Alamo Heights; Crystal Roan, TRMC, Webster; and Teresa Valdez, TRMC, Rockport.

Sandra Watkins Bestows Endowment For New TMCCP Election Law Seminar Scholarship



Sandra Watkins, TRMC (*speaking, above, and pictured at left with 2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC*), retired city secretary of Deer Park, presented an endowment for a scholarship for Texas Municipal Clerks attending the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Sandra is a longtime TMCA member, mentor and friend to her fellow city secretaries, and a former TMCA executive board member.

Sandra Watkins presented her endowment at the banquet

Thirty-two years ago I prayed for a position with benefits to assist me in the care of my children. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined how different my definition and God's definition of benefits would be.

He blessed me with the position of a municipal clerk at Deer Park, whose administration supported my endeavor to become a registered clerk and then maintain that designation through the years in a profession I classify up there with city managers, lawyers, county and federal legislators, and governors as administrators of law. That's what we do daily: administer laws associated with municipal governance.

While I am a very strong supporter of the TMCA certification program and encourage all municipal clerks to be members of TMCA and obtain their certification, I know that is not easy for some clerks because they don't have the administrative support—especially financial—to do so.

Having to retire earlier than anticipated and not being able to accomplish some of my goals for TMCA, I realized one of the goals I could do was assist others in their educational

endeavors by assisting with a scholarship. My number one fan and supporter, my husband Ronnie, agreed with me and so does the TMCA board.

So tonight it gives Ronnie and I great pleasure to present an endowment for an Election Law Seminar Scholarship. While all aspects of the processes covered by the TMCCP program are all important, I believe the Election Law to be number one because it is a process administered by every municipal clerk. This scholarship will enable those Texas municipal clerks with a financial need to attend an Election Law Seminar.

With the board's assistance, the guidelines will be established and applications will be accepted in 2018 for presentation of the first scholarship at the 2018 Graduate Institute Banquet.

I have a new prayer, and that is that all city administrations realize the position of their municipal clerk is the most valuable possession they have and will begin to support them in their educational endeavors which, in the end, benefits their local government.

God bless you all.

2017 TMCA Retirees

Congratulations to TMCA members who retired in 2017!

All of our TMCA retirees were announced and recognized at the annual banquet.

Linda Byers, City Secretary, Vernon

Gloria Colbath, City Secretary, Hondo

Danette Dunlap, City Secretary, Abilene

Arcelia Felix, City Secretary, Mercedes

Jeanne Heard, City Secretary

Judith Keally, City Secretary, Teague

Sherry Mashburn, City Secretary, College Station

Lori Payne, City Secretary, Southlake

Shirley Parmer, City Secretary, Chandler

Patricia Phipps, City Secretary, Friona

Linda Rhodes, City Secretary, Lake Worth

Cindy Stafford, City Secretary, Stephenville

Scarlet Swoboda, City Secretary, Victoria

JoAnn Talbot, City Secretary, Kaufman

Grace Tamez, City Secretary, Helotes

Sandra Watkins, City Secretary, Deer Park

Thank You To Our Scholarship Donors

Thank you to all those who donated toward 2017 TMCA scholarships!

Agent IT Solutions

Agent IT Solutions Scholarship

American Legal Publishing

American Legal Publishing Scholarship

Bojorquez Law Firm

Susan Rocha Scholarship

Kirk Franklin

*Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship (two) &
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

*McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship (two)
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

Municipal Code Corporation

*Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship (two)
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

MCCi

MCCi Records Management Scholarships (two)

North Texas Chapter of TMCA

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

South Plains Chapter of TMCA

Underwood Law Firm

*Underwood Scholarship
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

2017 TML Conference

October 3-6, 2017, Houston

TMCA was well-represented this year at the Texas Municipal League's annual conference in Houston. In addition to our booth presence in the exhibition hall, TMCA held the session, **"Cultivating Confidence and Presence in the Workplace."** Pictured at right: Bill Longley, TML, introduced the panel: moderator **Dr. Abraham Benavides**, UNT; Burleson mayor **Ken Sutter**; Fort Worth city secretary **Mary Kayser**, TRMC; and attorney **Alan Bojorquez**, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC.



TMCA Booth

The TMCA Booth at the TML Conference was a hit! Thank you to TML Booth Committee Chair Crystal Roan, TRMC, city secretary, Webster; the Salt Grass Chapter; and all volunteers. Our booth's giveaway item was bags of flavored popcorn with a TMCA magnet attached, and they were very popular with attendees!

Thank you to volunteers Roxanne Benitez, Missouri City; Laura Calcote, Oak Ridge North; Dayl Cooksey, Sealy; Crystal Dozier, Hunters Creek Village; Marisela Garcia, Webster; Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball; Thelma Gilliam, West University Place; Lori Hollingsworth, El Campo; Maria Jackson, Missouri City; Tomika Lewis, Stafford; Lydia Lopez, Hewitt; Michelle Perez, Friendswood; Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills; Dixie Roberts, Alvin; and Doris Speer, Tomball.

Pictured at left: TMCA Board Liaison and Missouri City City Secretary Maria Jackson, TRMC; Committee Chair and Webster City Secretary Crystal Roan, TRMC; Tomball City Secretary Doris Speer, TRMC; and Tomball Assistant City Secretary Tracylynn Garcia.

IIMC Bulletins

Congratulations to Ruby Beaven, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Rockport; Laure Ann Morgan, TRMC, assistant city manager/city secretary, Hemphill; and Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville, on receiving the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

Ruby Beaven has earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) Certification from TMCCP in 2017. Ruby has been a member of TMCA for several years.

Laure Ann Morgan earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2009 and recertified in 2014. She is a longtime member of TMCA and is a trustee on the TMCA Executive Board. She has served on the Audit, Municipal Clerk of the Year, Nominating, Resolutions, and TML Booth committees. Laure is a member of the Pineywoods Chapter of TMCA.

Mary Valenzuela earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2015. She has been a TMCA member for several years. Mary is also a member of the Coastal Bend Chapter of TMCA.

Congratulations to Kelly Edwards, TRMC, town secretary, Westlake, and Cynthia Singleton, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Hurst, on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from IIMC.

Kelly Edwards earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2004 and has recertified twice. Kelly has been a TMCA member for over 15 years. She is also a member of the North Texas Chapter of TMCA.

Cynthia Singleton earned her TRMC designation from TMCCP in 2001 and has recertified three times. She has been a member of TMCA for almost two decades, and has served on the TMCA Audit Committee. Cynthia is a member of the North Texas Chapter of TMCA.

Upcoming Education & Networking Opportunities

January 24, 2018 • Frisco, Texas

Lone Star Chapter's Athenian Dialogue: "Searching for Augusta: The Forgotten Angel of Bastogne" • [learn more](#)

January 25-26 • Frisco, Texas

TMCCP Election Law Seminar • [learn more](#)

(An optional pre-seminar session, "Step By Step: Conduct of An Election," will be held Jan. 24; separate registration)

April 4 • San Antonio, Texas

Athenian Dialogue: "The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson" • [learn more](#)

April 5-6 • San Antonio, Texas

TMCCP Open Meetings Act & Public Information Act Seminar • registration will be announced on TMCA website six weeks prior to seminar

May 20-23 • Norfolk, Virginia

IIMC Annual Conference • [learn more](#)

June 14-15 • Amarillo, Texas

TMCCP Public Funds Investment Seminar • registration will be announced on TMCA website six weeks prior to seminar

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC**
City Secretary, Leon Valley

The Alamo Chapter met on August 23 at the beautiful Voight Center in Hollywood Park.

President Sandra Passailaigue introduced Celina Perez to the group. Ms. Perez is the newest member of our group and is the new city secretary of Helotes. (Ms. Perez took the place of recently retired Grace Tamez.) Ms. Perez took a moment to greet the group and tell us all a little about herself.

Our speaker was Elizabeth McArthur, BiblioTech Administrator. Ms. McArthur gave a presentation on the upcoming 300th Centennial Celebration, upcoming plans for this celebration in the City of San Antonio, and how small cities may participate.

We had a discussion on possible amendments to our bylaws.



The Alamo Chapter at their August meeting in Hollywood Park with speaker Elizabeth McArthur, BiblioTech Administrator.

Congratulations

*Alamo Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

*Lisa Hernandez, TRMC
City Admin./Secretary, Natalia*



ALAMO CHAPTER

Via email, Peggy Cimics, City of Cibolo, submitted an amendment to be considered for the chapter's City Clerk/City Secretary of the Year Nominating Committee to consist of three members of the chapter, with meetings to be held between January and March to select a nominee to bring before the chapter in April for a vote as the chapter nominee to TMCA. Ms. Cimics recommended the nominee and the chairperson of the committee work together to submit the application to TMCA by the first week of June to meet the deadlines. Ms. Passailaigue stated the other change to the bylaws was to have the amount of dues changed from \$10.00 to \$15.00. No other changes were noted. These proposed amendments passed unanimously.

The Alamo Chapter hosted our first training seminar for all public/municipal employees. The event was on October 12 at the Leon Valley Conference Center. The training was on effective communication and was for all municipal government employees at all different professional levels.

We were privileged to have the Honorable Secretary of State Rolando Pablos as the introductory speaker welcoming attendees. He spoke to everyone about the importance of our positions with our cities. Our keynote speaker was Ms. Kelly Kuentler, Leon Valley City Manager and UTSA Adjunct Professor. Ms. Kuentler spoke to the group on the many ways we can improve communication skills inside our organizations as well as those with whom we work with from outside our organizations.



ALAMO CHAPTER

We cannot thank our sponsors enough—Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal & Zech, P.C.; Municode; and Franklin Legal Publishing—for their incredible support. We could not have done it without your help. Also, we thank those who attended and for their support of an event that started with just a few ideas.

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 TMCA Membership Committee at s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov or jreyna@alamoheightstx.gov for more information.



The Alamo Chapter at their first training seminar for all public/municipal employees. The Honorable Secretary of State Rolando Pablos (*center*) was the introductory speaker.

Members present at the August meeting were:

President Sandra Passailaigue, City of Leon Valley
 Vice President Jennifer Reyna, City of Alamo Heights;
 Treasurer Lisa Hernandez, City of Natalia
 Secretary Debra Howe, City of Castroville
 Historian Brittani Porter, City of LaVernia
 Delia Sanchez, City of Balcones Heights
 Janice Alamia, Town of Hollywood Park
 Lisa Merle, City of Balcones Heights
 Celina Perez, City of Helotes
 Susan Darst, City of Helotes
 Diane Gonzales, City of Olmos Park
 Carole Vanzant, City of Fair Oaks Ranch
 Leticia Vacek, City of San Antonio

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By **Karen Wilkerson, TRMC**

Executive Assistant, Stephenville

The Bluebonnet Chapter held their September meeting in Abilene at the Abilene Zoo and the meal was provided by the City of Abilene. On behalf of the chapter, we would like to thank Danette Dunlap, city secretary, Abilene, for hosting the meeting site and all of the work that went into getting it set up. Also, we would like to congratulate her on her recent retirement and wish her the best in whatever adventures come her way! The Bluebonnet

Photo, from left to right: TMCA President Lydia Lopez, city secretary, Hewitt; Tiffni Hererra, TRMC, asst. city secretary, Abilene; Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge; Shirley Stewart, city secretary, Eastland; Kim Bryant, city secretary, Stamford; Nan Billings, TRMC, city secretary, Bangs; Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood; Staci King, TRMC, city secretary, Stephenville; Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Abilene; Pat Martindale, city secretary (ret.), Bronte; Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, exec. assistant, Stephenville; Karen Langley, TRMC, city secretary, Coleman; Crystal Blevins, city secretary, Bronte; Kay Torres, city secretary, Rising Star; Ryan Polster, city secretary, Hamilton; and Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin.



Congratulations

*Bluebonnet Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

*Dannette Dunlap, TRMC
City Secretary, Abilene (now retired)*



BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

group would also like to thank Abilene City Councilwoman Donna Albus for taking time to come welcome everyone and give a brief history of Abilene. We would like to thank TMCA President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt, for attending the meeting and encouraging us as a chapter to think about what we might be able to do to help out our sister cities that have been hit hard by Hurricane Harvey.

Todd Cave with Cave Consulting gave a presentation on his Texas-based company dedicated to helping organizations improve their operations by leveraging the cloud, G Suite and the Google Ecosystem.

The chapter presented retiring Abilene City Secretary Danette Dunlap with her retirement blanket from TMCA (*pictured at right*).

The chapter had the normal reading of the minutes and treasurer's report. Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin, and Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee will be working on the changes to our by-laws. Kim Bryant, city secretary, Stamford and Karen Wilkerson, executive assistant, Stephenville will serve on nominating committee for the 2018 officers. Ryan Polster, city secretary, Hamilton, and Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin, will serve on the nominating committee for Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year. Kay Torres, Robert Lee, and Karen Wilkerson, Stephenville, will serve on the scholarship committee; deadline to apply is December 1.

The Bluebonnet Chapter meetings for 2018 will be: March—Stamford, June—Brownwood (moved to Thursday the 14th so we can meet at Underwood), September—Dublin, and December—Stephenville. The chapter meets each quarter on the second Wednesday at noon and we would love for you to be a part of our chapter! Our next meeting will be in December at Hamlin.



Retiring Abilene City Secretary Danette Dunlap, TRMC, with her embroidered commemorative blanket from TMCA.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Seth Gipson, TRMC**
City Secretary, Hutto

The Capital Chapter met on September 13 at the City of Cedar Park City Hall Campus with 14 members and 2 guests present. LeAnn Quinn, City Secretary, Cedar Park, hosted the group. The attendees enjoyed lunch and a presentation by Jennie Huerta, Media and Communications Manager, concerning the evolution of news media, the news cycle, and tips for interacting with the news media.

Following the presentation, the business meeting began and the membership was presented with both the Capital Chapter's TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee—Jannette Goodall, TRMC, city secretary, Austin—and the Capital Chapter Clerk of the Year—Jamie Lee Case, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos. The chapter also heard updates from the current subcommittee representatives.

The next Capital Chapter meeting will be held on December 6 in Cameron.



Melissa Perry, Karen Thompson, Christine Martinez, LeAnn Quinn, and Jennifer Stubbs

Congratulations

*Capital Chapter
Municipal Clerk
of the Year Nominee*

*Jannette Goodall, TRMC
City Clerk, Austin*



*Capital Chapter
Chapter Clerk
of the Year*

*Jamie Lee Case, TRMC
City Clerk,
San Marcos*



CAPITAL CHAPTER

Please contact Chapter President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, at jbellingercityofbrenham.org, if you would like to join or would like more information concerning the TMCA Capital Chapter.

Those in attendance at the September meeting:

President Jeana Bellinger, City Secretary, Brenham

Secretary Seth Gipson, City Secretary, Hutto

Historian Lucretia Alvarez, former City Secretary, Elgin

Rachel Austin, City Secretary, Jonestown

Christine Martinez, Retired City Secretary, Round Rock & Hutto

Betty Brown, Retired City Secretary, Leander

Melissa Perry, City Secretary, Jarrell

Nicole Vicuna, City Secretary, Volente

LeAnn Quinn, City Secretary, Cedar Park

Dara Crabtree, City Secretary, Leander

Debora Penberg, Deputy City Secretary, Leander

Karen Thompson, City Secretary, Pflugerville

Jennifer Stubbs, Assistant City Secretary, Pflugerville

JoAnn Touchstone, City Secretary, Lakeway

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 27, 2017. The City of Hubbard hosted the meeting at their Civic Center. Jana Lewellen, President of the Central Texas Chapter, City Secretary, Robinson, welcomed everyone and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by City of Hubbard staff, Amber Fuller and Taylor Weatherby.

Dorothy Jackson, Regional and Economic Development Manager, HOTCOG, gave a presentation regarding EDA grants. Althea Wall, City Secretary, Morgan's Point Resort introduced new chapter member, Janet Sheguit with BSP Engineers. Lydia Lopez, City Secretary, City of Hewitt explained the Texas Municipal Clerks Association seeking donations to help Hurricane Harvey victims.



Congratulations

Central Texas Chapter
Municipal Clerk
of the Year Nominee

Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt



Central Texas Chapter
Chapter Clerk
of the Year

Althea Wall
City Secretary,
Morgan's Point Resort



CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

The chapter discussed the upcoming TMCCP Election Law seminar in January 2018. Finally, chapter members provided updates of activities, events, and other news about their cities.

Upcoming chapter meeting dates: December – Chapter Christmas Party – location to be announced; March – City of Woodway.

Chapter members present at the September meeting:

President, Jana Lewellen, City Secretary, Robinson

Secretary, Amber Fuller, City Secretary, Hubbard

Althea Wall, City Secretary, Morgan's Point Resort

Michelle Hicks, City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview

Esmeralda Hudson, City Secretary, Waco

Lydia Lopez, City Secretary, Hewitt

Donna Barkley, City Secretary, Woodway

Patricia Ervin, Interim City Secretary, Bellmead

Janet Sheguit, BSP Engineers

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Rebecca L. Huerta, TRMC**
City Secretary, Corpus Christi

Greetings from the Coastal Bend Chapter! This quarter, our chapter attended the 2017 Texas Municipal League conference in Houston. We enjoyed the conference, especially the session sponsored by TMCA entitled “Cultivate Confidence and Presence in the Workplace,” where the photo at right was taken.

The conference also served as a respite from the pressures and demands of dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. In

Photo: At the 2017 Texas Municipal League Conference in October. *From left to right:* Shelley George, Allen; Marie Balthrop, Holliday; Paul Pierce, Corpus Christi; TMCA President Lydia Lopez, Hewitt; Mary Valenzuela, Kingsville; and Irma Parker, Port Aransas.



Congratulations

*Coastal Bend Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

*Rebecca Huerta, TRMC
City Secretary, Corpus Christi*



COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

late August, Hurricane Harvey made landfall just north of Corpus Christi as a Category 4 storm, devastating the Coastal Bend communities of Rockport, Ingleside, Aransas Pass, Refugio and Port Aransas, among others. We enjoyed seeing each other, sharing our experiences, and counting our blessings. Our communities face a long, hard road as we rebuild, and city secretaries are an integral part of this process. Like other city employees affected by the storm, we are meeting our work responsibilities as we rebuild our communities, despite the difficulties we face personally to rebuild our lives. We have a long, hard road ahead of us, yet together we will overcome. We could not do it without the tremendous support we have received across the state, nationally, and internationally. We thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and assistance during this challenging time.

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

Coastal Bend Chapter attendees at the TML Conference were as follows:

Irma Parker, City of Port Aransas

Mary Valenzuela, City of Kingsville

Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, Corpus Christi

Teresa Valdez, City of Rockport

Paul Pierce, Assistant City Secretary, Corpus Christi

Kimberly Sampson, City of Ingleside

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Kelly Dix**
City Secretary, Burnet

Summer days... budget haze! The Hill Country Chapter met in October at Hondo's in Fredericksburg, and enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the cool fall weather on the patio and celebrated the end of the budget cycle.

Many of our chapter clerks were attending the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar and TMCA Annual Banquet to root for City Secretary Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary/HR manager, Granite Shoals, as our Hill Country Chapter nominee for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year! Elaine also serves as the current vice president of the Hill Country Chapter. Elaine is a hardworking, dedicated professional that is most deserving of this award!

Chapter President Toni Milam presented Elaine with a certificate at the June meeting of the city council in Granite Shoals.



Chapter President Toni Milam and Capital Chapter Municipal Clerk for the Year nominee Elaine Simpson.



Congratulations

*Hill Country Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

*Elaine Simpson, TRMC
City Secretary/HR Mgr., Granite Shoals*



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

What a great group of ladies representing our Hill Country Chapter!

The Hill Country Chapter is holding our next meeting in December for our annual Christmas event at Andy's in Fredericksburg.

To join the Hill Country Chapter, please contact President Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano, at tmilam@cityofllano.com.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Shelley George, TRMC**
City Secretary, Allen

The Lone Star Chapter met in August and September. On August 2, the chapter meeting was hosted by the Town of Fairview at the Wild Salsa restaurant. The chapter held its election of officers and adopted a budget for FY 2017-2018. On September 6, the chapter meeting was hosted by the City of Allen at City Hall. TMCA President Lydia Lopez attended and conducted the installation of officers. The chapter officers for FY2017-2018 are: President Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; President-Elect Rene Dowl, TRMC, city secretary, Garland, Treasurer Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Secretary Kristi Morrow, assistant city secretary, Frisco; and Historian Elizabeth “Liz” Cappon, city secretary, Fairview.



Congratulations

*Lone Star Chapter
 Municipal Clerk
 of the Year Nominee*

*Susie Quinn, TRMC
 City Secretary, Murphy*



*Lone Star Chapter
 Member of the Year*

*Alice Snyder, TRMC
 Asst. City Secretary,
 Plano*



LONE STAR CHAPTER

On September 13, 86 people attended the chapter's bi-annual Records Workshop titled "Working with Records" at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center in Garland. The sessions featured "Guidance on Managing Government Records: A Foundation" presented by Megan Carey, Government Information Analyst with the Texas State Library; "Break Emergency Management—Records Recovery" presented by Karen Adkins, Emergency Management Coordinator with the City of McKinney; "Police Records" presented by



Tamara Smith, attorney with the Texas Attorney General; and "Public Information Costs Estimates" presented by Tamara Smith, attorney with the Texas Attorney General. Special thanks to our sponsors who helped make the seminar a success: Databank, Franklin Legal, and Records Consultants, Inc.

Please join us as a member or guest at our next chapter meeting and holiday party on December 6 at the City of Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho, Richardson.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Norma Cantu, TRMC**
Executive Assistant for City Manager, Weslaco



The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter met on September 20 at the City of Alton with special speaker Yvonne Ramon from Hidalgo County Elections Department. Ms. Ramon talked about the new equipment (DRT Voting Machines) that will be used for the November election and all future elections. She also mentioned what it takes to become a clerk and/or judge for the elections and touched base on leasing the voting machines or obtaining a full contract with her division. Ms. Ramon’s staff showed Historian Norma Cantu how to use the new voting machines. This year the Hidalgo Elections Department will implement a county-wide polling place locations which will make it more convenient for the voter.

Following the presentation, the business meeting began and attendees enjoyed lunch provided by the City of Alton.



At the September chapter meeting with speaker Yvonne Ramon.

Congratulations

*Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

*Arcelia Felix, TRMC
 City Secretary, Mercedes (now retired)*



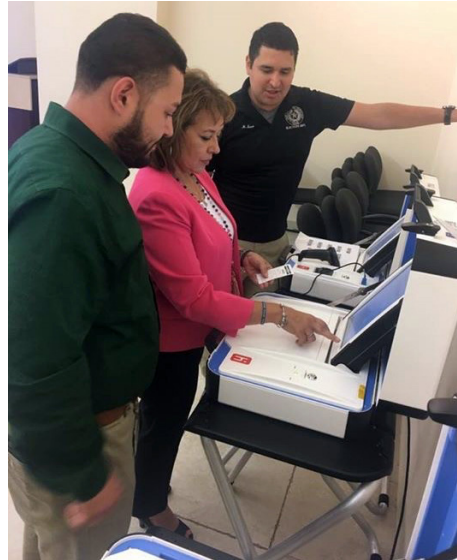
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

The Lower Rio Grande Chapter next met on October 18 at the City of Pharr. The attendees enjoyed lunch and a presentation by Alan Ozuna of Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal & Zech, PC. Mr. Ozuna informed us on the legislative changes to the Texas Public Information Act. Topics discussed were changes effective September 1 to:

- HB 523
- HB 3107
- Amends 552.221 (10 day requirement)
- 552.261 (authorization to charge)
- 552.275 (limitation on employee time)
- 552.3215 (complaints to district or county attorney)

After the presentation, the chapter discussed a future training session early next year on “Records Management.” The chapter also discussed the chapter survey and how to encourage other local city clerks to attend the monthly meeting. We strive to provide educational opportunities as well as we network with other city clerks on issues that our cities encounter.

For those wishing to join the LRGV Chapter please contact President Ana M. Valdez at citysecretary@cityofpenitas.com. 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.



Above left: Norma Cantu testing a new voting machine. Above right: Speaker Yvonne Ramon.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP CITIES:

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, Sullivan City, Weslaco



At left: The chapter at their October meeting in Pharr. At top: The chapter with speaker Alan Ozuna. Above: Speaker Alan Ozuna.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Sheila Morales, TRMC**
 Town Secretary, Copper Canyon

Greetings TMCA Members!

The NTMCA had a great FY 16-17 under the leadership of President Carol Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake. Carol led by example (through her commitment to the association, her dedication to accomplishing the necessary tasks, and working many hours to complete what needed to be done.) She was always ready to help when

Front row, left to right: Amy Shelley (Colleyville), Monica Solko (Lake Worth), Carol Borges (Southlake), Sheila Morales (Copper Canyon), Laura Bell (Addison). Middle row: Art Camacho (Haltom City), Christine Green (University Park), Shannon Montgomery (Rhome), Kim Sutter (Euless), Diane Callahan (retired), Alicia Richardson (North Richland Hills), Ron Gonzales (Fort Worth). Back row: Kristi Gilbert (Argyle), Aimee Nemer (Richardson), Lindsay Wells (Euless), Traci Henderson (North Richland Hills), Tammy Dixon (Bartonville), Theresa Scott (Flower Mound), Laurie Garber (Carrollton).



Congratulations

North Texas Chapter
 Municipal Clerk
 of the Year Nominee

Kim Sutter, TRMC
 City Secretary, Euless



North Texas Chapter
 Chapter Clerk
 of the Year

Mary Kayser, TRMC
 City Secretary,
 Fort Worth



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

anyone had a question. We're thankful for Carol's leadership and the addition she made to our chapter's strong foundation.

Congratulations to three of our members who over the last few months earned additional professional certifications. Alicia Richardson, TRMC, (North Richland Hills) and Erika McComis (Bridgeport) received their CMC designation and Theresa Scott, TRMC, (Flower Mound) received her MMC designation. These certifications require many years of education and municipal experience. Great job, ladies! Congratulations also to Yael Forgey (Azle) and Erika McComis, TRMC, (Bridgeport) who passed TMCCP exams in August. Erika has now completed her certification, and holds the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk designation.

Over the last few months, thanks to the commitment of our members and their involvement in our Association, we've enjoyed two educational opportunities and completed various "housekeeping" items.

Many thanks to Laurie Garber, city secretary, Carrollton, for hosting our August meeting at the Indian Creek Golf Club in Carrollton. The view from the dining area, overlooking the golf course, was beautiful. The meeting was very productive as we voted on Fiscal Year 17-18's slate of officers, discussed changes to the by-laws, and considered Fiscal Year 17-18's budget. Many thanks to the Nominating, By-Laws, and Budget Committees for their work this year.



Carol Borges (Southlake), Kevin Falconer (Mayor of Carrollton), and Laurie Garber (Carrollton)



From left to right: Erika McComis, TRMC, (Bridgeport) and Alicia Richardson, TRMC (North Richland Hills) received their CMC designation; Theresa Scott, TRMC (Flower Mound) received her MMC designation.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

In October, our members met for our monthly luncheon in the small town of Copper Canyon. Christina's Mexican Food catered the lunch and based on the hush of the room, it sounded as if everyone enjoyed the food. Our guest speaker, Rachel Huitt, Human Resource Director for the City of Colleyville, clearly communicated everything each of us should know regarding 'Performance Evaluations'. The presentation was detailed, extremely informative and very applicable.



So, Fiscal Year 17-18 has started. New membership registrations are coming in and members have been quick to volunteer to either serve on one of our ten committees or to chair one of the committees. Their willingness to serve and help is so appreciated. This year's board includes Amy Shelley (Southlake) as vice president, Monica Solko (Lake Worth) as treasurer, Kristi Gilbert (Argyle) as secretary, Christine Green (University Park) as historian, and me as president. I look forward to working with them as a board and look forward to working more closely with all of our members.

Inset: Speaker Rachel Huitt, HR Director for the City of Colleyville.

Top right: NTMCA Chapter Board (left to right, front row): Monica Solko (Lake Worth), Sheila Morales (Copper Canyon), Amy Shelley (Southlake). *Back row:* Christine Green (University Park), Kristi Gilbert (Argyle).

Near right (left to right, front row): Christine Green (University Park), Amy Shelley (Southlake), Sheila Morales (Copper Canyon), Monica Solko (Lake Worth), Kristi Gilbert (Argyle). *Middle row:* Shannon Montgomery (Rhome), Diane Cockrell (Decatur), Peggy Burnside (TMCA), Miriam Sheehan (TMCA). *Back row:* Theresa Scott (Flower Mound), Dianna Buchanan (Haslet), Lauri Garber (Carrollton), Laura Bell (Addison), Aimee Nemer (Richardson), Lisa Cabrera (Joshua), Art Camacho (Haltom City).



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Doris Crockett**
City Secretary, Bullard

A personalized sign indicated who the speaker was for the Northeast Texas Chapter meeting on September 15, and directed attendees to the Bullard First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in the City of Bullard. It was our pleasure to have TML’s Scott Houston, Deputy Executive Director, Policy and General Counsel, as our scheduled speaker. He had graciously scheduled to speak to our chapter almost a year in advance due to the Legislative Session and his demanding schedule. Scott spoke on “Legislative Updates,” which is always a popular and necessary topic!



Above: Scott Houston and Chapter President Doris Crockett

The invitation for our September meeting was also extended to the East Texas City Managers’ Association and to each city’s mayor, council, and staff. Twenty-six cities were represented with 80 people in attendance. Our speaker drew this large audience! (We knew it would, so we had to have a venue in our small town that would accommodate the large group!) As expected, many positive comments were received regarding his presentation. All of us appreciate Scott and the League’s work on behalf of our cities.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Following a buffet lunch, attendees were invited to tour the outstanding American Freedom Museum on the campus of The Brook Hill School, an independent Christian day/boarding college preparatory PREK-12 school in Bullard with a current enrollment of 674. This museum traces the American military heritage with artifacts & equipment from the 1700s to the present illuminating the American experience during crucial moments in our nation's history. The museum's mission: honor American veterans and military personnel for the sacrifices they have made for our freedoms; educate this and future generations about our rich heritage; and inspire others to achieve greatness. (It had also been our chapter's honor to previously host former Texas Secretary of State Carlos Cascos at this venue.)

Our next chapter meeting will be a holiday luncheon meeting in Tyler in December at the home of Chapter President Doris Crockett. We invite members of our profession in our area to join our chapter. For information, please contact Chapter Secretary Kristan Kahler (Ore City) at cityoforecity@etex.net or Chapter President Doris Crockett (Bullard) at dcrockett@bullardtexas.net.

Above right: Attendees at the meeting. *Near right:* Bullard City Manager Jay Abercrombie, Scott Houston, and Chapter President Doris Crockett at the American Freedom Museum.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Machiel Covey, TRMC**

City Secretary, Clarendon

Since the last newsletter, the Panhandle Chapter met twice: August 24 and October 19 for our bi-monthly meetings at Red River Streak House and the Amarillo Club in Amarillo.

The August meeting was called to order by President Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa, which was followed by a round table discussion session.

Legislative updates were discussed, including new laws for the small node dishes and distance requirements for sex offenders.

At the chapter's October business meeting. *From left to right:* Nelwyn Ward, Frances Hibbs, Veronica Willburn, Machiel Covey, Karen Price, Stella Sauls, Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, Kimberly Sloat, Karen Price, Kristina Solomon, Kim Fowler, Charlene Gardner, and Gretchen Mercer.



Congratulations

*Panhandle Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee
Municipal Clerk of the Year*

*Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC
City Sec./Asst. City Mgr., Spearman*



PANHANDLE CHAPTER

President Karen Price distributed the amended bylaws of the Panhandle Chapter and the newly created “Committees Responsibilities and Procedures Manual” that she and Vice President Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian, had been working on.

The bylaws were reviewed accepted. The “Committees’ Responsibilities and Procedures Manual” was reviewed. The chapter adopted “Chapter 6, A. Nominations—changing the deadline for submitting nominations of the Chapter Clerk of the Year from August 1 to October 1.”

Gruver City Secretary Lynn Vela will be getting married to Daniel French on October 21! We are all very happy for her.

Chapter Secretary Machiel Covey, TRMC, city secretary, Clarendon, will chair the Chapter Clerk of the Year Committee and recruit two members to the board.

The October meeting was called to order by President Karen Price, which was followed by legislative updates given by our guest speaker, State Representative Four Price.

Representative Price, a fourth generation Texan from Amarillo, is serving in his fourth term in the Texas House of Representatives where he has the privilege of advocating for constituents residing in five Panhandle counties: Carson, Hutchinson, Moore, Potter, and Sherman. Representative Price has authored and passed significant legislation, including increasing protections for children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities; empha-



At the TMCCP Legislative Update in August. *From left to right:* Rosa Mendez, Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, Machiel Covey, Kimberly Sloat, and Lynn Vela.

PANHANDLE CHAPTER

sizing brain health and concussion prevention among public school student athletes; directing the reorganization of several major state agencies; promoting groundwater conservation; and creating a state day of recognition honoring Gold Star Mothers. Also, for the 2012-2015 review cycles, Price, as a member of the Sunset Advisory Commission, helped reform the operations of over 40 state agencies. He informed our chapter that Texas is the tenth largest economy worldwide! Mr. Price spoke about being a member of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Board and its functions that serve the Panhandle counties. Mr. Price discussed the 2017 Legislative Session, which began on the second Tuesday in January and lasted for 140 days. Mental health and telemedicine were top issues, along with drone regulations, ride sharing regulations, and a bill banning sanctuary cities. Mr. Price stated that fewer bills were passed this year than in previous sessions all the way back to 1881. One of Price's favorite quotes is from President Ronald Reagan, who said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It has to be fought for and defended by each generation."

The nominating committee which consisted of Gretchen Mercer, Stella

Sauls, and Kim Rehkopf, announced the 2018-2019 slate of officers: President Kimberly Sloat, Vice President Machiel Covey, Secretary Lynn Vela, Treasurer Kristina Solomon, and Historian Karen Price. The slate of officers was approved.



State Representative Four Price

President Price opened discussion on chapter meeting dates for 2018. The chapter approved the following dates: February 15, April 19, and June 13, August 16, October 18, and December 20.

The first three meetings will be held in Amarillo: at Youngblood's Restaurant in February; at Joe Taco in April; and at the Embassy Suites in June.

Patricia Phipps, City Manager/City Secretary from Friona, will be retiring on December 31, 2017. The chapter agreed to purchase a retirement gift and present it to her at the December meeting.

We had five members attend the August TMCCP Legislative Update seminar in San Marcos.

We will be having our annual Christmas Party at the December 14 meeting and will have a gift exchange with a \$25 limit.

PANHANDLE CHAPTER

Secretary Covey read a 1934 quote by political scientist and professor William Bennet Munro she found the TMCA Texas-MunicipalClerks Yahoo Group:

Office of the City Secretary

No other office in municipal service has so many contacts. It serves the mayor, the city council, the city manager, and all administrative departments without exception. All of them call upon it, almost daily, for some service or information. Its work is not spectacular, but it demands versatility, alertness, accuracy, and no end of patience. The public does not realize how many loose ends of city administration this office pulls together.

Our next meeting— our annual Christmas Party—is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, at 11:00 a.m. at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo.

If you are interested in attending a meeting or joining the TMCA Panhandle Chapter, please contact Machiel Covey: 806-874-3437 or m.covey@cityofclarendontx.com.

Members in attendance at chapter meetings:

President Karen Price, TRMC, City Secretary, Pampa

Vice President Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, City Secretary, Canadian

Secretary Machiel Covey, TRMC, City Secretary, Clarendon

Treasurer Kristina Solomon, City Secretary, Tulia

Historian Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, Asst. City Mgr. / City Secretary, Spearman

Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, City Secretary, Canyon

Nelwyn Ward, City Secretary, Memphis

Stella Sauls, TRMC, City Secretary, Borger

Kim Rehkopf, City Secretary, Dumas

Kim Fowler, City Secretary, Perryton

Lynn Vela, City Secretary, Gruver

Frances Childers, City Secretary, Dalhart

Charlene Gardner, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Pampa

Frances Hibbs, TRMC, City Secretary, Amarillo

Veronica Willburn, City Secretary, Panhandle

Guests in attendance:

Four Price, State Representative

James Mercer

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Amy Anderson, TRMC**
City Secretary, Lakeside City

The Red River Chapter has some exciting news! Our very own Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday, will be the new TMCA president for 2018. The chapter is so proud of Marie and all that she is accomplishing in her career. All of us in the chapter say “Congratulations for this outstanding achievement.”

We also extend a big round of applause to Conchita Torrez, city secretary, Seymour, for her recognition in last month’s newsletter. “Way to go, Conchita!”

Our chapter held our quarterly meeting on September 20 at Johnny Carino’s. Todd Cave with Cave Consulting presented the chapter with all the latest and greatest options for websites and website management.

Members of the Red River Chapter:

- Amy Anderson, City Secretary, City of Lakeside City
- Marie Balthrop, City Secretary, City of Holliday
- Tracy Bankston-Smith, Admin. Asst., City of Lakeside City
- Kia Boone, Deputy City Clerk, City of Wichita Falls
- Christy Bradshaw, City Secretary, City of Vernon
- Sherri Davis, City Secretary, City of Saint Jo
- Janelle Dolan, City Secretary, City of Burkburnett
- Revell Hardison, City Secretary, City of Nocona
- Frank Hefner, City Secretary, City of Bryson
- Kim Hemmi, City Secretary, City of Scotland
- Tim Houston, City Secretary, City of Olney
- Tracey Lowe, City Secretary, City of Electra
- Cathy Mills, City Secretary, City of Henrietta
- Holly Moss, City Secretary, City of Megargel
- Janice Newman, City Secretary, City of Iowa Park
- Tracy Norr, City Clerk, City of Wichita Falls
- Sandy Page, City Secretary, City of Bowie
- Brenda Riggs, City Secretary, City of Quanah
- Pam Sereika, City Secretary, City of Alvord
- Marsha Jo Stone, City Secretary, City of Chillicothe
- Brenda Tarpley, City Secretary, City of Jacksboro
- Conchita Torrez, City Secretary, City of Seymour
- Kim Whitsitt, City Secretary, City of Archer City

Congratulations

*Red River Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

*Marie Balthrop, TRMC
 City Secretary, Holliday*



RED RIVER CHAPTER

The chapter is currently working on paying it forward with our annual Christmas project. Each year we adopt a family in need and provide them with the necessary items to get back on their feet.

Our next meeting will be held December 6 at Johnny Carino's. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings. You will be welcomed with a smile and a hug.

For more information about the chapter, please contact Tracy Norr, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls, at tracy.norr@wichitafallstx.gov.



Congratulations to 2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC (*at right*), city secretary, Holliday, and Conchita Torrez, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour, for representing the Red River Chapter with excellence!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Marisela Garcia, TRMC**
 Deputy City Secretary, Webster

Salt Grass Chapter Meeting in Spring Valley Village

The Salt Grass Chapter returned from its summer hiatus with a well-attended meeting on August 9 in Spring Valley Village. Spring Valley Village City Administrator Julie Robinson greeted the members and visitors on behalf of the City of Spring Valley. Alexander Dailey, director of community engagement, Big Brothers Big Sisters, presented a program on mentoring in our communities.



Attendees at the Salt Grass Chapter’s “Public Information Act Seminar” in October

Congratulations

*Salt Grass Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

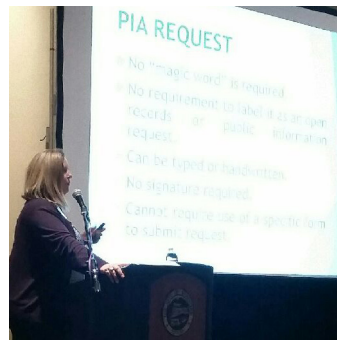
*Crystal Roan, TRMC
 City Secretary, Webster*



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Salt Grass Chapter Hosts 16th Annual Public Information Act Seminar and Salt Grass Chapter Meeting at the Stafford Centre

On September 13 the Salt Grass Chapter hosted its 16th annual “Public Information Act Seminar” at the Stafford Centre. The speakers were Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville; Akilah Mance, attorney, Olson and Olson, LLP; and



Leah Hayes, attorney, Olson and Olson, LLP. They presented the basics of public information; processing public information requests; cost estimates; notes, IMs, Tweets, Facebook posts, PMs, etc., during council meetings; Section 552.108; certain law enforcement, corrections, and prosecutorial information; and new Texas Public Information Act Legislation. There were approximately 102 attendees.

Immediately following the seminar, the Salt Grass Chapter held its meeting. President Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and thanked the City of Stafford for hosting both the seminar and the Salt Grass meeting.



Above: Speakers Leah Hayes and Akilah Mance, attorneys, Olson and Olson, LLP.
Inset: Speaker Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Salt Grass Meeting in Hunters Creek Village

The Salt Grass Chapter held its October 11 meeting at the Houston Racquet Club in Hunters Creek. Chapter President Doris Speer, TRMC, called the meeting to order and introduced Mayor Jim Pappas, who welcomed those in attendance.

Craig Roberts, Rhonda Williams, and Deborah Johnson, Gerald Franklin Agency, presented the “2018 Legislative Update” for the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and how those changes affect the marketplace.



Following the presentation, reports were received from the Nominating Committee, Policy & Procedures Manual Committee, Annual Public Information Act Seminar Committee, and Scholarship Committee. Present membership unanimously approved the slate of officers for the chapter’s November 8 election, and revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of City Clerks and Secretaries for the Salt Grass Chapter. Donation of funds to the TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd, TMCA Lila Fern Martin, and TMCA Dr. Joyce Snay scholarships, and to the TMCA 2017 president travel stipend fund were approved unanimously. The chapter accepted a generous

Top right: Chapter President Doris Speer calls the October meeting to order. *Center and near right:* Members at the October meeting. *Inset:* Gerald Franklin Agency Liaison Craig Roberts.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

donation on behalf of the Lone Star Chapter for Salt Grass Chapter members who were flooded and/or were displaced due to Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath. The Salt Grass Chapter provided assistance to six of their fellow members.

The next Salt Grass Chapter meeting was set for November 8 in Fulshear at Fulshear City Grill. 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 Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball, at dspeer@tomballtx.gov.

Members in attendance at the October Salt Grass meeting were:

Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village
 Shannon Bennett, TRMC, City Secretary, Deer Park
 Susan Blevins, City Administrator/City Secretary, Hilshire Village
 Missy Bunch, TRMC, City Secretary, Katy
 Laura Calcote, City Secretary, Oak Ridge North
 Crystal Dozier, TRMC, City Secretary, Hunters Creek Village
 Marisela Garcia, TRMC, City Secretary, Webster
 Tracylynn Garcia, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, Tomball
 Sharon Harris, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, La Porte
 Maria Jackson, TRMC, City Secretary, Missouri City
 Kelly Johnson, City Administrator/City Secretary, Hedwig Village
 Tomika Lewis, TRMC, City Secretary, Stafford
 Becky McGrew, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, Katy
 Lisa Modisette, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, Hedwig Village
 Jennifer Namie, honorary member, Olson & 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
 Angela Smith, City Secretary, Cleveland
 Doris Speer, TRMC, City Secretary, Tomball
 Heather Van Dine, TRMC, Records Clerk, Friendswood
 Karen Vannerson, honorary member, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP
 Britique Williams, City Secretary, Bunker Hill

Others present were:

Sonia Acosta, Records Technician, Deer Park
 Mindy Barger, Open Government Specialist, Friendswood
 Kim Dickey, City Secretary, Prairie View
 Shawna Jones, Administrative Assistant, La Porte

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Kim Perez, TRMC**
City Secretary, Ralls

Hello from the South Plains Chapter members!

The South Plains Chapter held their quarterly meeting in Lubbock on September 20 at the Reese Technology Center. The meeting was hosted by Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary/HR director, Levelland.

Chapter President Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal, called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker Murvat Musa. Murvat Musa is the former city administrator for Ransom Canyon and is now the Executive Director for Reese Technology Center. She informed us of the history and creation of Reese Technology Center, which was Reese Air Force Base from 1942–1997. Murvat gave us insight about the Center and shared valuable information that many

us of were unaware of. Reese Technology Center now has a variety of tenants, including South Plains College, Texas Tech University, and a police training center.

The South Plains Chapter Annual Seminar was held on July 12, and had 23 people in attendance. Dr. Terry Waldren presented “Understanding and Working with Generational Differences and Personality Styles.” A special thank you goes out to Franklin Legal Publishing for providing lunch and to Ransom Canyon for the use of their facility.

Our next meeting is set for December 20, 2017, and will be hosted by Lillian Atkinson, city secretary, Dickens. If you would like to join us please contact Kim Perez at kim@cityofralls.org.

Congratulations

*South Plains Chapter
 Municipal Clerk
 of the Year Nominee*

*Brenda Shaw, TRMC
 City Secretary, Morton*



*South Plains Chapter
 Chapter Clerk
 of the Year*

*Beth Walls TRMC
 City Sec./HR Dir.,
 Levelland*



SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Members in attendance at the September meeting:

Selia Arellano, City of Floydada
Lillian Atkinson, City of Dickens
Jo Ann Beard, TRMC, City of Smyer
Angie Briones, City of Seagraves
Janine Butler, TRMC, City of Littlefield
Zanea Carpenter, TRMC, City of Muleshoe
Sue Castles, Xcel Energy
Toni Chrestman, TRMC, City of Slaton
Betty Conde, City of Lamesa
Ida Davis, City of Levelland
Lora Dockery, City of Sundown
Kirk Franklin, Franklin Publishing
LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, City of Muleshoe
Becky Garza, TRMC, City of Lubbock
Jodie House, City of Crosbyton
Patricia Isaguirre, City of Hale Center
Monica Longoria, City of Lorenzo
Rosa Mendez, City of Friona
Courtney Paz, City of Lubbock
Laura Paz, City of Floydada
Kim Perez, TRMC, City of Ralls
Elena Quintanilla, TRMC, City of Ransom Canyon
Pam Rowe, TRMC, City of Plains
Brenda Shaw, TRMC, City of Morton
Belinda Terrell, City of Whiteface
Sharon Trumble, City of New Deal
Beth Walls, TRMC, City of Levelland

Guests:

Maria Hatchett, City of Lamesa, Retired
Toni Wilson, City of Sundown, Retired
Alan Bojorquez, Attorney

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

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

The West Texas Chapter held their quarterly meeting September 20 hosted by the City of Andrews at The Barn Door Steakhouse in Odessa. Chapter President Norma Grimaldo called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves and which city they represented.

President Grimaldo introduced guest speaker TMCA President Lydia Lopez, City of Hewitt.

Ms. Lopez spoke about her goals as President for TMCA wanting to reach out to chapters getting their input on recommendations, awareness, knowledge

The West Texas Chapter at their September meeting. *Back row:* Amy Turner, City of Midland; TMCA President Lydia Lopez, City of Hewitt; Karla Mata, City of Midland; Crystal Montez, City of Odessa. *Front row:* West Texas Chapter President Norma Grimaldo, City of Odessa; Renee Lee, City of Rankin; Miriam Watson, City of Rankin; Diana Franco, City of Kermit; Sara Copeland, City of Andrews; and SueAnn Lopez, City of Midland.



Congratulations

*West Texas Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee*

*Amy Turner, TRMC
 City Secretary, Midland*



WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

and thoughts to improve the program. She also asked members to find reasons why we are grateful, be positive and strong, don't take things for granted, and be helpful to others in need. Her speech was an inspiration, making us all think how lucky we are with all these tragedies going on around us.

In other matters of business Chapter President Norma Grimaldo discussed business by approving minutes, treasurer's report, and

payment of bills. President Grimaldo also mentioned Crystal Montez, City of Odessa, had passed a TMCCP exam in August, SueAnn Lopez, City of Midland, has only two more TMCCP exams to take, and Karla Mata, City of Midland, has started Course 1 of TMCCP. Congratulations, ladies.

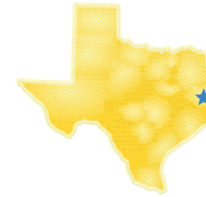
The next quarterly meeting was scheduled to be hosted by Diana Franco, City of Kermit, on November 15.

TMCA Chapters



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

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LONE STAR CHAPTER

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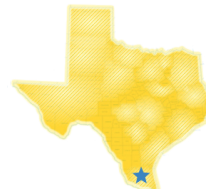
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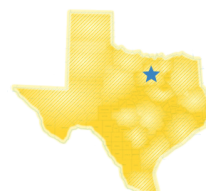
SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Doris Speer, TRMC, President
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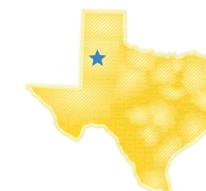
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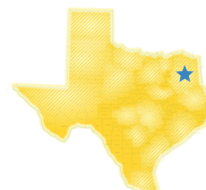
SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

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CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

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NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

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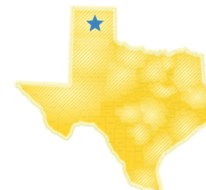
WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

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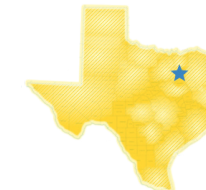
COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

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PANHANDLE CHAPTER

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YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

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2018 TMCA Executive Board & Committees

Exec. Board

<p>President Marie Balthrop City Secretary, Holliday 940-586-1313 marie.balthrop@hollidaytx.org</p>	<p>President-Elect Kim Sutter City Secretary, Euless 817-685-1419 ksutter@eulesstx.gov</p>	<p>Vice Pres. Shelley George City Secretary, Allen 214-509-4105 sgeorge@cityofallen.org</p>	<p>Treasurer Aimee Nemer City Secretary, Richardson 972-744-4290 aimee.nemer@cor.gov</p>	<p>Secretary Maria Jackson City Secretary, Missouri City 281-403-8686 maria.jackson@missouricitytx.gov</p>	<p>Immediate Past Pres. Lydia Lopez City Secretary, Hewitt 254-666-6171 citysecretary@cityofhewitt.com</p>
<p>Trustee Peggy Cimics City Secretary, Cibolo 210-658-9900 pcimics@cibolotx.gov</p>	<p>Trustee Jannette Goodall City Clerk, Austin 512-974-2211 jannette.goodall@austintexas.gov</p>	<p>Trustee Amanda McCrory City Secretary, Burleson 817-426-9661 amccrory@burlesontx.com</p>	<p>Trustee Cara McPartland City Secretary, Salado 254-947-5060 cmcpartland@saladotx.gov</p>		
<p>Trustee Laure Morgan Asst. City Mgr./City Sec., Hemphill 409-787-2251 lmorgan@cityofhemphill.com</p>	<p>Trustee Christi Shivers City Secretary/Fin. Director, Mexia 254-562-4122 christis@cityofmexia.com</p>	<p>Trustee Teresa Valdez City Secretary, Rockport 361-729-2213 citysec@cityofrockport.com</p>	<p>Trustee Lee Woodward City Secretary, Huntsville 936-291-5403 lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov</p>		

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Mgmt. Committee Chair Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, City Sec., Spearman; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Dir.; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Dir.*

Committees

Advisory Management Committee

Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, Spearman, Past President, Chair
Marie Balthrop, Holliday, President
Lydia Lopez, Hewitt, Immediate Past President
Kim Sutter, Euless, President Elect
Melissa Brunner, Flatonia, Certification Committee Chair
Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.*
Dr. Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCA Education Dir.*

Audit Committee

Zanea Carpenter, Muleshoe, Chair
René Dowl, Garland
Marie Balthrop, Holliday
Cara McPartland, Salado, Board Liaison

Membership Committee

Toni Milam, Llano, Chair
Comprised of Chapter Presidents
Peggy Cimics, Cibolo, Board Liaison

Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee

Kimberly Sloat, Canadian, Chair
Roxanne Benitez, Spring Valley
Jeana Bellinger, Brenham
Hilda Pedraza, Pharr
Amy Anderson, Lakeside City
Jenny Page, Frisco
Laure Morgan, Hemphill, Board Liaison

**non-voting member*

Nominating Committee

Susie Quinn, Murphy, Chair
Kathy Hoover, Gilmer
Christi Wynn, Brownwood
Diane Cockrell, Decatur
Marie Balthrop, Holliday, President
Kim Sutter, Euless, President Elect

Open Records

Steering Committee

Jannette Goodall, Austin

Resolutions Committee

Amy Turner, Midland, Chair
Jennifer Reyna, Navasoto
Kimberly Perez, Ralls
Jo Ann Touchstone, Lakeway
Lee Woodward, Hunstville, Board Liaison

Retirement Committee

Tracy Norr, Wichita Falls, Chair
Cathy DiMaggio, Grand Prairie
Diana Gordon Offord, Fulshear
Alice Holloway, Pilot Point
Ellie Monteaux, Livingston
Teresa Valdez, Rockport, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee

Beth Walls, Levelland, Chair
Sara Copeland, Andrews
Tanya McNutt, College Station
Mary Valenzuela, Kingsville
Lisa Henderson, Plano
Doris Speer, Tomball
Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi
Norma Grimaldo, Odessa
Brenda Shaw, Morton
Christi Shivers, Mexia, Board Liaison

Technology Committee

Patrice Fogarty, La Porte, Co-Chair
Melinda Welsh, Friendswood, Co-Chair
Marisela Garcia, Webster
Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview
Jannette Goodall, Austin, Board Liaison

TML Booth Committee

Lori Cartwright, Waxahachie, Chair
Angie Wade, Ennis
Yellow Rose Chapter members
Amanda McCrory, Burleson, Board Liaison

TML Representative

Kim Sutter, Euless

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Marie Balthrop, TMCA President; Kim Sutter, TMCA Pres. Elect; and Lydia Lopez, Immediate Past President*