Newsletter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.

Vol. XXII No. 1 • March 2011

TMCA NEWS

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President's Message

What a fabulous start to 2011–the graduation of 34 new Texas Registered Municipal Clerks and the recertification of 37 clerks, and of those that recertified, six of them recertified for the *fifth* time. What an awesome achievement by all of you! Congratulations!!

The 2011 TMCCP Election Law Seminar was a great learning opportunity for the newest clerks as well as for our more veteran clerks. I don't know about you, but I always hear something new at the Election Law Seminar. Laws change, things in our city change, and the Election Law Seminar with its outstanding sessions and networking opportunities is one of the ways we keep up to date. Thank you to all the presenters for the time and effort you give



TMCA President Mary Kayser, TRMC City Secretary, Garland

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

to help all of us run the best elections we can. A big thank you to our sponsors Dale Barstow with **Municipal Code Corporation** and Kirk Franklin with **Franklin Legal Publishing**. We appreciate your support and friendship.

Our Thursday luncheon speaker at the seminar was the Honorable Ron Clark, Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Judge Clark has always been a great supporter of Texas Municipal Clerks. He authored the second, third and fourth editions of the *Texas Municipal Law and Procedure Manual*. While serving in Texas Legislature in 1999 as the Representative of Distinct 62, he recognized and promoted Texas Municipal Clerks with a proclamation read on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives. We appreciate Judge Clark's continuing support of Texas Municipal Clerks.

One of Judge Clark's favorite phrases is that the clerk's office is where the rubber meets the road in municipal government. We all know that it is certainly much easier for citizens to be involved in their local government than other levels of government. As the municipal clerk, we are often the first person someone coming to city hall comes into contact with. How do we make sure that our citizens come away with the best impression and the best service?

First, we can strive to become more involved with our city staff and councilmembers. If we understand what they are working on or concerned about, we are then better able to help our colleagues and be a better resource for our citizens.

Second, we can continue to improve ourselves. In 2010 President Pamela Schmidt gave us all a challenge to keep a copy of our TMCA **Code of Ethics** on our desk and to read it and use it as we make decisions. Part of our Code of Ethics states: "To strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of my office through independent study, courses, meetings and seminars, and through sound management practices to produce continued progress and so fulfill my responsibilities to my community." How do we do this?

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Co-Editors:

Alexandra Burke; Peggy Burnside, TRMC; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC; Joyce Snay, TRMC Submission deadline for publication in the **June** issue: **April 25, 2011**. Send articles to: alexandra.burke@unt.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We can attend a local chapter meeting. If you do not know what chapter is in your area, **click here** to see a map and contact information for the various chapters. Local chapters are a great way to get involved, stay in touch with other clerks, and find out about best practices.

Third, we can offer support in our local chapter by volunteering for committees or serving as an officer. These are great ways to hone those vital leadership skills that also help us to serve our citizens and councils and staff with confidence.

So my challenge for you is to be the best you can be in your community and your local TMCA chapter. What opportunities are out there for you? What can you give back to your community and your fellow clerks?

Don't miss the next educational TMCCP seminar opportunity:

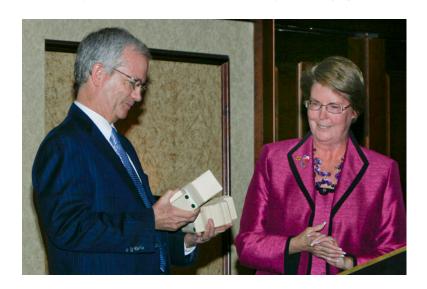
April 7-8, 2011, Tyler, Texas **"The Municipal Budget Cycle"** *Featured Speaker – Patrick Shinkle*

Mary J. Kayser, TRMC

2011 TMCA President

mkayser@garlandtx.gov

Above: Certification Program graduates at the graduation ceremony in January. Below: Keynote speaker **United States District Judge Ron Clark** is presented a token of appreciation from TMCA President **Mary Kayser, TRMC,** city secretary, Garland, on behalf of the TMCA membership. View more Election Law Seminar photos on page 11.





TMCCP SEMINARS The Municipal Budget Cycle



April 7-8, 2011 Holiday Inn—S. Broadway Tyler, Texas

With speaker Patrick Shinkle

Associate Director Center for Public Management, University of North Texas

Join us in Tyler this April for our TMCCP seminar, "The Municipal Budget Cycle," with Patrick Shinkle. Mr. Shinkle has over 17 years' experience in public funds management in Texas, including 12 years as Administrator of LOGIC and 5 years as part of the TexPool management team. He has frequently spoken on investment management, disaster recovery planning, computer security awareness, and technology related issues for such organizations as the Dallas Association for Financial Professionals, the Government Treasurers' Organization of Texas, the Texas Association of Counties, and the Texas Association of School Business Officials.

Learn more and register today! Registration is open to all. Enrollees pursuing TMCCP certification or recertification can receive seminar attendance credit; this qualifies as a Course 3 seminar.

Personnel Management



June 9-10, 2011 MCM Elegante Odessa, Texas

With speaker Dr. Abraham Benavides

Associate Professor and Assistant Chair Dept. of Public Administration, University of North Texas

Join us in Odessa this June for our TMCCP "Personnel Management" seminar with Dr. Abraham Benavides. Dr. Benavides' areas of expertise are state and local government, government management, human resource management, ethics, and diversity issues in the public sector. Currently, his research involves Hispanic city managers, ethics, structures of government and emergency response, and legal and management issues in human resources. He consults local municipalities on a number of issues.

Seminar registration will open April 11; registration is open to all. Enrollees pursuing TMCCP certification or recertification can receive seminar attendance credit; this qualifies as a Course 1 or Course 4 seminar.

Upcoming Education & Networking Opportunities

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2011 • ADDISON, TEXAS TMCCP 2011 Graduate Institute With Speaker David Reed



It is hard to believe that I am only nine months away from getting to spend time with many of you again at the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in Addison. I think often of the sessions in McAllen in 2009 and your high energy and great participation in the sessions.

One of the challenges that many of us face is leading and motivating our teams in a difficult time. Most cities are facing budget shortfalls

and we never seem to have enough staff to get the job done. During the TMCCP Graduate Institute in November, we are going to focus on leading in tough times with sessions on the following topics:

- Motivating the workforce
- Delivering difficult messages
- Holding our teams accountable
- Conflict resolution
- and Doing more with less

See you in Addison!

David Reed Customer Centered Consulting Group, Inc.

March 10, 2011 • Hurst, Texas • Learn more and register

TMCA North Texas Chapter's Professional Seminar & Business Luncheon "Records Management, Legislative Briefing, & Communication"

"The full day seminar will provide attendees information on records management, to include electronic records. A legislative update will be provided during the business luncheon meeting. The program for the afternoon focuses on communication, and we have two exceptional speakers to discuss 'Joy on the Job' and 'Face Reading.""

SPEAKERS: Sarah Jacobson, Government Information Analyst, Texas State Library & Archives; Marti Miller; and Ann Marks

March 16, 2011 • Deer Park, Texas • Learn more and register TMCA Salt Grass Chapter's "Public Information" Seminar

"The seminar will provide an overview of the Public Information Act and the Texas Notary Act."

SPEAKERS: Janice Poppenhusen, Missouri City; Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, LaPorte; Hadassah Schloss, Office of Attorney General; Scott Bounds, Olson & Olson, L.L.P.

April 7-8, 2011 • Tyler, Texas • Learn more and register

TMCCP "The Municipal Budget Cycle" Seminar with Patrick Shinkle

June 9-10, 2011 • Odessa, Texas • Registration opens April 11 TMCCP "Personnel Management" Seminar with Dr. Abraham Benavides

August 10, 2011 • Austin, Texas • Contact Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, to learn more Athenian Dialogue

August 11-12, 2011 • Austin, Texas • Registration opens June 6 TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar with Alan Bojorquez

November 3-4, 2011 • Registration opens August 8 TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar with David Reed

2011 Scholarships

By Scholarship Committee Chair **Diane Zucco, TRMC** *City Secretary, City of Plano*

Application deadline is June 15—apply today!



Diane Zucco, TRMC

Now more than ever, the responsibilities of city clerks are increasing to cover an even wider spectrum of issues. To help city clerks meet the needs of their communities, the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., offers its members educational and professional development opportunities. At the same time, we've seen the impact of current economic times as municipal governments cut training from their budgets. The TMCA scholarship program can help bridge the gap and offer you the opportunity to reach your goal of certification or recertification.

The TMCA Major Scholarships and the MCCi Records Management Scholarships represent two different opportunities. Applications can be found at the Texas Municipal Clerks website and must be received by TMCA Scholarship Committee Chair Diane Zucco by June 15 to be considered. The committee will review applications, deliberate on eligibility, and designate awards. The scholarship winners will be notified and presentation will be made at the annual TMCA Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute in Addison on November 3.

Read on for more information regarding each scholarship and apply today. We look forward to hearing from you!

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2011 SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply for a TMCA Major Scholarship Award or an MCCi Records Management Scholarship

TMCA Major Scholarship Awards

Depending on the applicant's intended use of the scholarship—TMCCP or college/ university study—the applicant may be granted a scholarship from one of the following sources, chosen by the Scholarship Committee. To apply for a TMCA Major Scholarship Award, download and submit our **application form**.

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00 each

Intended use: pursuit of either the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification/Recertification (TRMC) (including travel to and from approved seminars) or eligible college/university study **History:** The Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship was established in 1993 by the members of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., to honor Dorothy Byrd, former Executive Director of Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.

Lila Fern Martin Scholarship

Maximum amount awarded: \$1,000.00 Intended use: eligible college/university study History: The Lila Fern Martin Scholarship honors the 1958-1959 president of the Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas—the predecessor organization of TMCA.

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00 Intended use: pursuit of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification/Recertification (TRMC), including travel to and from approved seminars.

History: Established in 2008, this scholarship honors TMCCP/TMCA Education Director Dr. Joyce Snay.

Vendor Scholarships

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00

Intended use: pursuit of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) or Recertification, including travel to and from approved seminars.

History: Various donors contribute funds toward Texas Municipal Clerks scholarships in recognition of the mission of TMCA and TMCCP, which states, "TMCA and TMCCP are dedicated to providing an educational and professional development program for novice and experienced municipal clerks." Past vendor donors have included: American Legal Publishing; Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc.; Laserfiche; Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP; Municipal Code Corporation; and Questys Solutions.



MCCi Records Management Scholarship

Developed to recognize city secretaries/municipal clerks who have established outstanding systems for records management or who have improved existing systems. To apply for an MCCi Records Management Scholarship, download and submit our **application form**.

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00 in each of three categories

Intended use: Scholarship award funds are to be used for continued or advanced education in a TMCCP program or a TMCAapproved records management program (e.g., ARMA, Texas State Library, Council of Governments), including travel to and from eligible seminars.

History: The MCCi Records Management Scholarship was developed in 2006 for the purpose of recognizing city secretaries/ municipal clerks who have established outstanding systems for records management or who have improved existing systems.

2011 SCHOLARSHIPS

General Requirements

Eligible applicants shall be current paid members of TMCA and shall have been paid members of TMCA for two consecutive years previous to application for the scholarship. Applicants must be actively pursuing certification or recertification in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Applicants must have already earned the TRMC to be eligible to use the funds for a college degree.

(To learn about requirements for those pursuing a bachelor degree or graduate degree, visit our website.)

Selection Criteria

- 1. Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements.
- 2. Scholarships will be awarded based on a combination of the applicant's years of municipal service, membership in TMCA, Inc., and progress in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification/Recertification Program. For those pursuing a college or university degree, points are awarded based on the number of college hours completed.
- 3. Preference will be given to applicants who have not received a previous award.
- 4. With the exception of the MCCi Records Management Scholarship, preference will be given to 1) city secretaries or municipal clerks; 2) assistant or deputy city secretaries or municipal clerks; and 3) other TMCA, Inc., members. Applicants *must be* city secretaries/ municipal clerks to be eligible for the **MCCi Records Management Scholarship**.
- Members of the current scholarship committee are not eligible to apply for a TMCA Major Scholarship or MCCi Records Management Scholarship.

Scholarship Committee:

Chair Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano

Krisha Langton, TRMC, city secretary, Sealy

Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, Shavano Park

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

Linda Zartler, TRMC, admin. services director/city secretary, Morton

Peggy Burnside, TRMC, admin. director, TMCA/TMCCP

Board Liaison Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Submit completed form by **June 15** to:

Diane Zucco, TRMC City Secretary, City of Plano PO Box 860358, Plano, TX 75086 Fax 972-423-9587 dianez@plano.gov

Download the TMCA Major Scholarship Award application

Download the MCCi Records Management Scholarship application

2011 SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Administration

(For full information about scholarship administration, visit our website.)

The TMCA treasurer disburses scholarship funds to the recipient(s) on a cost-reimbursement basis not to exceed the amount(s) awarded. The recipient(s) shall be reimbursed for qualifying expenses incurred between January 1 and December 31 of the year following the award of scholarship. The recipient must submit original, official receipt(s) issued by TMCCP, the college, or the university to receive payment for reimbursable expenses. Reimbursable expenses depend upon the scholarship awarded. Each scholarship and eligible expenses are listed below:

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship

(for TMCCP certification/recertification or college)

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to : 1) cost of enrollment, textbooks, exam fees, seminar registration fees and travel expenses; 2) credit-hour tuition fees, (extension and correspondence courses listed in the institutional catalog that apply to the recipient(s) degree plan are acceptable); 3) building use fees; 4) student service fees; 5) identification card fees; 6) publications fees; 7) union building fees; 8) property damage fees; 9) science laboratory fees; 10) and academic department fees.

Lila Fern Martin Scholarship (for college use only)

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: 1) credithour tuition fees (extension and correspondence courses listed in the institutional catalog that apply to the recipient(s) degree plan are acceptable); 2) building use fees; 3) student service fees; 4) identification card fees; 5) publications fees; 6) union building fees; 7) property damage fees; 8) science laboratory fees; and 9) academic department fees.



Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship (for TMCCP certification/recertification)

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: 1) cost of enrollment; 2) textbooks; 3) exam fees; 4) seminar registration fees; and 5) seminar travel expenses.

Vendor Scholarships (Including the MCCi **Records Management Scholarship)**

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: 1) cost of enrollment; 2) textbooks; 3) exam fees; 4) seminar registration fees; and 5) travel to and from approved seminars. \star

For full information about the scholarships, including post award requirements, please visit our website.

2011 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year

By TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair **Cara McPartland, TRMC** *City Secretary, Village of Wimberley*

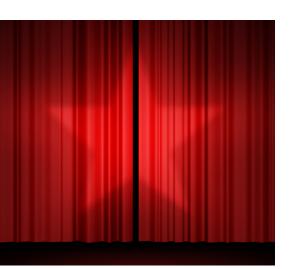
On behalf of the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, I am pleased to solicit nominations for the distinguished **2011 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year**. Each TMCA chapter is encouraged to nominate a representative for consideration; nevertheless, nominations are also ac-

cepted by individuals. This is the time to honor one of our own for the significant contributions they have made on the local and/or state level.

Your nomination(s) may be submitted to **Committee Chair Cara McPartland**, **TRMC**, City Secretary, Village of Wimberley, P.O. Box 2027, Wimberley, TX 78676; email: cmcpartland@ cityofwimberley.com.

The nomination form may be downloaded here, or you may contact the TMCA office to request the form: municlerks@unt.edu or 940-565-3488. Nomination forms will also be mailed to all TMCA chapter presidents. The deadline to submit nominations is June 15, 2011.

Members of the 2011 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee are: Chair Cara McPartland, TRMC, city secretary, Wimberley; Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia; Christie Wil-



son, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony; Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary/HR director, Cibolo; Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth; TMCA Board Liaison Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station.

The 2011 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year will be announced at the An-

nual Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute in Addison on Thursday, November 3, 2011. Make plans to attend the Awards Ceremony to support your nominee(s) and honor the recipient! ★

Nominee requirements:

- Must be a municipal clerk who has been an active member of TMCA for at least five years;
- Must have provided service to other municipal clerks on a local level where the opportunity exists, or on a state level;
- Must have exhibited leadership abilities;
- Must hold the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification; and
- Must currently hold a municipal clerk position.

Download the PDF of the nomination form and nomination instructions.

TMCCP Election Law Seminar January 12-14, 2011, Irving, Texas

The January TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving was a great success. Hundreds of city secretaries and city officials from across Texas were in attendance. Our keynote speaker at the TMCCP luncheon was United States District Judge Ron Clark.



Above right (clockwise from left): Jean Dwinnell, TRMC, city secretary, Fate; Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; and Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Friendswood. Congratulations to these Texas Registered Municipal Clerks on recertifying a recordsetting FIVE times!

Near right: **Central Texas Chapter members at the Election Law Seminar.** *Front row:* **Lydia Lopez, TRMC,** city secretary, Hewitt, and **Esmeralda Cuate-Hudson, TRMC,** assistant city secretary, Waco. Lydia received her diploma of TRMC Recertification and Esmeralda received her diploma of TRMC Certification at the TMCCP graduation ceremony.





TMCA NEWS * MARCH 2011

TMCCP ELECTION LAW SEMINAR



Above: Keynote speaker United States District Judge **Ron Clark** holds up the TMCA Capital Chapter's city secretary-themed scholarship fundrasier t-shirt: "I don't know all the answers, but I can tell you where to go... to find them. *(Contact Melissa Brunner to learn more about ordering the t-shirt.)*

Above right: The TMCCP graduating class of 2011 after receiving their diplomas.

Middle right (from left to right): **Amy Harris,** city secretary, Cameron; **Shelley Goodwin, TRMC,** deputy city clerk, San Marcos; **Toni Milam, TRMC,** city secretary,

photo courtesy Cindy Crosby



Buda; and **Blanca Contreras-Cazares,** administrative assistant, Cameron.

Lower right: The TMCCP recertifying class of 2011 after receiving their diplomas.

Left: **Betty Brown, TRMC,** local gov./ election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath, and **Crista Bromley, TRMC,** director economic dev./deputy clerk, Burnet, earned their TRMC Recertification.





© Paul Traves, f16 Photography

TMCCP ELECTION LAW SEMINAR



photo courtesy Maria Gonzalez





© Paul Traves, f16 Photography

Above left: **Pauline Small, TRMC,** city secretary, Webster; and graduate **Crystal Roan, TRMC,** deputy city secretary, Webster.

Above: Keynote speaker United States District Judge Ron Clark.

At left—seated, from left to right: TMCA Salt Grass Chapter members Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; Charlene Tighe, deputy city secretary, Deer Park; and Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place. Standing, left to right: Martha Gillett, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), La Porte, and Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte.

TMCCP Graduating Class of 2011

Congratulations to graduates who have earned the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification!



Front row:

Susan Stewart, TRMC, administrative assistant, River Oaks Nan Billings, TRMC, city secretary, Bangs Christel Pettinos, TRMC, city secretary, Coppell Kerry Williams, TRMC, city secretary, Llano Gale Ivy, TRMC, city secretary, San Saba Karen Mericle, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, Clear Lake Shores Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak Barbara Boyd, TRMC, city secretary, Center Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland Jessica Graefe, TRMC, city secretary, Giddings Crystal Roan, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Webster

Back row:

Carolyn Caldwell, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Lindale Donna Myers, TRMC, administrative assistant, Orange County WCID #1 Cindy Cerny, TRMC, city secretary, El Campo Murvat Musa, TRMC, city secretary, Ransom Canyon Leisa Hester, TRMC, senior clerk, Orange County WCID #1 Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa Teresa Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay Bruce Dunn, TRMC, city secretary, St. Paul Jacquelyn Harborth, TRMC, city secretary, George West Shelley Goodwin, TRMC, deputy city clerk, San Marcos Kay Lunnon, TRMC, city secretary, Gainesville
Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco
Judy Jackson, TRMC, city secretary, Throckmorton
Joy Hart, TRMC, senior administrative assistant, Murphy
Tiffany Littlepage, TRMC, city secretary, Bulverde
Traci Riggs, TRMC, secretary comm. serv./public works, Stephenville
Alice Snyder, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano *Not pictured: Linnea Bailey; LuAnn Drake; Teresa Herrera, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Palestine; Kelly Moore, TRMC, acting assist. city secretary, Port Arthur; Sara White, TRMC, city secretary, Round Rock;*

Janelle Williams, TRMC, city secretary, Palestine.

Recertifying Class of 2011

Congratulations to graduates who have recertified their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification!



Front row:

Martha Gillett, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), La Porte LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary Muleshoe Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano Linda Taylor, TRMC, city secretary, Venus Cynthia Williams, TRMC, asst. city secretary, Post Susan Crim, TRMC, city secretary, Euless Jean Dwinnell, TRMC, city secretary, Fate Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Friendswood

Back row:

Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville Deana Watson, TRMC, city secretary, Post Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Sundown Crista Bromley, TRMC, city secretary, Burnet Kathleen Wedell, TRMC, city secretary, Aledo Kelly D'Amato, TRMC, city secretary, Hickory Creek Elaine Simpson, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Garland Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney

Linda Zartler, TRMC, administrative services director/city secretary, Boerne

Brenda Glenn Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville

Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt

Not pictured: Kimbra Butler, TRMC, city clerk, Groves; Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Weslaco; Arcelia Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes; Terri Johnson, TRMC, city administrator, Piney Point Village; Christina Laine, TRMC, city secretary, Marble Falls; Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada; Carol Loucks, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Henrietta; Pamela Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains; Cynthia Singleton, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville; Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville; Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; and Angela Winkle, TRMC, city secretary, Crowley.

Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Norma Grimaldo, TRMC** *City Secretary, Odessa*



TML is off to a busy year with this being a legislative session. The TML Board adopted the 2011 legislative priorities. The legislative program will focus on 1) ensuring that local decisions are made locally; 2) providing funding for vital municipal services; and 3) protecting and enhancing essential infrastructure. TML will work hard as it represents all of our cities and towns to protect local control. TML staff hired some lobbyists to assist with the legislation of proposed bills.

This year, TML is offering online webinars for a legislative status report. There will be three **webinars** for legislative updates: March 25, April 15 and May 13. This will allow the opportunity for elected officials and city staff to be informed on city-related bills. Also, the TML Legislative Update provides a listing of filed bills that relate to municipalities.

Mark your calendars: the annual TML Conference will be held in Houston on **October 11-14** at the convention center. It will be the 99th anniversary for this conference, and the line-up of speakers will be outstanding.

TMCA certainly has made its presence known at TML. With our past TML representatives, programs at the conferences, and assisting with testimony during the past legislative sessions, TML staff knows we are ready and willing to assist. *****



"Houston Skyline—Freeway Shoot" by flickr user houstontranstar. Phott licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial ShareAlike 2.0 Generic license.

IIMC News

By IIMC Past President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC

City Secretary, Bryan



The annual IIMC Conference will be held **May 8-12** in Nashville, Tennessee. Unfortunately, the conference is being held earlier this year than usual, and the dates fall on election week in Texas. Hopefully, some Texas clerks will be lucky enough to cancel their elections (or hold their elections in November) and will be able to attend the entire conference. Region IV has submitted comments to the IIMC Board expressing our disappointment of the timing of the conference and asking that future bids for conference dates not conflict with Texas election week.

On the last day of the conference in Nashville, our very own TMCA President Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland, will be sworn in as the new Region IV Director representing our region (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Oklahoma) on the IIMC board of directors. She will serve a three-year term and will replace outgoing Region IV Director Barbara Blackard of Clarksville, Arkansas. Mary is the perfect choice for us, as she has done an outstanding job on the IIMC Policy Review Committee. She is knowledgeable about the problems of the past and was instrumental in developing the Constitutional amendments and new policies adopted in Reno that will protect the organization in the future. Please join me in thanking Mary for her leadership and wishing her well.

Also, Marc Lemoine, deputy city clerk of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, will be sworn in as the new vice president of IIMC. Marc will automatically ascend to the presidency of IIMC after serving as vice president and president elect. I had the opportunity to serve on the board with Marc, and I know he will do a fine job for the organization.

The IIMC study abroad tour will be held in September in South Africa. If you would like more information, please visit IIMC's website at **www.iimc.com**.

Please don't forget that Municipal Clerk Education Foundation (MCEF) scholarships and grants are available to IIMC members and state associations. Additional information is available on the IIMC website.

In May, I will rotate off the IIMC Board of Directors with the conclusion of my year as Immediate Past President. I thank all of you again for your support while we worked diligently to return IIMC to the organization it was meant to be. We were successful, and I'm proud of the role that Texas clerks played in making that happen. I would encourage you to continue to volunteer for IIMC committee service and to remain active in IIMC. We are finally on the right track with sound educational/certification guidelines and are once again financially stable. Let's be sure IIMC stays that way.

Thanks to all of you. It has been an honor and pleasure to represent you on the IIMC Board of Directors. \star

Congratulations to Texas Clerks

Timpson City Secretary Tanya Windham recently went to Frisco for a CPR training class. On the way back home, a car in front of her stopped, the driver jumped out, ran around the car, and pulled the passenger into the street. Tanya ran to help and discovered that the passenger was unresponsive. Tanya immediately responded and performed CPR, saving the person's life. She was prepared and unafraid to act. Just like a city secretary!

Thank you to Frisco City Secretary Jenny Page, TRMC, for sharing the story with us on the Texas Municipal Clerks Yahoo Group!

IIMC Bulletins

Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria, and Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen, were recently awarded the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. The CMC designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the clerk in small and large municipalities, and requires a municipal clerk attend extensive education programs.

Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz, was recently awarded the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from IIMC. To earn the MMC through IIMC's Master Municipal Clerk Academy, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs. The Master Municipal Clerk Academy is an advanced continuing education program that prepares participants to perform more complex municipal duties.

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

Charlene Tighe, Deer Park

Course 2 JoAnn Beard, Smyer

Course 3

Cecilia Castillo, Irving

Course 4

Fonda Brewer, Chireno Kelly Daniel, Friona Kristin Edwards, Huntsville Laura Hallmark, DeSoto Arpil S. Hill, Roanoke Lisa Modisette, Hedwig Village Sherry Reeves, Grandview Leticia Y. Saenz, San Antonio Cynthia Schwertner, Cottonwood Shores Charlene Tighe, Deer Park Lee Woodward, Huntsville

TMCA NEWS * MARCH 2011

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President Jennifer Reyna, TRMC City Secretary, Alamo Heights

On Sunday, December 5, the Alamo Chapter hosted its first Annual Awards and Installation Banquet. The event was held at Paesano's Restaurant located in Shavano Park. Invited guests and members came dressed in their holiday attire to celebrate.

City of Shavano Park Mayor A. David Marne began the evening with an invocation. 2010 Chapter President Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge, presented certificates of appreciation to the Scholarship and Nominating Committees.

The following members served on the Scholarship Committee: Chair Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; Janice Alamia, city secretary, Hollywood Park; Deborah Goza, TRMC, city secretary, Live Oak; and Mary Ybarra, TRMC, executive assistant to the assistant city manager, Schertz.

The Nominating Committee consisted of: Chair Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge; Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary, Cibolo; Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville; Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; and Angela Cantu, city secretary-treasurer, La Vernia.



President Yolanda Benitez installed the 2011–2012 officers. Left to right: Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge; Treasurer Linda Gill, city secretary, Castle Hills; Secretary Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city clerk, Shavano Park; Vice President Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; and President Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights. Not present: Historian Mary Ybarra, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Schertz.

ALAMO CHAPTER

Banquet Committee Chair Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights, recognized the members who served in the Banquet Committee: Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights; Sheila Edmonson, assistant to the city secretary, Cibolo; Janice Alamia, city secretary, Hollywood Park; Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city clerk, Shavano Park; and Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge, was the committee liaison. Certificates of appreciation were also presented to outgoing officers.

Norma Rodriguez, City Clerk Emeritus, San Antonio, presented the first Norma Rodriguez Scholarships to City Secretaries Saundra Passailaigue, Shavano Park, and Leticia Vacek, San Antonio, in the amount of \$250.00. Floral bouquets were presented to the recipients. The Norma Rodriguez Scholarship fund was established in 2009 to assist local City Secretaries in their professional growth and these were the first scholarships awarded.

Above right: Leticia Vacek was one of the recipients of the Norma Rodriguez Scholarship Fund. Pictured from left to right: Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge; Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; and Norma Rodriguez, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio.

Near right: Saundra Passailaigue was one of the recipients of the Norma Rodriguez Scholarship Fund. *Pictured left to right:* Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge; Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city clerk, Shavano Park; and Norma Rodriguez, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio.





ALAMO CHAPTER

Outgoing President Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, installed the incoming 2011-2012 officers. The newly elected officers are: President Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights; Vice President Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; Secretary Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city clerk, Shavano Park; Historian Mary Ybarra, TRMC, executive assistant to the assistant city manager, Shertz; and Treasurer Linda Gill, city secretary, Castle Hills. Installation of the incoming officers was based on a floral theme in representation of their duties, and beautiful floral arrangements were presented to the incoming officers. President Jennifer Reyna made her acceptance speech and thanked all those who have helped her during her career.

Newly-installed president Jennifer Reyna presented outgoing President Yolanda Benitez with a piece of red carry-on luggage as a token of the chapter's appreciation for her service as president for the past two years. **★**





At top: The members of the Nominating Committee are **Yolanda Benitez**, **TRMC**, city secretary, Garden Ridge; **Angela Cantu, TRMC**, city secretary, La Vernia; **Debra Howe, TRMC**, city secretary, Castroville; and **Carole Vanzant**, **TRMC**, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch. Also included in the photo is **Jennifer Reyna**, **TRMC**, city secretary, Alamo Heights. *Not present: Peggy Cimics*, *TRMC*, city secretary/HR director, Cibolo.

Above: The members of the Banquet Committee are **Yolanda Benitez**, **TRMC**, city secretary, Garden Ridge; **Saundra Passailaigue**, **TRMC**, city clerk, Shavano Park; **Janice Alamia**, city secretary, Hollywood Park; **Jennifer Reyna**, **TRMC**, city secretary, Alamo Heights; **Delia Flores**, **TRMC**, city secretary, Balcones Heights; and **Sheila Edmondson**, assistant to the city secretary, Cibolo. TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter President **Kay Torres** *City Secretary, Robert Lee*

The Bluebonnet Chapter meeting was hosted by Eastland City Secretary Shirley Stuart on December 8 and held at the Connellee Civic Center in Eastland.

Guests at the Bluebonnet Meeting were Eastland Mayor Mark Pipkin; City Manager Ron Holliday and his wife Alice Holliday; City Attorney Lois Rockefeller; 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; Tamara Chafin, Texas Municipal League Risk Pool; and Shelley Burnett, Atmos Energy.

Chapter President Kay Torres led the business session of the meeting. The meeting included: 1) Reading of correspondence and announcements; 2) Approval of minutes; 3) Treasurer's report; 4) Historian's report; 5) Introduction of 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, by Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; President Schmidt spoke of service and giving back to our communities; 6) The Bluebonnet Municipal Clerk of the Year award was presented to Louetta Wallace, city secretary, Haskell; 7) Setting up host sites for the chapter meetings for the 2011 calendar year; 8) Administration of the oath of office ceremony to the chapter's 2011 officers by TMCA President Pamela Schmidt; President Schmidt read a story of "A Gaggle of Geese" as part of the installation ceremony; 9) Enjoyment of Christmas entertainment provided by Alice Holliday and husband Ron Holliday (a.k.a. "Texas Slim"); 10) Reminder to members that membership dues were payable by March 2011; 12) Silent Auction total was \$272. ★

REALER LANS PART FLOTO ANOTHER COTTLE FOARD HARDELLAN HICHITA CLAY

TMCA NEWS * MARCH 2011

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Donna Hawkins** *City Secretary, Beverly Hills*

The Central Texas Chapter held their annual Christmas Luncheon at the Heitmiller Steakhouse on December 10.

Congratulations to Esmeralda Cuate-Hudson, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco, for achieving her designation as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk! Chapter President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt, also completed the requirements for her second recertification. The chapter is proud of their accomplishments.

We had a record number of chapter members who attend the January TMCCP Election Law Seminar this year, as you will see by the pictures. The Central Texas Chapter looks forward to expanding their membership in 2011. Consider this an invitation to all who might consider joining. If you have questions about membership or would like to join, please notify the Central Texas Chapter President Lydia Lopez at citysecretary@cityofhewitt.com.

We would like to extend our well wishes to all for the upcoming year! **★**



Central Texas Chapter members at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving, January 2011. Front row: Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt, and Esmeralda Cuate-Hudson, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco. Lydia received her diploma of TRMC Recertification and Esmeralda received her diploma of TRMC Certification at the TMCCP graduation ceremony. TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Shelley Britton** *City Secretary, Fredericksburg*

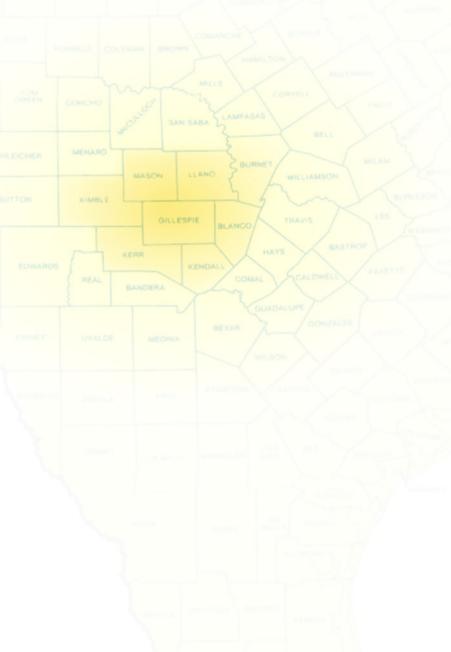
October 2010

The Hill Country Chapter held its October meeting on November 17 (sometimes it's hard to get all our schedules together!) at the San Saba Civic Center. Members were welcomed by City Manager Stan Weik. Mr. Weik spoke about various projects ongoing in the city, his vision for San Saba, and the importance of the role of City Secretary. He admitted that he did NOT have the patience to do the job of city secretary and commended all of us who do. (Mr. Weik is a VERY smart man!)

Minutes of the August 2010 meeting were approved along with the treasurer's report.

After a catered luncheon and general discussion, the Christmas party was set for December 15 in Fredericksburg, with a \$15 limit on the gift exchange.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM with a tour of San Saba park facilities by San Saba City Secretary Gale Ivy, TRMC.



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

December 2010

The Hill Country Chapter held its Christmas Party on December 15 at Silvercreek Restaurant in Fredericksburg, sponsored by Duncan Disposal. A gift exchange was enjoyed along with a great meal and fellowship.

The Hill Country Chapter meets every other month on the fourth Wednesday in Fredericksburg. For information please contact Vivian Saiz at **vsaiz@cityofjunction.com** or Shelley Britton at **sbritton@fbgtx.org**. **★**



Hill Country Chapter members at the December 15 meeting. Front row: Vivian Saiz, city secretary, Junction; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Pat Dildine, city secretary, Johnson City; Maria Alvarado, assistant city secretary, Junction. Back row: Karen Kiehne, assistant city secretary, Fredericksburg; Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Ronda Reichle, city secretary, Granite Shoals; Gale Ivy, TRMC, city secretary, San Saba; Irma Hernandez, city secretary, Menard; Bobbie Mowrey, city secretary, Blanco; Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet; Sheila Brand, past city secretary, Kerville.

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TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Bruce Dunn, TRMC** *City Secretary, St. Paul*

The Lone Star Chapter continues its policy of offering meetings throughout its region.

November 2010

The Lone Star Chapter met at the Allen City Hall on November 3. Chapter business included announcing and awarding the chapter's 2009/2010 Scholarships of \$500.00 each. Recipients were Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina; Joy Hart, TRMC, senior executive assistant, Murphy; and Julie Lollar, TRMC, city clerk, Denison. Also announced and awarded were the 2010/2011 Athenian Scholarships of \$50.00 each. Recipients were Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie; Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie; and Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas. Chapter President Dunn thanked Scholarship Committee Chairperson Carole Kuykendall, Greenville, and committee members Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett, and Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing, for a job well done. Also noted was that due to available funds, up to four \$500 scholarships would be awarded next year.



Scholarship recipients present at the November meeting (from left to right): Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie; Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Vickie Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina; Julie Lollar, TRMC, city clerk, Denison; and Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas.

LONE STAR CHAPTER

President-Elect Vickie Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina, introduced Speaker Corbett Howard, Celina Economic Development Director. His topic was "2011 Economic Outlook: When Will the Budget Get Better?"

There were no committee reports due and Chapter President Dunn reviewed future chapter, TMCA, and IIMC meetings. The meeting ended with the raffle for items provided by host City of Allen.

December 2010

The Lone Star Chapter held their annual holiday get-together at Randy's Steakhouse in Frisco on December 1. Chapter President Dunn, TRMC, began the meeting by giving special recognition to guests Stella Barrera, Frisco; Gloria Fay, St. Paul; Nina Jones, city clerk (ret.), Denison; and Sharon Kotwitz, Plano. The membership discussed gift cards to be available for the election seminar if needed and voted to allow for two \$25 cards. President Dunn distributed a table showing current committee appointments for the year and



The Lone Star Chapter listens to speaker Corbett Howard, Celina Economic Development Director, on the 2011 economic outlook.

LONE STAR CHAPTER

noted there were still available positions. Although committee reports were not due, it was noted that the Audit review/acceptance was on tap for the February meeting. Future meetings and educational sessions were announced.

There was no speaker planned for this event, but members enjoyed each other's company with Christmas music playing in the background. Individual choices of chicken fried steak, parmesan crusted tilapia, or grilled chicken Cobb salad were enjoyed by all.

A silent auction was held during the event with proceeds going to the Scholarship Funds.

Please join us as a member or guest at our future Chapter meetings:

February 2, 2011 – Parker, Collin County

March 2, 2011 - Greenville, Hunt County

April 6, 2011- Richardson, Collin/Dallas County

Visit the Lone Star Chapter's website to learn about upcoming events at http://tmcalonestarchapter.com. ★

Lone Star Chapter members at the December meeting in Frisco.





LONE STAR CHAPTER

Members in attendance at the December Lone Star Chapter meeting from Collin, Dallas, Denton, Grayson, Hunt and Rockwall counties were:

Linda Ardis, TRMC, city secretary, Lavon

Stella Barrera, Frisco

Jacky Casey, assistant to the city secretary, Wylie

Bruce Dunn, TRMC, city secretary, St. Paul

Matt Denton, TRMC, town secretary, Prosper

Vickie Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina

Gloria Fay, St. Paul

Nina Jones, city clerk (ret.), Denison

Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland

Sharon Kotwitz, Plano

Carole Kuykendall, Greenville

Lisa Lewis, The Colony

Julie Lollar, TRMC, city clerk, Denison

Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy Debbie Newell, city secretary, Greenville Teresa Nino, city secretary, Whitesboro Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco Cathy Pugh, city secretary, Tom Bean Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett Alice Snyder, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Annette Villarreal, TRMC** *City Secretary, McAllen*

The Lower Rio Grande Valley City Clerks Chapter met November 18 at the McAllen Central Fire Station Administration Conference Room. McAllen City Manager Mike R. Perez and Chapter President and McAllen Deputy City Secretary Perla Zamora, TRMC, gladly welcomed members of the LRGV Chapter and honorary guest TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson.

TMCA President Schmidt administered the oath of office to Dina Garcia city secretary, Penitas, as chapter secretary/ treasurer.

McAllen Assistant City Attorney Aaron Leal gave a brief report and overview of the bills filed to date for consideration in the 2011 Legislative Session.

President Schmidt gave a presentation on the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and highlighted the benefits of

Above right: 2010 TMCA President **Pamela Schmidt, TRMC** (standing), city secretary, Richardson, addresses the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter in McAllen. *Near right:* McAllen Assistant City Attorney **Aaron Leal** speaks on the 2011 Legislative Session and bills filed to date.





LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

the program. She touched on the recent approved changes to the education criteria, including alternatives in lieu of the book reports; the changes would be applicable to the second recertification and beyond. A question-and-answer Session followed.

The Town of Port Isabel graciously hosted the January 26 meeting of the LRGV Chapter on the bay at the White Sands Restaurant. The guest speaker was Kathy Payton, president with the Harlingen Noon Toastmasters Club. She talked about the organization emphasizing the need to sharpen our speaking skills to improve our performance in situations of conducting business meetings, delivering presentations, leading our team and interviewing for jobs (to name a few). She offered basic techniques to sharpen our speaking skills, including being properly dressed/ groomed, breaking the fear/nerves, smiling, utilization of vocal variety, avoidance of jargon, and utilization of some body language. Other related subjects included the introduction of speakers; presenting a prepared speech; and

Above right: Rio Hondo City Secretary **Arturo Prida** participates in an impromptu speaking exercise while speaker **Kathy Payton** observes to offer positive feedback and critique. **Near right:** The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter listens to the meeting's guest speaker in Port Isabel.





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LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

the utilization of audio-visuals, as people receive and learn in different ways. Chapter members Arturo Prida, city manager/city secretary, Rio Hondo, and Susan Hill, city secretary, South Padre Island, graciously participated in speaking exercises.

After the speaker's presentation, the chapter continued its business meeting with a lengthy discussion about proposed changes to the bylaws.

For membership information, contact Dina Garcia, city secretary, Penitas at (956) 581-3345. ★

Members in attendance at the January meeting were: Chapter President Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary Vice President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr Secretary/Treasurer Dina Garcia, city secretary, Penitas Historian Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen Susie Alcocer, city secretary, Port Isabel Anabel Guillen, Donna Martha Alvarado, city secretary, Donna Susan Hill, city secretary, South Padre Island Martha Martinez, assistant city secretary, South Padre Island Sonia Padron, TRMC, assistant city clerk, Pharr Yesenia Rodriguez, administrative supervisor, McAllen Norma Olvera, administrative supervisor, McAllen Alma Deckard, city secretary, Laguna Vista Arturo Prida, city manager/city secretary, Rio Hondo



2010 TMCA President **Pamela Schmidt, TRMC,** city secretary, Richardson, swears in **Dina Garcia**, city secretary, Penitas, as secretary/treasurer at the November meeting in McAllen.

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TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Shelly Doty, TRMC** *City Secretary, Cleburne*

TMCA Members,

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) held our annual Holiday Celebration on December 8 at 11:00 am at the Texas Star in Euless. We had a great crowd and it was great to see some of our retirees. The members made a generous donation to a local charity "Feed by Grace." Our own Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, was in charge of the entertainment, so you know a good time was had by all! The Holiday Committee did a phenomenal job!

Due to an unusual amount of ice and snow for our area, the February meeting was cancelled. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate for our March meeting.

NTMCA is hosting a Professional Seminar on March 10th at the Hurst Conference Center from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sarah Jacobsen with the Texas State Library will conduct a session on Records Management. Motivational speaker and trainer, Marti Miller, will help us to derive more "Joy on the Job" and Ann Marks will teach us how to better communicate through the art of face reading. We will also have a short legislative update during lunch. The cost is only \$75, with discounts for early registration and two or more attendees from one city. We would love to have you!! Information is available on our website www.ntmca.org. If you haven't had a chance, take a minute to check out the website. We are very proud of it!



Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, with guest **Neale Mansfield**, Executive Director for Feed By Grace, at the NTMCA December holiday meeting in Euless.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Something else that we are very proud of is our TMCCP Graduates! We had several chapter members receive their certifications or recertifications at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in January: new graduates Christel Pettinos, TRMC, city secretary, Coppell; Susan Stewart, TRMC, administrative assistant, River Oaks; and recertifying graduates: Susan Crim, TRMC, city secretary, Euless; Jean Dwinnell, TRMC, city secretary, Fate; Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Garland; Cynthia Singleton, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville; Linda Taylor, TRMC, city secretary, Venus; Kathleen Weddell, TRMC, city secretary, Aledo; Angela Winkle, TRMC, city secretary, Crowley; and Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano. Congratulations to you all!

On a sad note, we lost one of our own recently. Kelly D'Amato, town secretary with the Town of Hickory Creek, passed away after a short illness. Kelly will be greatly missed by us all.

If you are in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and are not currently attending NTMCA meetings, you are encouraged to do so. Feel free to contact me at shelly.doty@cleburne.net or at 817-645-0908 for more information on the meetings and membership. We would love to have you come and be a part of our organization! ★



The NTMCA Chapter at the December holiday meeting.

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TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President Gail Weir, TRMC City Secretary, Ore City

The Northeast Texas Chapter met December 10 at Traditions Restaurant in Tyler with President Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater, presiding.

President Haralson presented a gift to Kilgore City Secretary Karen Custer on the occasion of her retirement January 30.

New officers elected for two-year terms were: President Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City; Vice President Rosena Becker-Ross, city secretary/court administrator, Mount Enterprise; and Secretary Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak.

We welcomed our speaker, 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, who presented an inspiring history of her life journey, encouraging us to give back to our communities.

The Northeast Texas Chapter will be hosting the TMCCP "Municipal Budget Cycle" seminar to be held in Tyler on



Northeast Texas Chapter at their December meeting. *Seated in front:* Outgoing president Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater; TMCA Presdient Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; and Chapter President-Elect Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

April 7-8. The Planning Committee—Cassandra Brager, city clerk, Tyler; Donna Sickel, city secretary, Carthage; Debra Johnson, assistant city secretary, Canton; and Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak—will work on preliminary plans for the event, to be finalized at our next meeting in March in Tyler.

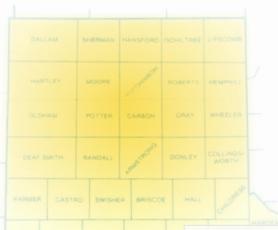
At the graduation ceremony held at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in January, the chapter proudly cheered for White Oak's city secretary, Sherry Roberts, who can now proudly display TRMC after her name! Congratulations, Sherry! **★**

Members attending the December meeting were: Rosena Becker-Ross, city secretary/court administrator, Mount Enterprise Cassandra Brager, city clerk, Tyler Vickie Brenton, TRMC, city secretary, Winnsboro Doris Crockett, Bullard Karen Custer, city clerk, Kilgore Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater Debra Johnson, assistant city secretary, Canton Brenda Lankford, city secretary, Cuney Deanna McCasland, city secretary, Overton Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak Jennifer Scott, city secretary, Nash Donna Sickel, city secretary, Carthage Khristy Webb, deputy clerk, Mount Enterprise Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City Laura Welch, city secretary, Hallsville Fran Wendeborn, TRMC, city secretary, Rusk Lawanna Williams, assistant finance director, Kilgore

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC** *City Secretary/Assistant City Manager, Spearman*



The Panhandle Chapter of Texas Municipal Clerks met December 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Amarillo Club for their bimonthly meeting. Eleven members were present. The minutes of October 21 were approved and the treasury report was given and approved as presented.

The chapter had their annual Christmas Party with a gift exchange. The honored guest was 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson. Chapter Secretary Cheryl-Gibson Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman, presided over the meeting.

The chapter is scheduled to meet again February 17 at 11:30 a.m. at the Amarillo Club, Amarillo, Texas. *



The Panhandle Chapter at their December meeting.

Members in attendance at the December meeting were:

Treasurer Leslie Bass, city secretary, Fritch

Vice President Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart

Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon

Kelly Daniel, deputy city secretary, Friona

Historian Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford

Secretary Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman

Mary Sue Lyles, city secretary, Groom

Patricia Phipps, TRMC, city secretary, Friona

Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas

Stella Sauls, city secretary, Borger

Kate Williams, Administrative Assistant, Perryton

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TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By Secretary-Treasurer Lydia Ozuna, TRMC City Clerk, Wichita Falls

The December 1 Red River Chapter meeting was hosted by City Clerk Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, at Pasquals Restaurant, Parker Square Shopping Center, in Wichita Falls. Fine dining was had by all.

There were eight members in attendance. President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday, presided over the meeting and welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves, including our guest speaker 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson.

Red River Chapter business was conducted, approving September 2010 meeting minutes and the treasurer's report.

As part of the chapter business, President Balthrop presented the slate of Officers for 2011-2013: President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Vice President Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie; and Secretary/ The Red River Chapter at their December meeting in Wichita Falls. Back row, from left to right: Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City; Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie; Kelley Bloodworth, city secretary, Henrietta; Barbara Bowman, city clerk, Cashion Community; Conchita Torrez, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour. Front row, from left to right: Trish Holley, city clerk, Burkburnett; guest 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday.



RED RIVER CHAPTER

Treasurer Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls. All were elected unanimously.

Annual donation to the Rathgeber Hospitality House was considered and approved to donate \$200. The Rathgeber Hospitality House is located in Wichita Falls and is a "home away from home" for families of patients at United Regional Hospital.

TMCA President Schmidt presented a motivating and encouraging program on service to others and volunteerism as it relates to our role as city clerks/ secretaries. It was a pleasure to hear from our president and have her in Wichita Falls.

Announcements were made on the upcoming TMCCP seminars: Election Law in Irving, The Budget Process in Tyler, Personnel Management in Odessa, and Legislative Update in Austin.

Our first 2011 quarterly meeting will be held March 24 at Pasquals Restaurant in Wichita Falls with our guest speaker Mr. Russell Haddock of MCCi. The program topic will be Records Management. We anticipate learning from Russell and receiving tips about how to manage our records more efficiently.

If you live in the Red River area or are just passing through, we would be delighted to have you visit us at one of our quarterly meetings. For more information on how to be a part of this great group of municipal clerks, please contact Lydia Ozuna, Red River Chapter Secretary-Treasurer at **lydia**. **ozuna@wichitafallstx.gov** or 940-761-7409. ★



Red River Chapter members at the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in October 2010. From left to right: Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city secretary, Wichita Falls; Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Linda Byers, city secretary, Vernon; and Conchita Torrez, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Maria Gonzalez Deputy City Secretary, Missouri City

November 2010 Salt Grass Chapter Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their monthly meeting on November 10 at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House in Houston. Chapter President Missy Bunch, TMRC, city secretary, Katy, called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m. Thirteen members were in attendance.

The program included a round table discussion. Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte, stated she is a member of an Ad Hoc Committee on the TMCA board. She further stated that committee members are encouraged to contact her regarding concerns or suggestions they might have on how to conduct an election. Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, provided the chapter with further information regarding the Athenian Dialogue to be held on January 11 in Irving before the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. She further stated she would be hosting the Chinese Christmas Celebration in her home and members are strongly encouraged to attend.

The chapter also unanimously moved to approve an updated version of the Salt Grass Chapter's logo. Special thanks are to be given to Ms. Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, for requesting the logo get revamped and submitting various options for the chapter to consider. Thank you, Crystal! Job well done.





Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, pursued a revision of the Salt Grass Chapter's logo. *At far left:* the former logo; *near left:* the new logo.

December 2010 Salt Grass Chapter Banquet

The Salt Grass Chapter held their 2010 Annual Installation Banquet/ Holiday Luncheon on December 8 at Maggiano's Little Italy in Houston. Outgoing 2010 Salt Grass Chapter President Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy, gave a warm welcome to members and invited guests. Chapter Secretary Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte, led the Pledge of Allegiance; Webster City Manager Wayne Sabo led the invocation.

A congratulations are in order for Jenny Redden, TRMC, city secretary, Morgan's Point, for winning the Deloris McKenzie Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. Congrats, Jenny!

Lisa Olmeda, TRMC—former city secretary for the City of Wharton, and, effective January 2011, personnel director for the City of Rosenberg—proudly accepted the 2010 Salt Grass Chapter award for "Outstanding Municipal Clerk" from last year's recipient, Sandi Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park. During this emotional presentation, Ms. Olmeda recognized every city secretary who has helped her throughout her path of becoming the great city secretary and chapter president she has become.

The chapter also presented Ms. Bunch with an appreciation gavel plaque on behalf of the chapter, and the very first Salt Grass Chapter throw.



At top: **The Salt Grass Chapter at their December banquet in Houston.** Above: **Lisa Olmeda, TRMC,** personnel director, Rosenberg, proudly accepted the 2010 Salt Grass Chapter award for "Outstanding Municipal Clerk" from last year's recipient, Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park.

New officers were installed by Pauline Small as follows: President Thelma A. Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; Vice President Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; Secretary Maria Gonzalez, deputy city secretary, Missouri City; Treasurer Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster; and Historian Krisha Langton, TRMC, city secretary, Sealy.

January 2011 Salt Grass Chapter Meeting

Chapter business was as usual on January 19 when President Thelma Lenz called the meeting order at 11:45 a.m. at Texas Land & Cattle in



Patrice Fogarty, TRMC (*standing*), city secretary, La Porte, at the Salt Grass Chapter's January meeting in Houston.





At top: **Jenny Redden, TRMC** (*at left*), city secretary, Morgan's Point, was presented the Deloris McKenzie Scholarship.

Above: 2010 Salt Grass Chapter President **Missy Bunch, TRMC,** city secretary, Katy, was presented with an appreciation gavel plaque on behalf of the chapter, as well as the very first Salt Grass Chapter throw.

Houston. President Lenz welcomed members and readily proceeded with the appointment of various chapter members to our chapter committees.

At this time, Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, announced she has accepted the position of city secretary with the City of La Porte effective February 22. The chapter also recognized and congratulated Martha Gillett on her retirement from the City of La Porte and presented her with a Salt Grass Chapter throw, gift card, and card on behalf of the chapter.

President Lenz read aloud a thank you note from Sandi Watkins, thanking the chapter for their prayers and generous heart during this difficult time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m. and scheduled to meet again on February 9 at Texas Land & Cattle in Houston.

For more information about our chapter, to become a member, or to inquire about future meetings, please contact Chapter Secretary Maria Gonzalez at 281-403-8686 or **mgonzalez@missouricitytx.gov**.



The Salt Grass Chapter wishes a special congratulations to all our 2011 graduates and recertifiers!

Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster (*pictured - left*)

Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary (retired), Friendswood (*pictured - middle*) Karen Mericle, TRMC, city secretary, Clear Lake Shores Martha Gillett, TRMC, city secretary (retired), La Porte (*pictured - right*) Terri Johnson, TRMC, city secretary, Piney Point Village Good job, ladies! Keep up the good work!

Members present at the January Salt Grass Chapter meeting: Meredith Brant, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Seabrook Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy Dayl Cooksey, deputy city secretary, Sealy Kristin Edwards, deputy city secretary, Huntsville Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook Martha Gillett, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), La Porte Maria Gonzalez, deputy city secretary, Missouri City Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte Krisha Langton, TRMC, city secretary, Sealy Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place Karen Mericle, TRMC, city secretary, Clear Lake Shores Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, personnel director, Rosenberg Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster Linda Ronick, TRMC, city secretary, Pasadena Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster Christy Stroup, assistant city secretary, Clear Lake Shores Charlene A. Tighe, executive secretary, Deer Park

TMCA NEWS * MARCH 2011

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Brenda Shaw, TRMC** *City Secretary/Manager, Morton*

The South Plains Chapter met on December 15 at Lakeridge Country Club in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Muleshoe City Secretary LeAnn Gallman, TRMC.

President Gallman called the meeting to order and introduced 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson. President Schmidt addressed the members on service.

President Gallman introduced new member Minerva Orozco from Petersburg.

The September 2010 minutes and the treasurer's report were approved.

President Gallman appointed Nancy Hale, TRMC, city secretary, Spur, as chair of the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee for 2010; also appointed were Jo Ann Beard, city secretary, Smyer, and Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa. This committee will report at the March meeting.

TMCA President Pamela Schmidt swore in the 2011-2012 officers: President Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Vice President Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa; Treasurer Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary, Morton; Secretary Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Director Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton. Historian Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface, was unable to attend and will take her oath at the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for March 16. Janine Butler, city secretary, Littlefield will be hosting. \bigstar

Members and guests attending the meeting: JoAnn Beard, city secretary, Smyer Janine Butler, city secretary, Littlefield Jennifer Clements, asst. to the city sec., Lubbock Lora Dockery, city secretary, Sundown Sue Castles, Xcel, Lubbock Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe Nancy Hale, TMRC, city secretary, Spur Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton Sharon Kerby, Slaton Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada Monica Lopez, city secretary, Lorenzo Minerva Orozco, Petersburg Kim Perez, city secretary, Ralls Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city sec./manager, Morton Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal Lynnette Whitten, deputy city secretary, Morton Toni Wilson, TRMC, city sec. (ret.), Sundown TMCA Pres. Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city sec., Richardson Linda Garcia, municipal judge, Ralls Toni Longoria, city clerk, Lorenzo



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TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Reporter/Historian Karen Bullard City Secretary, Crane

President Tonya Todd called the fourth quarter meeting of the West Texas Chapter to order at 11:35 a.m. on November 17 at the Barn Door Steakhouse in Odessa. Interim Secretary/Treasurer Tonya Todd called roll with nine members present, representing seven cities. President Tonya Todd determined a quorum was present.

The minutes from the third quarter meeting on July 21 were accepted as presented. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

At top right, from left to right: TMCA President **Pamela Schmidt TRMC**, city secretary, Richardson; **Marla Arizola**, city secretary, Sterling City; **Karen Bullard**, city secretary, Crane; and **Tonya Todd**, **TRMC**, city secretary, Wink, at the West Texas Chapter's November meeting in Odessa.

Near right, from left to right: **Amy Turner,** city secretary, Midland; **Tonya Todd, TRMC,** city secretary, Wink; **Norma Grimaldo, TRMC,** city secretary, Odessa; **Marla Arizola**, city secretary, Sterling City; **Lyn Miller**, deputy city secretary, Midland; **Anita Sparks**, city secretary, Rankin; **Karen Bullard**, city secretary, Crane; **Evelyn Ammons**, city secretary, Big Lake; 2010 TMCA President **Pamela Schmidt, TRMC**, city secretary, Richardson; and **Renee Lee**, assistant city secretary, Rankin.





WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

Payment of bills was approved, which included the purchase of a special gift, travel expenses, and lunch for visiting guest speaker TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, and a door prize presented at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in October.

The TMCCP Personnel Management Seminar will be held in Odessa in June 2011. Norma Grimaldo proposed the idea of preparing gift sacks and special events for the attendees of the seminar.

Tonya Todd introduced 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, to the members and shared some of the many accomplishments of Ms. Schmidt. President Schmidt talked to the group concerning some TMCA programs. Those programs included an ad hoc election committee with five members representing various size cities; the committee will have a variety of duties and responsibilities concerning election laws, changes that need to be made, related bills filed during the legislative process, etc.

Before President Schmidt installed the Officers she read the inspiring story of "A Gaggle of Geese."

President Schmidt swore in the 2011-2012 officers as follows: President Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; Secretary/Treasurer Karen Bullard, city secretary, Crane; and Reporter/Historian Marla Arizola, city secretary, Sterling City. It was a great honor to have President Schmidt attend the West Texas Chapter meeting, and a special gift of appreciation was presented to her.

The chapter members played "gift grab and steal" with Christmas gifts. The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

The 2011 first quarter meeting of the West Texas Chapter was scheduled for January 13 at 7:00 a.m. at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving. ★

> Members present at the November meeting: Evelyn Ammons, city secretary, Big Lake Marla Arizola, city secretary, Sterling City Reporter/Historian Karen Bullard, city secretary, Crane Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa Renee Lee, assistant city secretary, Rankin Lyn Miller, deputy city secretary, Midland Anita Sparks, city secretary, Rankin President Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink Amy Turner, city secretary, Midland

Guests:

Sherry Wilson – Daughter of Evelyn Ammons TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson

TMCA Chapters



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Pauline Small

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Melissa Brunner, Flatonia

Cynthia Bowman, Bryan

Toni Chrestman, Slaton

Diane Cockrell, Decatur

Laure Morgan, Hemphill

Retirement Committee

Gail Weir, Ore City, Chair

Sharon Harris, La Porte

Sonja Land, Mesquite

Melissa Brunner, Flatonia

Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights

Susie Quinn, Rowlett, Board Liaison

Resolutions Committee

Marie Balthrop, Holliday, Chair

Annette Villarreal, McAllen, Board Liaison

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Advisory Management Committee Chair Patricia Ervin, Waco; Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Administrative Director

Municipal Clerk of the Year

Cara McPartland, Wimberly, Chair

Sherry Mashburn, College Station, Bd. Liaison

Committee

Peggy Cimics, Cibolo

Christi Shivers, Mexia

Aimee Nemer, Murphy

Irma Parker, Rockport

Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan

Carole Vanzant, Fair Oaks Ranch

Mary Kayser, Garland, Board Liaison

LeAnn Gallman, Muleshoe, Board Liaison

Linda Rhodes, Lake Worth

Christie Wilson, The Colony

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Advisory Management Committee

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Audit Committee

Brenda Craig, Kerrville, Chair Melba Haralson, Gladewater Amanda McCrory, Burleson Norma Grimaldo, Odessa, Board Liaison

Historian

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Suzanne Finch, Hereford

Membership Committee (Comprised of Chapter Presidents) Shelly Doty, Cleburne, Chair Sandra Watkins, Deer Park, Board Liaison

*non-voting member

Certification Committee

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Scholarship Committee

Technology Committee

TML Booth Committee

Salt Grass Chapter Members

TML Representative

Shelley George, Allen, Co-Chair

Saundra Passailaigue, Shavano Park

Pauline Small, Webster, Board Liaison

Patrice Fogarty, La Porte, Co-Chair

Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.

Thelma Lenz, West University Place, Chair

Norma Grimaldo, Odessa, Vice President

Diane Zucco, Plano, Chair

Krisha Langton, Sealy

Brenda Shaw, Morton

Linda Zartler, Boerne