

TMCA NEWS



President's Message

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TMCA President
Aimee Nemer, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

Wow! By the time you read this, I will already be three months into my presidential year! Hindsight truly is 2020 and we are well on our way into an interesting 2021. It has already been a busy year with a jam-packed January... between the kick-off of May city council elections, my first chapter visit, a successful Election Law Seminar; and then a freaky February with our entire state under a disaster declaration! Texas cities and clerks have once again proven our resiliency and weathered the Texas snowmageddon! Is anyone else beginning to think there is no more "normal?" I've personally decided that everything is now going to be "lamron!" See how backward that is?

As you will read about in this newsletter, our hybrid 49th annual Election Law Seminar was a success! Can you believe TMCA, Inc., has been educating our members on election laws for nearly half a century? Due to the ongoing pandemic, our TMCA staff of only five members worked hard to pull together a virtual option for attendees. We hosted about 230 attendees in person and 260 virtually! This was a monumental feat for our small but smart staff, and I want to thank them for essentially running two seminars simultaneously. We realize there were some

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

technical issues, but not from lack of effort! One thing is for sure, as we see a light to the end of this pandemic, we will all certainly be more technologically literate! Thank you to all of our speakers, conveners, scanners, and sponsors for their part in the seminar.

At the TMCCP Election Law Seminar we had many things to celebrate! First and foremost, 59 of our members graduated and 62 recertified. Please **review these names in this newsletter** and take note of those who recertified for the sixth and seventh time! Congratulations to all of our members for prioritizing their professional education and successfully completing graduation requirements. Please reach out and congratulate them!

Another big celebration that we kicked-off in January is TMCA's 35th anniversary! If you haven't heard about this, where have you been? We will be celebrating this all year long in one way or another. **Be sure to get your 35th anniversary swag here.** Thank you to Alexandra Burke, communications specialist, for creating the celebratory seal for the year. And maybe you've heard about my 1986 trivia to help commemorate the year we incorporated. Well, let's see who is reading this article right now. The first five people to email me the correct answer to this

question will get a presidential prize. See if you can answer without googling! This iconic lady is one of the most recognizable figures in the world. She is of French descent but became a dedicated American in 1886. In 1986 there was a four-day celebration marking her 100th year in the United States and what she has meant to America. Who is she? Watch for more festivities throughout the year, including **hearing from** 35 of our members on reasons why they love TMCA.

Lastly, we had a bittersweet celebration at the Election Law Seminar for our TMCA administrative director, Peggy Burnside's, retirement. Peggy began her career the year TMCA incorporated and has been a dedicated servant to our membership for 35 years. Thank you to Mary Lynne Stratta, city secretary, Bryan, and past TMCA president; retirees and past TMCA presidents, Pam Schmidt, and LeAnn Gallman, as well as several retirees in attendance who helped commemorate this occasion. **Read more about her service and celebration here.** Although Peggy will be dearly missed, we know she will always be a friend and continue to advocate for Texas clerks at any given opportunity. She also leaves us in capable hands with Miriam Sheehan stepping into her shoes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In closing, I want to encourage you to get involved with TMCA, Inc. This is your organization! There are so many ways for you to engage with members. Be an active member of **your local chapter**, apply for **scholarships and awards**, submit **award nominations**, attend **seminars and webinars**, apply for committees or **board service**, follow our **Facebook page** and join our **Google Group**... become an active TMCA member! There are many rewarding benefits, but most importantly, your own professional growth and experience that are a tangible benefit to your career. Please feel free to **reach out to me** or any **board member** with your thoughts and ideas—we'd love to hear from you! I look forward to seeing you throughout the year at seminars and during my chapter visits.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TMCA

Reasons I love this group:

There's always some one who can answer your question, or guide you to where you can find the answer;

You make so many friends over the phone or internet that when you meet face to face, it's like you've always known them;

There are so many opportunities to gain knowledge and to share the knowledge you've gained; Daily you can find information and ideas to be a better city secretary!

Thank you, TMCA, for making me a better city secretary today than the day I started, and for helping me be better tomorrow than I am today!

Happy Anniversary TMCA, may the next 35 years be even better!!

*—Debra Newkirk
City Secretary, Midway*

I love being part of an organization that is always helping one another, whether it be learning or offering a helping hand, TMCA staff and members have always been there to help me grow and learn in my profession.

*—Paula Favors
City Secretary/Asst. City Manager
Advanced Public Info. Officer, Wharton*

My top reason I love TMCA is the Google Group! How awesome is it when you have a question and can just pop an email out right quick and get a ton of answers. Not only do you get an answer but website addresses and attachments of examples that different cities use. Everyone is so awesome to share their resources and this is especially helpful in a time crunch! Our TMCA is top notch and I am so proud to be a part of it!

*—Sandy Page
City Secretary, Bowie*

I love TMCA because it's a professional organization consisting of city secretaries who are dedicated to supporting other city secretaries!

*—Frances Aguilar
City Secretary, Angleton*



President's Chapter Visits

JANUARY 20, LUFKIN, TEXAS: PINEYWOODS CHAPTER



In January I was lucky enough to travel to Lufkin, Texas, for my first chapter visit as president. As I told the attendees, traveling across the state to visit our members is one of the most anticipated perks of being the TMCA president! And these East Texas ladies did not disappoint! We met at Ralph & Kacoo's Seafood Restaurant. I met nine members, representing eight chapter cities. The members conducted their chapter business, including a discussion to implement a chapter Facebook page—so exciting for them! President Kara Andrepont, Lufkin, presented a chapter scholarship to Johna Childers, Lufkin.

The drive from my home to Lufkin was beautiful! I didn't expect the landscape of rolling hills... or small mountains, as this North Texas girl thinks of them. I also loved seeing those superior pine trees and red Texas dirt! I couldn't help but stop to snap some photos at a rest stop, which happened to be a historical site as well.

Chapter meeting attendees:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kara Andrepont, Lufkin | Waunesa Herrington, Zavalla |
| Johna Childers, Lufkin | |
| Julie Davis, Huntington | Mitzi Thompson, Crockett |
| Wendy Bendy, Colmesneil | Amanda Treat, Tenaha |
| Ellie Monteaux, Livingston | Kelli Beall, Hemphill |



At top: President Aimee Nemer with the TMCA Pineywoods Chapter at their January meeting in Lufkin. President Nemer notes, "After our meal, we snapped a quick photo of our smiling faces before replacing our masks." Above: Johna Childers was awarded a chapter scholarship by Chapter President Kara Andrepont at the TMCA Pineywoods Chapter's January meeting.

TMCA Administrative Director Peggy Burnside Retires



Congratulations to Administrative Director Peggy Burnside on her retirement March 31 after 35 years of service to TMCA!

Peggy Burnside began her career with Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., in 1986 when she was hired as TMCA's administrative clerk. She was promoted to program specialist administrator in 1987, and then to program/project coordinator in 1995. In 2008 she was promoted to her current position of administrative director, overseeing the TMCA staff and Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program.

Peggy has dedicated her career to promoting and supporting the professionalism of the office of the Texas municipal clerk. She has achieved TMCA goals by developing benefi-

cial relationships with University of North Texas colleagues and related state agencies. Under her leadership, TMCCP enrollment has steadily increased.

Each year Peggy successfully planned, coordinated, and managed five professional TMCCP seminars designed to provide valuable training to assist municipal clerks in their duties, including organizational behavior, election law, records management, finance, and cultivating servant leadership.

Peggy also served as chief budget officer for TMCCP, oversaw the financial investments of TMCA, and sought new ways to generate program revenue by soliciting seminar sponsorships.

Additionally, through the years Peggy has spearheaded TMCA's adaptations to new technology, transitioning TMCA from an organization dependent on paper and pencil to one that utilizes digital based document management and other computer assisted programs to improve productivity.

In 2017 Peggy was awarded the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' Director of Excellence Award for her outstanding service and leadership.

We are grateful to Peggy for her many years of service and hope you will **join us in celebrating her!**



TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Advanced Institute (Formerly Graduate Institute)



TMCCP Education Director
Dr. Amy Holt

Beginning in 2021, you will notice a name change for our October seminar. Formerly this seminar has been called “Graduate Institute.” It will now be called “Advanced Institute.” This name change is meant to take away any confusion that a graduation ceremony will take place during this seminar. As you probably know, our graduation ceremony to recognize those earning their certification and those recertifying takes place each year at our Election Law Ceremony in January.

The purpose of Advanced Institute is to introduce attendees to concepts that are outside of the day-to-day technical scope of work for a municipal clerk. So, for instance, instead of learning about the important topics of records management or public budgeting, the attendee might explore how to create a culture of accountability or how to build a service-oriented team. These “advanced”

topics are an important part of the work necessary for professionals in your field. This type of subject matter helps you think critically and stresses the importance of long-term planning and development as a central aspect of your position as a city official.

Advanced Institute 2021 will take place in Galveston on October 28 and 29. Our speaker will be Kent Julian. His topic, “The DNA of Success—Cultivating Engagement and Life Balance for You and Your Team,” explores ways to cultivate leadership actions that help employees feel more connected to an organization and will encourage attendees to develop and grow their resiliency.

We look forward to seeing you at Advanced Institute 2021!

Nominate Now: 2021 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year

Submit your nominations by Friday, July 9, 2021

By Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair **Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC**
City Secretary, Leon Valley



Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC

It is my honor as chair of the 2021 Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, to announce the opening of the nomination period for Clerk of the Year! How exciting!!

2020 was such a unique and challenging year for all of us but I implore you to take a look at the amazing members in your chapter. Who is that person that went above and beyond to come up with innovative ways for your chapter to meet this year? Who was it that kept you all motivated and still remained positive? Was there someone that took control of a situation or provided a lending hand when one of your members really needed it? Nominate them! Tell them you think they are amazing and deserving of this prestigious award.

The nomination form may be [downloaded here](#) or you are welcome to email me at s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov. Nomination forms will also be sent out to all

TMCA Chapter presidents to distribute within their membership. Please submit your nomination as soon as possible. **The deadline to submit is Friday, July 9, 2021.**

After you make your submission, start planning to attend the **Advanced Institute** (formerly named the “Graduate Institute”) in Galveston October 28-29, where the 2021 Municipal Clerk of the Year will be announced during the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet. By the way, this year’s Advanced Institute topic is **“The DNA of Success—Cultivating Engagement and Life Balance for You and Your Team”** and I cannot think of a better way to be engaged with your team, your peers, than by nominating those you support and want to say “Hey, we’re proud of you and we think you deserve this award!” So come on, send in those nominations today!!

2021 TMCA AWARDS

Deadline June 15, 2021

As we prepare for the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet, this is the perfect time to consider nominating an individual for one of the following honors. These awards will be announced at the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the TMCCP Advanced Institute in Galveston in October; names of award winners will be kept secret until announced at the banquet. **We encourage you to make plans to attend the awards ceremony to support the nominees and honor the recipients.**

TMCA's EMERGING LEADER AWARD will recognize an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills that exemplify TMCA's mission and/or vision. The act of leadership can be through service to the nominee's city, citizens, chapter, or to the municipal clerk profession. TRMC certification is not required; however, all nominees must be current members of TMCA and enrolled in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program or have earned the TRMC. Current TMCA board members are not eligible for this award.

Nominations for this distinct award can be submitted by anyone (i.e. mayor, councilmember, supervisor, friend, or citizen). The Emerging Leader Award is selected by the TMCA Awards Committee and announced at the TMCA Awards Banquet.

Deadline to apply: June 15. [Nominate now.](#)

The **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** is awarded in recognition of an individual who has distinguished themselves by making a significant contribution throughout their career to promote the municipal clerk profession, TMCA, Inc., and their peers. Nominees must be a TRMC, have been a member of TMCA for at least ten years (members are eligible up to two years after retirement), and must have demonstrated a significant contribution to the city secretary profession, their community, or to TMCA.

The Distinguished Service Award is selected by the TMCA Executive Board and announced at the TMCA awards Banquet.

Deadline to nominate: June 15. [Nominate now.](#)

LIFETIME TMCA MEMBERSHIP is awarded in recognition of a member's significant contributions to the city secretary profession and in advancing the goals of TMCA, Inc., and TMCCP. Individuals become eligible for nomination after retirement and 10 years of active membership in good standing with the Association. Awardees are not subject to annual membership dues. New Lifetime TMCA Members are announced at the TMCA Awards Banquet. **Deadline to nominate: June 15. [Nominate now.](#)**

HONORARY TMCA MEMBERSHIP is awarded in recognition of an individual who has performed exceptional services for the Association and for the improvement of municipal clerks and/or city secretaries. Awardees are not subject to annual membership dues. New Honorary TMCA Members are announced at the TMCA Awards Banquet. **Deadline to nominate: June 15. [Nominate now.](#)**

Apply to Serve as a Trustee On The 2022 TMCA Executive Board

By Nominating Committee Chair **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**
 City Clerk, Wichita Falls



Marie Balthrop, TRMC

Have you ever considered applying to serve as a trustee? If you are interested in stepping up into a leadership role in TMCA, Inc., now is the time to apply. In order to serve on the Executive Board there are a few requirements:

- Applicant must be a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC).
- Applicant must be a practicing city secretary or municipal clerk for at least three years and a member in good standing of the Association for at least three years.
- Applicant must have served as a TMCA Committee member for at least two years.
- Applicant must obtain support from the mayor or city manager for service as an officer or trustee, providing for released time for attending all necessary meetings and financial support for travel, telephone, correspondence, and other related expenses.
- Applicant must provide a letter of recommendation from a city secretary (active or retired) or a chapter president.
- Applicant must be familiar with and accept the TMCA, Inc., Charter, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, corporate polices, and IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3)

The Executive Board meets four times a year and the dates are scheduled well in advance so you can plan accordingly. Attendance is crucial and missing more than one meeting a year results in automatic resignation. The term for a trustee is one year with the option to reapply the following year.

The TMCA Executive Board is the governing body of the organization and oversees the activities of the organization. They provide oversight of the educational and professional development program (TMCCP); and, in collaboration with staff, ensures information and materials presented are current and applicable to the needs of the profession. They plan for the future of TMCA by recognizing needs of the profession and working together to meet those needs, and are intentional about receiving input from the full membership of TMCA. Our organization is exceptional because of the members that have the heart to serve!

If you are interested in applying to serve as a trustee, complete and submit the **2022 Nomination Application form** along with a letter of recommendation by **May 1, 2021**, and send to: TMCA Nominating Committee Chair Marie Balthrop, TRMC, City Clerk, City of Wichita Falls, PO Box 1431, Wichita Falls, TX 76307, or email marie.balthrop@wichitafallstx.gov.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time they just have the heart.

—Elizabeth Andrew



Frances Aguilar, TRMC

*2021 TMCA
Scholarship Committee:*

*Chair Frances Aguilar
City Secretary, Angleton*

*Roxanne Benitez
City Secretary, Spring Valley Village*

*Robin Lenio
City Secretary, Seabrook*

*Elena Quintanilla
City Sec./City Mgr., Ransom Canyon*

*Mary Valenzuela
City Secretary, Kingsville*

*Peggy Burnside
TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director*

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program are dedicated to providing an educational and professional development program for beginner and experienced municipal clerks. The fundamental objective of the Association is to provide continuing education and leadership. The goal is to provide an opportunity for pursuing professional development through training and professional interaction.

The TMCA scholarship program provides financial assistance to members who are enrolled in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, or in Recertification Program. In addition, there are scholarships available for TMCA members who are pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree in a program of study that directly enhances the individual's professional job performance. TMCA scholarships are \$500 for pursuit of the TRMC or recertification, or up to \$1,000 for pursuit of a bachelor's or graduate degree.

On behalf of TMCA and the 2021 Scholarship Committee, I encourage all eligible municipal clerks to [apply for these scholarships](#) and utilize them to achieve your professional and educational goals. [Learn more here.](#)

To be considered for a scholarship, applications may be submitted **no later than June 15, 2021**. Once the TMCA Scholarship Committee has reviewed and considered all applications, scholarship recipients will be notified that they have been awarded a scholarship. Scholarships will be formally presented at the annual TMCA Awards Banquet at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston on October 28, 2021 (attendance not mandatory). This event is held during the TMCCP Advanced Institute Seminar.

TMCA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

By Scholarship Committee Chair **Frances Aguilar, TRMC**
City Secretary, Angleton

About Our Scholarships

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](#). [Learn more here](#).

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship

Maximum amount awarded: \$500

Intended use: pursuit of either the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification/Recertification (TRMC) 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

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

Intended use: pursuit of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification/Recertification (TRMC)

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

Susan Rocha Scholarship

Maximum amount awarded: \$500

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

History: Established in 2011 to honor Susan Rocha's memory and her commitment to education and enthusiasm for the municipal field. Ms. Rocha was a partner with Denton, Navarro, Rocha and Bernal, P.C., and a frequent speaker for the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar. The scholarship was established by friend and colleague, Alan Bojorquez, Bojorquez Law Firm, P.C., to be administered by TMCA, Inc.

Vendor Scholarships

Maximum amount awarded: \$500

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, "The Texas Municipal Clerks Association and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program 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.; Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP; Municipal Code Corporation; and the Underwood Law Firm.

MCCi Records Management Scholarship

This scholarship was 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](#). [Learn more here](#).

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 TMCA-approved 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.

Sandra Watkins TMCCP Election Law Seminar Scholarship

This scholarship enables applicants from small cities to attend the invaluable TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Awardee shall be a current TMCA member from a small city/town with a population fewer than 5,000. Enrollment in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program is not required. Download and submit the [application form](#). [Learn more here](#).

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00 awarded annually

Intended use: Scholarship award funds are to be used for registration fees and travel expenses for a TMCCP Election Law Seminar (held within two years of award).

History: Longtime TMCA member, mentor, instructor, and former Executive Board member Sandra Watkins bestowed the endowment for this scholarship in 2017. She says, "Not every city can provide support to their municipal clerk because of financial issues. I feel every municipal clerk should have the opportunity to attend seminars that would benefit them in their endeavor to be their best for their city, especially the TMCCP Election Law Seminar because that is one process every municipality conducts."

Legacy Scholarship

The purpose of the Legacy Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to one or more retired city secretaries who are teaching for TMCCP seminars and/or actively working as consultants and who are attending TMCCP seminars in order to keep their TRMC credentials up-to-date. Those currently employed in a permanent position with a municipality are not eligible. Download and submit the [application form](#). [Learn more here](#).

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00 awarded annually

Intended use: pursuit of Texas Registered Municipal Clerk recertification

History: Established by the TMCA Executive Board in 2020

Legislative Committee

By Legislative Committee Chair **Lee Woodward, TRMC**

City Secretary/PIO, La Porte



Lee Woodward, TRMC

The 2021 TMCA Ad Hoc Legislative Committee has kicked off the session with a strong start, meeting regularly with Bill Longley, General Counsel, and Monty Wynn, Director of Grassroots and Legislative Services, to keep apprised of the bills being filed for this year's legislative session. The committee will share information with the TMCA membership, particularly as the session proceeds and items get closer to adoption. Members are encouraged to contact Committee Chair Lee Woodward with any inquiries at WoodwardL@LaPorteTX.gov.

At the November 2020 Board meeting President Nemer charged the committee with the following - TMCA Legislative Committee. This committee may be appointed by the President in odd years when the Texas Legislature meets. The committee's focus will be to track legislation. They will be responsible for reporting regular updates to the President and/or the Executive Board regarding proposed legislation that is of particular interest to the municipal clerk profession, the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certifica-



The Legislative Committee at their recent March meeting

tion Program. Duties may include corresponding with the Texas Municipal League legal department and other association partners to understand the impacts of proposed legislation. The committee may also be charged with providing related articles for the TMCA News. The committee should be comprised of a combination of TMCA members who represent large, small, general law, and home rule cities. Additionally, this committee will work closely with TML legal counsel to not

TMCA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

only be updated on legislation; but to advise TML, our legislative advocacy partner, of the impacts of proposed legislation. Committee members may be called on to testify or contact representatives on various issues. However, no committee member should represent their advice or opinions on legislation to be representative of the TMCA, Inc., as this is prohibited in the bylaws, which I have included in the excerpt below. Testimony and opinions should be offered from the individual in their professional position with their respective municipality.

The TMCA, Inc. Bylaws, Article VIII., state, “No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3)

of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).” This reminds members that TMCA will not engage in political activity as an organization.

President Nemer appointed the following Texas Registered Municipal Clerks to serve on the 2021 TMCA Ad Hoc Legislative Committee: Lee Woodward, La Porte; Leticia Vacek, Trophy Club; Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan; Mary Kayser, Fort Worth; Shanae Jennings, Irving; and Peggy Cimics, Cibolo. President Nemer is serving as a liaison to the committee.

TMCCP Election Law Seminar

January 2021, in-person in Frisco and live via Zoom



Photo courtesy Eillee Monteaux



Photo by Paul Traves



TMCCP Election Law Seminar 2021 was a great success despite the obstacles of the pandemic! We brought a unique hybrid seminar attendees, offering in-person attendance in Frisco, or the option of joining live via Zoom. We hosted about 230 attendees in person and 260 virtually.

Top left: "Polling Locations" session with speakers Irma Parker, City Secretary, Addison, and Deborah Sorensen, City Secretary, Royse City. *Top center:* TMCA President Aimee Nemer at the event luncheon. *Top right:* pre-seminar "Step by Step: Conduct of an Election" speakers

Pearland City Secretary Crystal Roan; Burselson City Secretary Amanda Campos; and Canyon City Secretary Gretchen Mercer.

Far lower left: "Recruiting & Training Election Workers" co-presenter Kim Sutter, City Secretary, Euless. *Center left:* TMCA President Aimee Nemer, City Secretary, Richardson, and Immediate Past President Shelley George, City Secretary, Allen, with decorations celebrating TMCA's 35th anniversary. *Near left:* "Recruiting & Training Election Workers" co-presenter Art Camacho, City Secretary, Haltom City.

TMCCP Recertifying Class of 2021

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

1st Recertification

Lucretia Alvarez, Taylor
Julie C. Arrington, Clarksville
Robyn Battle, Prosper
Kelly Burris, Brownfield
Lori Cartwright, Waxahachie
Jennifer Clements, Lubbock
Kristy Cole, Rockwall
Machiel B. Covey, Clarendon
Sheila Edmondson, Cibolo
Holly Fimbres, Grapevine

Ann Franklin, Bastrop
Mona Lisa Galicia, Grand Prairie
Dr. Amy C. Holt, TMCCP/TMCA
Amanda Jacobs, Bedford
Staci L. King, Stephenville
Robin Lenio, Seabrook
Mary McDonald, Midlothian
Becky L. McGrew, Katy
Rosa Mendez, Friona
Ana Mercado, Sullivan City

Tracy B. Norr, retired
Debora Penberg, Leander
Michelle Perez, Friendswood
Jennifer Phillips, Irving
Myrna Rios, Austin
Shelley Scazzero, Hudson Oaks
Alicia Smith, Willow Park
Tina Stewart, The Colony
Carla Walker, Granbury
Dalessa Williams, DISH

2nd Recertification

Nan Billings, Bangs
Shelley Goodwin, Fredericksburg
Traci Henderson, North Richland Hills
Teresa Herrera, Palestine
Esmeralda Hudson, Waco

Kelly Moore, Port Arthur
Cynthia Olguin, Hutchins
Christel Pettinos, Coppell
Karen Price, Pampa
Crystal Roan, Pearland

Sherry Roberts, Overton
LuAnn Rogers, Moulton
Alice Snyder, Plano
Beth Walls, retired
Sara White, Round Rock
Janelle Williams, Galveston

3rd Recertification

Janet L. Davis, Santa Fe
Suzanne Finch, Hereford
Angela Winkle, Sansom Park

Debra Howe, Castroville
Karen Thompson, Pflugerville

4th Recertification

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa
LeAnn Gallman, retired
Lydia Lopez, Hewitt

Christina McDonald, Marble Falls
Lisa Elaine Simpson, Granite Shoals
Cynthia Singleton, Hurst

5th Recertification

Brenda Glenn Craig, retired
Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan

6th Recertification

Leticia Vacek, Trophy Club

7th Recertification

Jean Dwinell, retired
Amanda C. Elizondo, Harlingen

TMCCP Election Law Seminar

Photos by Paul Traves



At top left: Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC (left), City Secretary, Bryan, is presented the 2020 TMCA Distinguished Service Award that was announced at the virtual TMCA Awards Ceremony in October 2020, by 2020 TMCA President Shelley George.

At right: We were thrilled to have so many TMCA past presidents in attendance at the January seminar! From left to right: Mary Lynne Stratta (2005), LeAnn Gallman (2012), Mary Kayser (2011), Kim Sutter (2019), Sherry Mashburn (2015), Art Camacho (2014), Marie Balthrop (2018), Pam Schmidt (2010), and Shelley George (2020).



The TMCA membership and staff celebrated retiring Administrative Director Peggy Burnside's retirement with cards, gifts, and cake. Peggy has served 35 years with the Association.

TMCCP Graduating Class of 2021

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

The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program (TMCCP) is a professional development program with college/university-level courses. It is the only university-level professional education program for city clerks and city secretaries in Texas and is the third oldest of 39 such programs in the country.

The Certification Program seeks to establish certain qualifications for fulfilling the office of municipal clerk in order to retain the traditional and rightful standing as an officer of the municipality. Instruction and study includes current insight into such areas as public relations, ethics, municipal budgets, interpersonal communications, and public management. The program provides the municipal clerk with the knowledge and methods necessary to execute the duties of his/her office, as well as develops familiarity with the theory and practices of local government.

Pursuit of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) helps municipal clerks grow both personally and professionally. Earning the TRMC certification increases the proficiency of the public servant and enhances personal awareness, flexibility, knowledge, and innovative decision-making, resulting in new professionalism.

Successful completion of TMCCP requires approximately 200 hours of individual home study, examinations over each of the four courses, and attendance at eight two-day seminars. Recertification requires an additional 80 hours of professional development course work every five years.

Top row, from left to right: Shawna Atkinson, Abilene; Kelli Beall, Hemphill; Theresa Bell, Teague; LeeAnn Blankenship, Anson; Jaime Brew; Leah Brooks; White Oak; Miguel Cantu, Grey Forest

Second row: Johna Childers, Lufkin; Susan Collazo, Post; Nikki Coronado, Shallowater; Julie Davidson, Frisco; Kristin Downs, Duncanville; Leslie Galloway, Kennedale; Andrea Gardner, Watauga

Third row: Olga Garza, Southside Place; Connie Gibbens, Hays; April Gilliland, Liberty; Sandra Green, Farmersville; Elinka Harper; Elizabeth Harrell, Oak Ridge North; Julie Harvill, Anahuac

Fourth row: Natasha Rene'e Hinton, League City; Shamarie Hull, Collinsville; Teresa Curry Johnson, Gordon; Elanna Killian, Humble; Jennifer Krummel, Orange; Patti Lowrance, Floydada; Melissa McCall, Diboll

Fifth row: Stacie Miller, Stinnett; Tracy Miller, Kirby; Stephanie Mills, West Lake Hills; Jacqueline Moya, Los Fresnos; Syra Nichols, Pecos; Carla Oldacre, Greenville; Brenda Poe

Sixth row: Misty Richardson, Fairfield; Gladis Sanchez, La Porte; Nancy Sawyer, Liberty Hill; Becky Sims, Lampasas; Marisa Spencer, Garden Ridge; Caryn Stevens, Red Oak; Marsha Jo Stone, Vernon

Seventh row: Amanda Valdez, Fair Oaks Ranch; Judy Van Houten, Gladewater; Sally Villarreal, Lake Jackson; Amy Wallace, Crosbyton; Michelle Wiese, Lindale; Elizabeth Gayle Wilkinson, New Braunfels; Lisa Wilson, Copperas Cove

Not pictured: Sonia Acosta, Deer Park; Brandy Barrett, Westworth Village; Fred Blanco, Rancho Viejo; Vicky Coopwood, Texarkana; Amber Cunningham, Italy; Allene Gilmore, Kemp; Catrina Maxwell, Nassau Bay; Kimberly Morris, Jones Creek; Ashley Owens, Coppell; Terry Blackwell Ruiz



TMCCP ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2021 Election Law Seminar!

Volunteer instructors:

Christina Adkins, Legal Director–Elections Division,
Texas Office of the Secretary of State
Frances Aguilar, TRMC, City Secretary, Angleton
Marie Balthrop, TRMC, City Clerk, Wichita Falls
Erika Brady, TRMC, Assistant City Clerk, Austin
Art Camacho, TRMC, City Secretary, Haltom City
Amanda Campos, TRMC, City Secretary, Burleson
Zanea Carpenter, TRMC, City Secretary, Muleshoe
Becky Garza, TRMC, City Secretary, Lubbock
Shelley George, TRMC, City Secretary, Allen
Jannette Goodall, TRMC, City Clerk, Austin
Trudy Hancock, Brazos County Elections Administrator
Lisa Henderson, City Secretary, Plano
Rosemarie Kanusky, Counsel, Norton Rose Fulbright, LLP
Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary, Fort Worth (*Prov. Voting handout*)
Bill Longley, TML Legislative Counsel
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, Consulting City Sec., Bojorquez Law Firm, PC
Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, City Secretary, Canyon
Jenny Page, TRMC, City Secretary, Humble
Irma Parker, TRMC, City Secretary, Addison
Matt Ribitzki, Deputy City Attorney, Burleson
Myrna Rios, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Austin
Crystal Roan, TRMC, City Secretary, Pearland
Kim Sutter, TRMC, City Secretary, Euless
Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, City Secretary, Royse City
Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, City Secretary, Bryan
Thomas Harris III, TRMC, City Secretary, Sugar Land
Leticia Vacek, TRMC, City Clerk, San Antonio
Caroline Webster, Assistant City Attorney, Austin
Lee Woodward, TRMC, City Secretary, La Porte

Volunteer session conveners:

Shawna Atkinson, TRMC	Mary Kayser, TRMC
Marie Balthrop, TRMC	Laure Morgan, TRMC
Art Camacho, TRMC	Aimee Nemer, TRMC
Miguel Cantu, TRMC	Carla Oldacre, TRMC
Heather Robertson-Caraway, TRMC	Rosa Rios, TRMC
Zanea Carpenter, TRMC	Gladis Sanchez, TRMC
Susan Collazo, TRMC	Christi Shivers, TRMC
Kerri Craig, TRMC	Tina Stewart, TRMC
Shanae Jennings, TRMC	Angie Wade, TRMC
	Laurie Wilson, TRMC

Volunteer attendance scanners:

Lucretia Alvarez, TRMC	Michelle Perez, TRMC
Marie Balthrop, TRMC	Gladis Sanchez, TRMC
LeeAnn Blankenship, TRMC	Becky Sims, TRMC
Jennifer Clements, TRMC	Tanya Smith, TRMC
Kerri Craig, TRMC	Alicia Smith, TRMC
Debbie Gressett, TRMC	Alice Snyder, TRMC
Sereca Huff-Huggins, TRMC	Deborah Sorensen, TRMC
Carole Kuykendall	Bobbie Jo Taylor, TRMC
Ellie Monteaux, TRMC	Tanya Todd, TRMC
Laurie Odom	Carole Vanzant, TRMC
Carla Oldacre, TRMC	Laurie Wilson, TRMC

Thank You to Our Seminar Sponsors

We are grateful to the following 2021 seminar sponsors who stepped up to support us during this pandemic.

PLATINUM SPONSORS:



GOLD SPONSOR:



SILVER SPONSORS:



TMCCP Certificates Earned

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

Course 1

Sasha Luna, Tomball

Course 2

Beth Fischer, Benbrook
Cindy Woodard, Memphis

Course 4

Tammy Barton, Jarrell
Robert Cardenas, Selma
Katherine Cenicola, Cedar Hill
Beth Fischer, Benbrook
Mason Florus, Schulenburg
Franchesca Jimenez, Hereford
Lisandra Leal, North Richland Hills
Natalie (Shelley) McElhannon, Kerrville
Michael Mark Muscarello, Webster
Linda Proskey, Flower Mound
Chloe Sawatzky, Carrollton
Karen Stack, Brenham
Kimberly Wagner, Llano

May 2-8, 2021

MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK

Celebrate Texas Municipal Clerks!



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter Vice President **Debby Goza, TRMC**

City Secretary, Live Oak

Our Alamo Chapter members met on December 9 for our regular meeting and our Holiday Event, and again despite COVID and with the assistance of Brenda Dennis, City Secretary, Schertz, who offered the chapter a venue within her municipality. Unfortunately we did not have a speaker for this meeting. However, the Alamo Chapter Holiday Meeting was a great success with many fun games and the food was great. Thank you, Amanda Valdez, for her creativity!



Congratulations

Happy New Year as we welcome 2021 and say goodbye to 2020, as we look forward to upcoming year with a brand new slate of elected officers. We say a fond farewell to our chapter president Peggy Cimics whose leadership has led the chapter to many awards and recognitions. In addition, we wish Vice President Debby Goza and author



The Alamo Chapter had a great meeting and holiday event on December 9 in Schertz.

ALAMO CHAPTER

December meeting attendees:

- Vice President Debby Goza,
City of Live Oak
- Sorayda Sanchez, City of Uvalde
- Treasurer Christina Picioccio,
City of Fair Oaks Ranch
- Valerie Chapman, City of Cibolo
- Secretary Kristin Mueller,
City of Universal City
- Gayle Wilkinson,
City of New Braunfels
- Amanda Valdez,
City of Fair Oaks Ranch
- Jocelyn Schneider,
City of Live Oak
- Brenda Dennis, City of Schertz
- Miguel Cantu, City of Hondo
- Isa Gaytan, City of Live Oak
- Saundra Passailaigue,
City of Leon Valley
- Ana Federico,
City of Leon Valley
- Donna Lowder, EDC/Assistant,
Live Oak
- Trudy Whitfield, City of Live Oak
- Robert Cardenas, City of Selma
- Elsa Robles,
City of Alamo Heights

of the past two years of the “Alamo Chapter Happenings,” a bon voyage and a wink to the next president or vice president as I will hand the authorship duties to another. I must say, I did enjoy the writing duties, as it gave me many smiles and a few belly laughs.

Congratulations to Gayle Wilkinson, deputy city secretary, as she is now working for the city of New Braunfels and I know she will be a great success. Congratulations on your new position.

Congratulations to Hondo City Secretary Miguel Cantu on his TMCCP certification (see our pictures of him with his great smiling face)! Congratulations.

Miguel recently hired Megan Rodriguez as his new assistant to city secretary. Megan is a resident of Hondo, having lived there for the last twenty years, so I can officially a “Hondonian.” She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Schreiner University with a BA in Psychology. She is pursuing an MBA with an emphasis in ethical leadership from her alma mater. Megan is a mother of three children, 20, 17, 9, and her 2-year-old German Shepard, Kimber.

Congratulations to Debra Howe, City Secretary from the City of Castroville: she just received her third recertification. We are all so proud!



Congratulations on earning the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification! *Above from left to right:* Amanda Valdez, Deputy City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; Miguel Cantu, City Secretary, Hondo; and Debra Howe, City Secretary, Castroville.



At the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco in January, left to right: Fair Oaks Ranch City Secretary Christina Picioccio, Asst. City Manager Carole Vanzant, Dep. City Secretary Amanda Valdez, and Trophy Club City Secretary Leticia Vacek.

ALAMO CHAPTER

City of Live Oak’s Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police Isaura “Isa” Gaytan, passed her second test for certification and was not nervous! What a brave woman, and congratulations!

Congratulations to Elsa Robles on her move to the City of Alamo Heights. She will make a fine city secretary!

Food for Thought

“The difference between winning and losing is often not quitting.”

—Walt Disney

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By **Shawna Atkinson, TRMC**

City Secretary, Abilene

The Bluebonnet Chapter met December 9 at the VIP Community Center in Stamford. Kim Bryant, City Secretary of Stamford, and Bryan Plumlee, City Manager of Stamford, welcomed everyone, and Mr. Plumlee delivered the invocation. A delicious BBQ lunch was provided by Nancy Johnson from Tommy Morris Insurance Agency, who gave a brief presentation to the group on what her agency does for cities.



Front row, left to right: Diane Latham, Breckenridge; Roma Holley, Eastland; Shawna Atkinson, TRMC, Abilene; LeeAnn Blankenship, TRMC, Anson; Kaitlin Richardson, Abilene; Misty Boatwright, Hamilton. Second row, from left to right: Rose Soliz, Hamlin; Tammy Gibson, Aspermont; Christi Wynn, TRMC, Brownwood; Brenda Kilgo, Early; Karen Langley, TRMC. Coleman; Staci King, TRMC, Stephenville; Kim Bryant, Stamford.

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

After the business section of the meeting, President Langley presented the 2020 Bluebonnet Municipal Clerk of the Year award to Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary of Abilene. Diane Latham, Assistant City Secretary of Breckenridge, and Kim Bryant, City Secretary of Stamford, were each awarded a \$500 scholarship to assist in continuing education and training.

Bluebonnet Chapter Vice President Ryan Polster was recently promoted to city administrator of the City of Hamilton and tendered his resignation from the board. We are all sad to see him leave our group, but excited for his new opportunity! Diane Latham volunteered to take over the remainder of his term, and she was elected by unanimous consent. Rhonda Williams, City Secretary of Dublin, recently retired from the profession. She was not able to attend this meeting but will be presented with a quilt at a later date. We will all miss Rhonda, especially her getting up early and saving us all seats together at the seminars. Congratulations to both Rhonda & Ryan!

At the end of the meeting, members participated in a (COVID-friendly) mystery gift exchange to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

The Bluebonnet Chapter meets quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The chapter recently met on March 10 in Abilene; the next meeting will be held on June 8 in the City of Coleman. Everyone is welcome to join for lunch and fellowship!

Top right: Brenda Kilgo (center) presents Kim Bryant (left) and Diane Latham (right) with their scholarships to assist in continuing education and training.

Middle right: 2020 Bluebonnet Chapter Clerk of the Year Shawna Atkinson with Chapter President Karen Langley.

Near right: Chapter members at the TMCCP Election Law Sminar in January: Diane Latham, Breckenridge; Kim Bryant, Stamford; LeeAnne Blankenship, TRMC, Anson; Roma Holley, Eastland; Shawna Atkinson, TRMC, Abilene; Misty Boatwright, Hamilton; and Aly Oliver, Stephenville.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

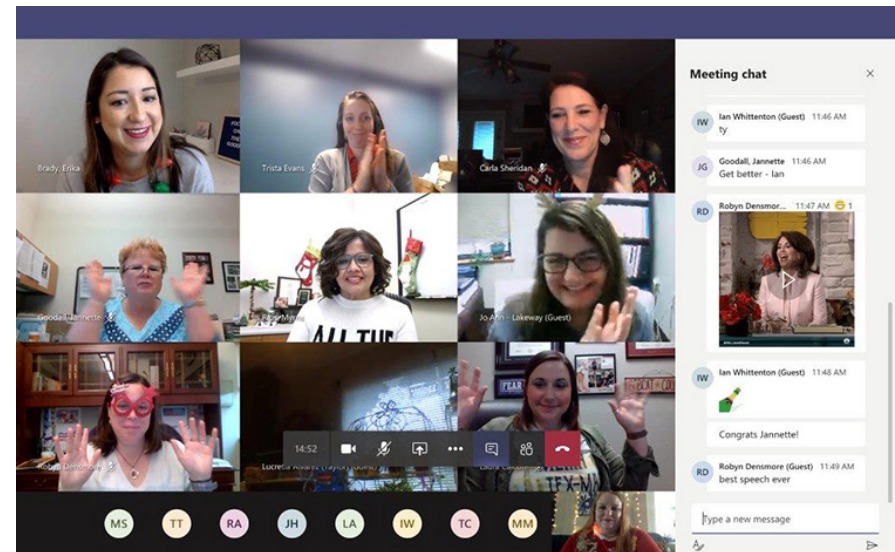
By Chapter President **Myrna Rios, TRMC**

Deputy City Clerk, Austin

As we continue to keep everyone's safety our top priority, the Capital Chapter agreed to continue to meet virtually in 2021 until further notice. The chapter has continued to successfully meet and with higher participation since travel is not involved! Here are some highlights from recent meetings up to our first meeting of the year that was conducted on January 20.

December 2020. The chapter welcomed a newly appointed chapter board beginning January 2021: President Myrna Rios, Austin; Vice President Tanya Smith, College Station; Secretary Trista Evans, Pflugerville; Treasurer Robyn Densmore, Georgetown; Historian Ian Whittenton. The chapter gifted member Jo Ann Touchstone, city secretary, Lakeway, a voucher to visit her mom in Wisconsin—a very heart-warming presentation.

January 2021. The chapter made appointments to the five chapter committees (Audit Committee, By-Laws Committee, Clerk of the Year Committee, Membership Committee, and Scholarship Committee). A Texas-sized congratulations to all the secretaries and clerks that certified or recertified and were acknowledged at the 2021 TMCA Election Law Seminar! The Capital Chapter celebrates and congratulates the following graduates: Stephanie Mills, Westlake, and Nancy Sawyer,

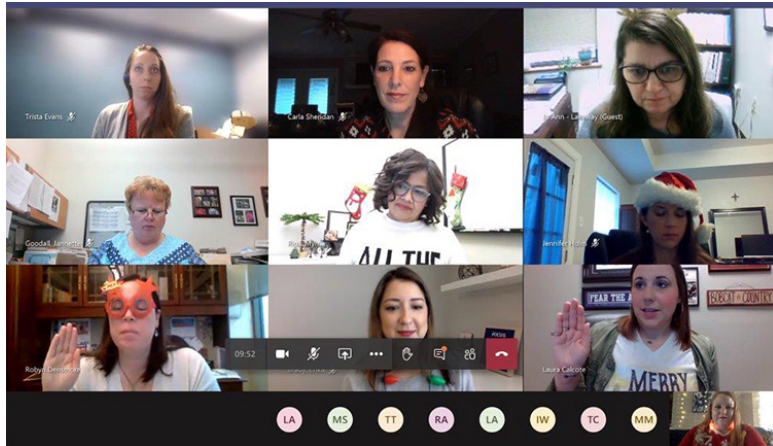


The Capital Chapter at their virtual meeting in December.

Liberty Hill! We also congratulate those who earned their first recertification: Lucretia Alvarez, Taylor; Ann Franklin, Bastrop; Deborah Penberg, Leander; and Myrna Rios, Austin; second recertification: Sara White, Round Rock; third recertification: Karen Thompson, Pflugerville; and fifth recertification, Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan. Congratulations to Austin City Clerk Jannette Goodall for her appointment as treasurer to the TMCA Executive Board.

CAPITAL CHAPTER

The next scheduled meeting will be scheduled in March. Please contact Chapter President Myrna Rios, Deputy City Clerk, Austin at myrna.rios@austintexas.gov with questions or if you would like to virtually join us!



Capital Chapter officers take the oath of office.

Members present at the January meeting:

Chapter Vice President Tanya Smith, City Secretary, College Station	Jannette Goodall, City Clerk, Austin
Chapter Secretary Trista Evans, Deputy City Secretary, Pflugerville	Nancy Sawyer, City Secretary, Liberty Hill
Chapter Historian Ian Whittenton, Dep. City Secretary, College Station	Tonya Sumner, City Clerk, Thorndale
Chapter Treasurer Robyn Densmore, City Secretary, Georgetown	Ann Franklin, City Secretary, Bastrop
Laura Calcote, City Secretary, Wimberley	Elizabeth Myers, Deputy City Secretary, Jonestown
LeAnn Quinn, City Secretary, Cedar Park	Stephanie Hall, Boards and Commissions Coordinator, Austin
Mandy Miller, Admin. Asst., Manor	Elizabeth Trevino, Interim Deputy City Clerk, San Marcos
Lucretia Alvarez, Admin. Asst., Taylor	Tammy Cook, Interim City Clerk, San Marcos
Lluvia Almaraz, City Secretary, Manor	Stephanie Hall, Business Process Specialist, Austin
Rachel Austin, City Sec., Jonestown	

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Cathy Duhart, TRMC**

City Secretary, Sinton

Greetings from the Coastal Bend Chapter! Our chapter held a Zoom meeting on December 11 in our last quarter. We enjoyed talking and bringing each other up to speed on what has been going on in our particular cities; how we are handling the pandemic and restrictions we still have in place; working from home and the office; and the outcomes of our November elections.

We discussed the nominations of chapter officers for 2021. Nominations for chapter officers for 2021 were President Rebecca Huerta, Vice President Cathy Duhart, Treasurer Gabriela Hernandez, and Secretary April Hilbrich.

The nominations were voted on and approved unanimously. The new officers will be sworn in at our next meeting in March. We are excited for the new year and the great things it will hold for the Coastal Bend Chapter.

Anyone interested in joining the Coastal Bend Chapter, or for general inquiries, can contact Chapter Secretary Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton, at 361-364-2381 or city1395@sintontexas.org.

Members present at the December meeting:

Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary, Kingsville	Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, Sinton
Ruby Beaven, Assistant City Secretary, Rockport	Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, Corpus Christi
Kimberly Henry, Assistant to the City Manager, Rockport	April Hilbrich, City Secretary, Victoria
	Gabriela Hernandez, City Secretary, Beeville

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter President **Shelley Goodwin, TRMC**

City Secretary, Fredericksburg

The Hill Country in Texas makes for some of the prettiest pictures as well as best activities year around, but Wimberley in the Christmas time is one of the best. This year the Hill Country Chapter was lucky to have their December meeting hosted by Laura Calcote and the City of Wimberley. The meeting began with Mayor Gina Fulkerson of Wimberley welcoming the chapter members to Wimberley. Members, guest, and chapter officers (President Shelley Goodwin, Vice President Erica Berry, Treasurer Laura Calcote, and Secretary Margie Rivera) were introduced. Normal business was approved and discussed. 2021 chapter goals were discussed and committees were appointed. Participants also reviewed the deadlines for the May 1, 2021, Uniform Election Day and education opportunities, then came the fun stuff: the annual gift exchange. Not too much gift stealing happened this year, but fun was had by all. After pictures and networking several members hit the town.

The Hill Country Chapter is in the process of creating a Facebook page: watch for it and then like it. The Hill Country is a beautiful place and a slower pace than most big cities, but our chapter is growing and there are new things happening.

One liner thought: No one is listening, until you make a mistake.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Deborah Sorensen, TRMC**
City Secretary, Royse City

The Lone Star Chapter met via Zoom in October and November. On October 14 the Town of Fairview hosted the virtual chapter meeting. Our program featured Alicia Richardson, City Secretary of North Richland Hills, educating us on the “Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award.”

On November 12 the City of Murphy hosted the virtual chapter meeting. Our program featured TMCA’s Immediate Past President Shelley George, speaking on the 2020 Post-Election Roundtable Discussion. At this meeting the membership ratified the purchase of gift cards for the TMCCP Graduate Institute.

On January 27 the chapter hosted a hybrid Athenian Dialogue featuring the book *The Spy Who Loved: The Secrets and Lives of Christine Granville* by Clare

Mulley. A big THANK YOU to Jannette Goodall, TRMC, City Clerk, Austin, for facilitating the discussion with 29 attendees. This was a big success.

Please join us as a member or guest at one of our upcoming chapter meetings on April 8 or June 9. Visit tmcalonestarchapter.com to learn more about the Lone Star Chapter or contact Chapter President Deborah Sorensen (Royse City) at dsorensen@roysecity.com.

2020-2021 Officers:

President Deborah Sorensen, TRMC,
 City Secretary, Royse City

President-Elect Susie Quinn, TRMC,
 City Secretary, Murphy

Treasurer Tina Stewart, TRMC,
 City Secretary, The Colony

Secretary Tenitrus Bethel, TRMC,
 Town Secretary, Fairview

Historian Laura Kennemer, TRMC,
 City Secretary, Quinlan

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Traci Henderson, TRMC**
Assistant City Secretary, North Richland Hills

Hello from North Texas! I hope this newsletter finds our Texas Municipal Clerks Association members and loved ones safe and healthy.

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) is continuing to be adaptable with increasing COVID numbers in our area. NTMCA meetings have been all virtual here lately as we work to keep our membership safe.

We held our first ever Virtual Holiday Celebration in December via WebEx video conference.

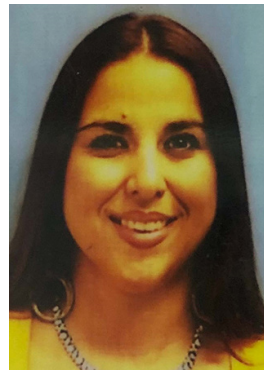


NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Our festivities included playing a virtual “What’s on your phone”! That was super fun. Online silent auction to benefit the NTMCA Alyce Deering Scholarship Fund. This fund provides for educational and travel stipends to assist our membership in meeting their TMCCP certification and recertification requirements. We also enjoyed the company of some of our NTMCA retirees, it was so great to see them!

Our charity this year was Michael’s Memories. The Mission of Michael’s Memories is to provide firefighters with cancer the opportunity to “getaway from cancer” on a vacation with their family. Allowing them to reconnect and escape the stress, trauma, and financial burden that undergoing cancer treatment creates while also involving the community and raising cancer awareness to the public. If this charity is something you are passionate about, you can donate at www.michaelsmemories.org.

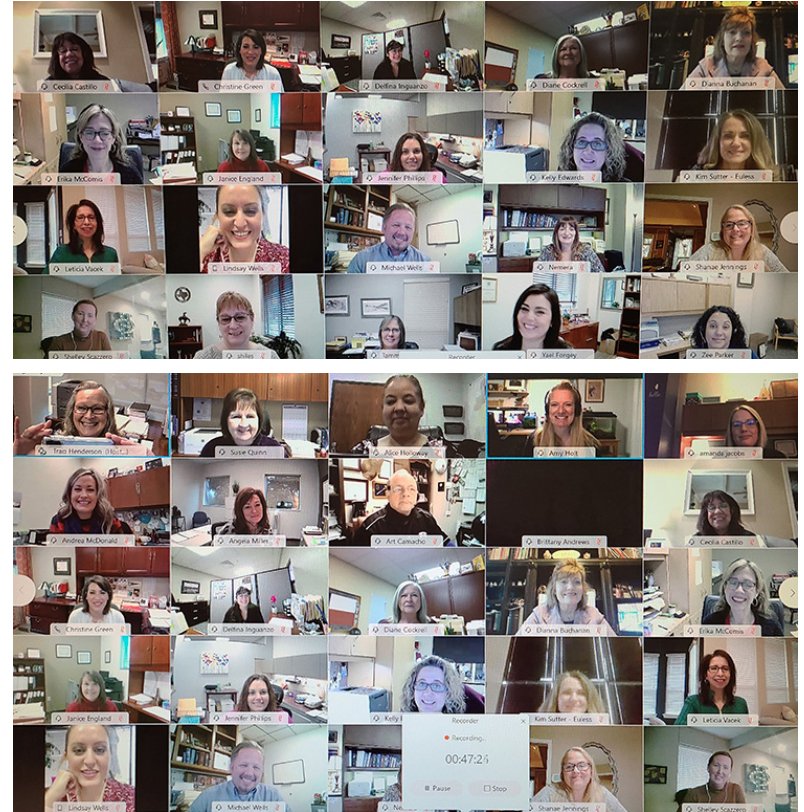
We held our January business meeting via WebEx video conference where Senior Public Information Officer Moraima Mcgraw from the City of San Antonio. Moraima spoke to us about Public Information Requests. Moraima provided the membership a cost estimate model to assist us with certain types of requests such as paper vs. electronic and redacting if requestor is inspecting on-site.



Moraima Mcgraw

We had a great January turnout and hope this trend will continue.

In February we welcomed guest speaker Sandy Potter with Texas Health. Sandy presented information on “Self-Care and Mental Fitness” during the



NTMCA Chapter members at their January meeting via WebEx.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

COVID Pandemic. Sandy shared, “the coronavirus has been in our lives for over a year, and the end is not yet in sight. The social, financial, psychological, and physical stressors surrounding the pandemic have been challenging in many ways. It’s time to take care of yourself. Practicing self-care can help you and your family be better equipped to get through this time together.” Her presentation focused on ways to get back to normal even if the world around us does not want to cooperate!

Congratulations to our NTMCA members who received their certification or recertification this January at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. We have such an awesome membership!!

Retirement

Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director

TMCCP 2021 Graduates

Brandy Barrett, Westworth Village
 Andrea Gardner, Watauga
 Ashley Owens, Coppell

TMCCP 2021 First Recertification

Holly Fimbres, Grapevine
 Dr. Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCA
 Amanda Jacobs, Bedford
 Jennifer Phillips, Irving
 Shelley Scazero, Hudson Oaks
 Alicia Smith, Willow Park
 Tina Stewart, The Colony

TMCCP 2021 Second Recertification

Christel Pettinos, Coppell

TMCCP 2021 Sixth Recertification

Leticia Vacek, Trophy Club

TMCCP 2021 Seventh Recertification

Jean Dwinnell, retired

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Michelle Perez, TRMC**

Deputy City Secretary, Friendswood

November 2020 Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their monthly meeting on November 18 in Humble via hybrid. Chapter President Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village, called the meeting to order. Arquella Hargrove, Human Resources Manager, University of Houston, gave a presentation on Human Resources/Certified Public Manager Program.

The chapter’s 2020 Executive Board slate was elected. The chapter approved a charitable donation of \$500 to the Casa de Esperanza, selected by President Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village.



Salt Grass Chapter President Dixie Roberts, TRMC, City Secretary, Alvin; Treasurer Frances Aguilar, TRMC, City Secretary, Angleton; Vice President Tracylynn Garcia, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, Tomball; Secretary Michelle Perez, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Friendswood; and Historian Angela Smith, TRMC, City Secretary, Cleveland.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

The chapter accepted the 2020 slate of officers as follows: President Dixie Roberts, TRMC, City Secretary, Alvin; Vice President Tracylynn Garcia, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, Tomball; Secretary Michelle Perez, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Friendswood; Treasurer Frances Aguilar, TRMC, City Secretary, Angleton; and Historian Angela Smith, TRMC, City Secretary, Cleveland.

December 2020 Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter enjoyed the 2020 Holiday Luncheon & Annual Awards/Installation Banquet on December 9 at Carabba's, Houston.

Congratulations are in order for winners of the Deloris McKenzie Scholarships, the Patrice Fogarty Athenian Dialogue Scholarships, and the Pauline Small Election Law Scholarships. Elanna Killian of Humble, Jenny Page of Humble, Lee Woodward of La Porte, and Gladis Sanchez of La Porte each received Deloris McKenzie scholarships up to \$250 for travel and registration costs

incurred while attending a seminar sponsored by the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. Elanna Killian of Humble, Lee Woodward of La Porte, and Gladis Sanchez of La Porte each received Patrice Fogarty scholarships for \$100 to attend an Athenian Dialogue. Elanna Killian of Humble, Lee Woodward of La Porte, and Gladis Sanchez of La Porte each received Pauline Small Election Law Scholarships for \$250 for travel and registration costs incurred while attending an Election Law seminar sponsored by the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.

In addition, MVBA PC Attorneys at Law, awarded a \$500 scholarship to Lori Hollingsworth, El Campo for costs incurred in attending the TMCA Inc. Election Law seminar.

The 2020 Salt Grass Chapter Outstanding Municipal Clerk of the Year was presented to Crystal Dozier, TRMC, City Secretary, Jamaica Beach, by Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village.

Salt Grass Chapter President Roxanne



Left to right: Salt Grass Chapter President Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village, recognizes 2020 Salt Grass Chapter Outstanding Municipal Clerk of the Year Crystal Dozier, TRMC, City Secretary, Jamaica Beach.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Benitez introduced the 2020 TMCA President Shelley George, TRMC, City Secretary, Allen. 2020 TMCA President Shelley George swore in the 2021 chapter officers: President Dixie Roberts, TRMC, City Secretary, Alvin; Vice President Tracylynn Garcia, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, Tomball; Secretary Michelle Perez, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Friendswood; Treasurer Francis Aguilar, TRMC, City Secretary, Angleton; and Historian Angela Smith, TRMC, City Secretary, Cleveland.

January 2021 Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter met on January 13 at McCormick & Schmick's for its monthly meeting. The meeting was hosted by Linebarger Attorneys at Law, Attorney Brian Groce gave a presentation on "Tax Delinquent Fees and Fines." President Dixie Roberts, TRMC, City Secretary, Alvin, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of the month, January through April and August through December. Our meetings are open to anyone and we welcome visitors!

The Salt Grass Chapter will hold a Notary Training in March and a Public Information Act Seminar in September. We encourage everyone to attend!



Salt Grass Chapter members at their January meeting.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Zanea Carpenter, TRMC**
City Secretary, Muleshoe

The South Plains Chapter met for our quarterly meeting on December 16 at the City of Muleshoe Training Facility in Muleshoe. The meeting was hosted by Zanea Carpenter from the City of Muleshoe. The meal was sponsored by Kirk Franklin of Franklin Legal Publishing.

Chapter President Belinda Terrell of Whiteface called the meeting to order and introductions of members and guests took place.

President Terrell introduced 2020 TMCA President Shelley George who was in attendance for our meeting. President George spoke to the chapter and gave updates on TMCA and the progresses that were made during the year. She presented LeAnn Gallman, retired city manager, Muleshoe, with a TMCA Distinguished Service Award and presented the South Plains Chapter the TMCA Chapter of the Year Award. LeAnn received a beautiful service award, and all chapter members received a cup with "South Plains Chapter of the Year."

President George administered the oath of office to incoming SPTMCA President Kim Perez of Ralls; Vice President Zanea Carpenter of Muleshoe; and Secretary Veronica Olguin of Morton.

Incoming President Kim Perez presented outgoing President Belinda Terrell with a gift of appreciation for her service these last two years.

Our next meeting was scheduled for March 17 with host Debbie Gressett, City of Seminole. If you would like to join us at a future meeting please contact Secretary Zanea Carpenter at zcarpenter@muleshoetx.org for information.



Members and guests in attendance at the meeting:

Zanea Carpenter, TRMC,
 City Secretary, Muleshoe

Andrea Corley,
 City Secretary, Levelland

Melissa Fields-Allgeyer,
 Human Resources, Levelland

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC,
 Retired City Manager, Muleshoe

Shelly George, TRMC, TMCA President

Lisa Hernandez,
 City Secretary, Lorenzo

Isabel Martinez,
 Utility/Court Clerk, Lorenzo

Veronica Olguin, TRMC, Deputy City
 Secretary, Morton

Kim Perez, TRMC,
 City Administrator, Ralls

Brenda Shaw, TRMC,
 City Manager/Secretary, Morton

Belinda Terrell, TRMC,
 City Manager/Secretary, Whiteface

Johnna Ware, City Secretary, Ralls

Toni Wilson,
 Retired City Secretary, Sundown

2020 TMCA President Shelley George (*top, at left*) with Chapter President Belinda Terrell recognized the South Plains Chapter as 2020 TMCA Chapter of the Year with personalized commemorative mugs. LeAnn Gallman (*above, at right*) is honored with a 2020 Distinguished Service Award. At left: 2020 TMCA President Shelley George at the chapter's December meeting.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Amber Villarreal, TRMC**

Assistant City Secretary, Waxahachie

Welcome to 2021! We are all still navigating through these unprecedented times. The look of meetings has definitely changed and virtual meetings are becoming more and more frequent.



Congratulations to retiree Cathy DiMaggio!

The Yellow Rose Chapter ended 2020 with a new slate of officers: President Amber Villarreal, Assistant City Secretary, City of Waxahachie; Vice President Cindy Gross, City Secretary, City of Balch Springs; Treasurer Ivy Peterson, City Secretary, City of

Cleburne; Historian Susana Marin, City Secretary, City of Mansfield. The board is looking forward to serving for the next two years! In other business, the chapter appointed members to the following committees: Nominating, Budget, Audit, Membership, Clerk of the Year, Holiday, Technology/Communications, Scholarship, Bylaws, and Legislative.

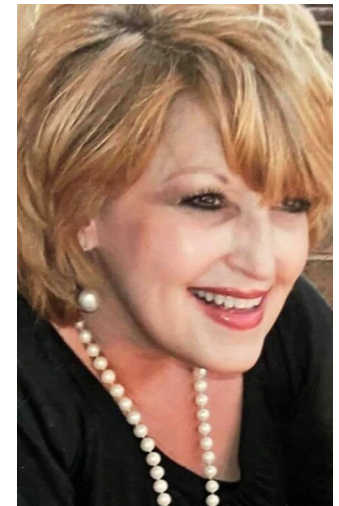
At our December meeting we recognized Cathy DiMaggio on her retirement from the City of Grand Prairie after 20 years of service. Cathy was a founding member of the Yellow Rose Chapter and served on most of our committees, as well as on our board as historian and treasurer. Cathy is a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk, three times recertified, and has also received the Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Chapter members echoed the sentiments about Cathy's leadership, wisdom, and friendship to all chapter members and thanked her for being a great role model to new city secretaries, especially those in our chapter. We will miss you and your wit, Cathy!

In 2020 our chapter lost Lyn Hill, former Cedar Hill City Secretary, and co-founder of the Yellow Rose Chapter and Red Oak City Secretary Dana Argumaniz. Lyn and Dana's beautiful smiles and kind spirits will be greatly missed on this earth.

At this time, our chapter has decided to continue with virtual meetings until further notice. If you are interested in attending a future chapter meeting, please check our website: yellowrosetmca.com.

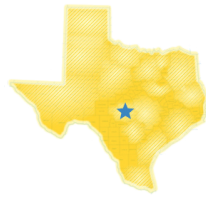


Lyn Hill



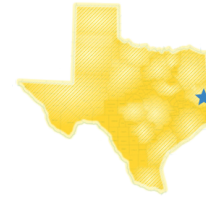
Dana Argumaniz

TMCA Chapters



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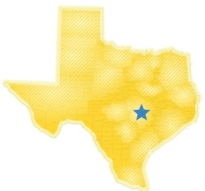
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

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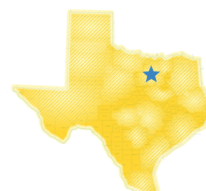
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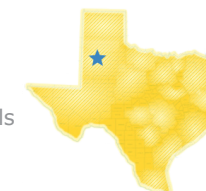
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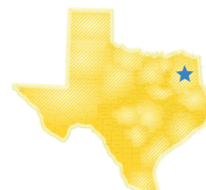
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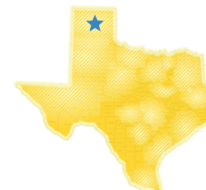
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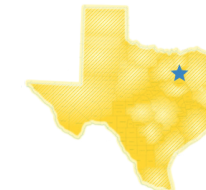
COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

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PANHANDLE CHAPTER

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2021 TMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Aimee Nemer

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President-elect/Vice President

Amanda Campos

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Treasurer Jannette Goodall

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Immediate Past Pres. Shelley George

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Trustee Jeana Bellinger

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Trustee Cara McPartland

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Trustee Teresa Valdez

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Trustee Christi Wynn

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Management Committee Chair Kim Sutter, City Secretary, Euless; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director; Dr. Amy C. Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

2021 TMCA COMMITTEES

Certification Committee

Chair Irma Parker, City Secretary, Addison
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Lisa Henderson, City Secretary, Plano
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Ellie Monteaux, City Sec. & Asst. City Mgr., Livingston
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Kimberly Sloat, City Secretary, Canadian
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Dr. Amy C. Holt, Education Director, TMCA/TMCCP
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Peggy Burnside, Admin. Director, TMCA/TMCCP
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Miriam Sheehan, Asst. Admin. Director, TMCA/TMCCP
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *TMCA President Aimee Nemer, President-elect/Vice President Amanda Campos, and Immediate Past President Shelley George*

35th Anniversary Ad-Hoc Committee

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Chair

Amanda Campos, Burleson

Jannette Goodall, Austin

Esmeralda Hudson, Waco

Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan

Advisory Management Committee

Kim Sutter, Euless, Past President, Chair

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, President

Shelley George, Allen, Immediate Past President

Amanda Campos, Burleson, President-elect/Vice Pres.

Irma Parker, Addison, Certification Committee Chair

Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director*

Dr. Amy C. Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

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Alice Holloway, Joshua

Erika McComis, Argyle

Bobbie Jo Taylor, Crandall

Shelley George, Allen, Board Liaison

Award of Excellence Committee

Thelma Gilliam, West University Place, Chair

Becky Garza, Lubbock, Vice Chair

Deborah Hale, Collinsville

Dr. Amy C. Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director

Laure Morgan, Brownsville

Tina Stewart, The Colony

Martha Velasquez, Luling

Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills, Board Liaison

Awards Committee

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Amy Casey, Belton

Kristin Downs, Duncanville

Mona Galicia, Grand Prairie

Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball

Carrie Land, Anna

Jeana Bellinger, Brenham, Board Liaison

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Shelley Goodwin, Fredericksburg

Becky McGrew, Katy

Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills

Theresa Scott, Flower Mound

Teresa Valdez, Rockport

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Lee Woodward, La Porte, Chair

Amanda Campos, Burleson

Peggy Cimics, Cibolo

Shanae Jennings, Irving

Mary Kayser, Fort Worth

Aimee Nemer, Richardson

Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan

Leticia Vacek, Trophy Club

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Comprised of Chapter Presidents

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Sandra Passailaigue, Leon Valley, Chair

Susie Quinn, Murphy

Tanya Smith, College Station

Shawna Atkinson, Abilene

Laurie Wilson, Carrollton

Sharon Harris, La Porte

Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview, Board Liaison

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Norma Grimaldo, Odessa

Alicia Smith, Willow Park

Crystal Roan, Pearland

Zanea Carpenter, Muleshoe

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, President*

Amanda Campos, President-elect/Vice President*

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Patrice Fogarty, Retired Member, Past President

LeAnn Gallman, Retired Member, Past President

Sherry Mashburn, Consultant, Past President

Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills, Trustee

Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan, Past President

Resolutions Committee

Ivy Peterson, Cleburne, Chair

Laura Calcote, Wimberley

Cathy Duhart, Sinton

Brenda Shaw, Morton

Doris Speer, Tomball

JoAnn Touchstone, Lakeway

Christi Wynn, Brownwood, Board Liaison

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Christine Green, University Park

Jessie Hanks, Kaufman

Laura Kennemer, Quinlan

Carla Oldacre, Wills Point

Cara McPartland, Salado, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee

Frances Aguilar, Angleton, Chair

Roxanne Benitez, Spring Valley Village

Robin Lenio, Seabrook

Elena Quintanilla, Ransom Canyon

Mary Valenzuela, Kingsville

Gretchen Mercer, Canyon, Board Liaison

Strategic Planning Committee

Maria Jackson, Missouri City, Pres.-elect/VP, Chair

Jannette Goodall, Austin, Treasurer

Ron Gonzales, Fort Worth

Dr. Amy C. Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director

Ellie Monteaux, Livingston

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, President

Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights

Deborah Sorensen, Roysse City

Lee Woodward, La Porte, Trustee

Technology Committee

Stephanie Storm, Wylie, Chair

Roxanne De Leon, Elmendorf

Ann Franklin, Bastrap

Gladis Sanchez, La Porte

Jannette Goodall, Austin, Board Liaison

TML Booth Committee

Dixie Roberts, Alvin

Salt Grass Chapter members

Jenny Page, Humble, Board Liaison

TML Representative

Amanda Campos, Burleson

TML Session Committee

Jenny Page, Humble, Trustee, Chair

Gretchen Mercer, Canyon, Trustee

Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview, Trustee

*non-voting member