

TMCA News

Vol. XXXIV No. 1 • March 2023
Newsletter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.



Bluebonnet



Salt Grass



Coastal Bend



Congratulations to our new TRMCs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone has survived the winter storms and is getting set for celebrating St. Patrick's Day. The start of the year has been a busy one, and for those of us with May elections, the fun is just starting. I am working on scheduling chapter visits and hope to be able to visit each chapter.

As we move forward this year there are a couple of things to highlight for this year. There will be a few things that may be presented at our TMCA Business Meeting in October in Frisco that I felt advance notice of would be helpful:



TMCA President
Jannette Goodall, TRMC
City Secretary, Fort Worth



President's Message (CONTINUED)

Code of Ethics. The TMCA Board selected reviewing the current **TMCA Code of Ethics** as a task we wanted to tackle this year. It has been a number of years since it was reviewed, and we felt it was appropriate to review it to ensure it reflects our current professional standards. The Board authorized me to appoint a Code of Ethics Committee that reflected each region as much as possible. Board Trustee Crystal Roan, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, will chair the committee. The members of the committee also include: Marcia Bentley-German, TRMC, chief deputy city secretary, City of Midland; Christina Picioccio, TRMC, city secretary, City of Fair Oaks Ranch; Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, City of Kingsville; and Rocío Gonzalez, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, City of Allen. The goal is to distribute any recommended updates to the membership in time for the membership to vote on any changes at the TMCA/TMCCP Advanced Institute.

Membership Dues. The Board is reviewing and analyzing the current level of membership dues and if an increase is needed to support the organization and our programs. It has been a number of years since the last increase, and the needs of our membership have changed and expanded into the world of technology and online training. A final recommendation will be made following the March 31 Board Meeting, but I wanted to give everyone a heads-up that an increase may be recommended. The members would vote on any proposed increase at the TMCA Business Meeting on October 26 in Frisco. Please feel free to **email me** with questions or concerns. The Board understands membership dues increases are always a challenge, but in order to continue and expand our services and benefits to our membership, our membership dues must allow for expanded services. We have all experienced the increase in operating costs within our own organizations and TMCA is no exception. In addition, we are looking at other forms and types of trainings and certifications that would benefit all of our members from small towns to large cities.

TMCA Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee is reviewing the TMCA bylaws for any recommended changes that may be more in line with meeting the needs of our members while taking advantage of new technology that we have all adopted over the past couple of years. An example could be electronic voting that would allow all members to vote on items, not just those members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting at the TMCA/TMCCP Advanced Institute. Any proposed amendment will be presented to the membership prior to the Annual Business Meeting, and will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting on October 26.

As you can see, there will be a number of very important recommendations that could be made prior to the TMCA Business Meeting and acted upon in October. You will not want to miss the TMCA Business Meeting, held at the TMCA/TMCCP Advanced Institute on October 26-27 in Frisco. In addition to all of the "business," we will be highlighting the best of our organization along with installing 2024 Board members. If you hadn't planned on attending, I hope you will reconsider. →

President’s Message (CONTINUED)

Now that the “boring” business stuff is done, let’s focus on the fun part of being a Municipal Clerk/Secretary:

Opportunities to Dream Big

Scholarships: Need assistance attending training sessions? **Please visit the TMCA webpage for information on scholarships and financial assistance.** We have a number of options to assist members—please take advantage of them.

Upcoming webinars from TMCA—Check it out: we have a great lineup of webinars.

Municipal Clerks Week

IIMC is celebrating the **54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week April 30 through May 6, 2023**. Municipal Clerks Week started in 1969 and, endorsed by all of its members throughout the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries, the week is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the clerk’s office. Please send in your photos, etc., of your city’s celebration on how wonderful and fabulous their city clerk/secretary is. Because we all know the reality is they can’t survive without us. This is a perfect opportunity for each of us to stand up and tell our organizations: “Hey—I am the glue that holds this organization together.”

Information and templates for proclamation, etc., are on the IIMC website.

Membership Highlights

Please send me more—I would love to highlight you or someone in your chapter in the next newsletter:

- Bobbie Jo Taylor and Laura Calcote each recently received their CMC designations from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.
- Connie Constancio retired from the City of Lockhart
- Becky Garza retired from the City of Lubbock
- Debby Goza retired from the City of Live Oak
- Carole Kuykendall retired from the City of Greenville
- Cara McPartland retired from the Village of Salado
- Doris Speer retired from the City of Tomball
- Amy Turner retired from the City of Midland
- Little Elm Director of Administrative Services/Town Secretary Caitlin Biggs was awarded TCMA’s Assistant of the Year Award in Memory of Valerie Bradley
- Houston named their City Council Chamber after Anna Russell, their late City Secretary with seven decades of service

I am honored and frankly so excited to represent this organization. I look forward to visiting each chapter this year just to meet you all and put more faces with names. •

**2024
Scholarship
Awards**
Apply by June 15
[learn more](#)

**2024
Executive
Board Trustee**
Apply by May 1
[learn more](#)

**2023
Municipal
Clerks Week**
April 30–May 6
[learn more](#)

Recognizing Our Shining Stars

2023 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year

Deadline to nominate: July 1, 2023. [Learn more and nominate now.](#)

Recognize a TMCA member who has provided service to other municipal clerks on a local or state level and who excels in leadership.

2023 Emerging Leader Award

Deadline to nominate: June 15, 2023. [Learn more and nominate now.](#)

Recognize an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills that exemplify TMCA's mission or vision.

2023 Distinguished Service Award

Deadline to nominate: June 15, 2023. [Learn more and nominate now.](#)

Recognize someone who has distinguished themselves by making a significant contribution throughout their career to promote the municipal clerk profession, TMCA, and their peers.

Honorary Membership Awards

Deadline to nominate: June 15, 2023. [Learn more and nominate now.](#)

Nominate now! Honorary TMCA Membership is awarded in recognition of someone who has performed exceptional services for the Association and for the improvement of city secretaries.

Lifetime Membership Awards

Deadline to nominate: June 15, 2023. [Learn more and nominate now.](#)

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 and TMCCP.





Congratulations

to 2023 graduates who have earned their
Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification

Front row, left to right: Lenette Cox, Pilot Point; Nicola Browe, Montgomery; Erin Day, Lucas; Tenitrus Bethel, Fairview; Michelle Lewis Sirianni, Prosper; Isa Gaytan, Live Oak; Candias Webster, Mount Pleasant; Sorayda Sanchez, Uvalde; Suzanne Pharr, Mount Enterprise; Natalie Darrow, Sulphur Springs.

Middle row: Kimberly Allison, Seguin; Elisa Morales, Garland; Marcia Bentley-German, Midland; Rachel Lewis, El Lago; Shelley McElhannon, Kerrville; Sasha Luna, Tomball; Laurie Cassidy, Blanco; Andrea Ray, Giddings; Bethany Prewitt, Ennis; Kaitlin Richardson, Abilene.

Top row: Cindy Zuniga, McAllen; Yolanda Galarza-Gomez, Brownsville; Sheila Lehnert, Fort Stockton; Rae Norton, Lavon; Kimberly Dickey, Waller; Rhomari Leigh, Texas City; Caitlan Biggs, Little Elm; Rachel Rowe, Kilgore; Holly Alexander, Port Neches; Melissa Gonzalez, Caldwell; Elizabeth Fischer, Benbrook; Ruth Ann Sandino, Hitchcock; Renee Kross, Friendswood.

Not pictured: Roberto Cardenas, Selma; Catherine Froyd, Cresson; Mayra Herrera; Jennifer Malone, Lewisville; Linda Proskey, Watauga; Joshua Stevenson, McKinney.



Congratulations

to 2023 graduates who have recertified their
Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification

Front row, left to right: Conchita Torrez, Seymour; Ingrid Rex, Highland Village; Elena Quintanilla, Ransom Canyon; Ronda Cockerham, Chandler; Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball; Linda Ames, Denton; Rosa Rios, Denton; Maria Rodriguez, Webster; Elizabeth Walker, Brownsville.

Middle row: Kelly McDonald, retired; Yesenia Rodriguez, McAllen; Imelda Perez, Pharr; Teresa Scott, Flower Mound; Bonnie Hambrick, Athens; Art Camacho, Haltom City; Veronica Olguin, Morton; Ellie Monteaux, Livingston; Kristina Vega, Gonzalez; Brenda Lee Acuña, Presidio.

Top row: Janice England, Saginaw; Victoria Raduechel, Fate; Allison Tidwell, Fort Worth; Melissa Brunner, Fort Worth; Ivy Peterson, Cleburne; Brenda Dennis, retired; Zanea Carpenter, Muleshoe; Cynthia Chapman, Cleburne; Amy Casey, Belton; Irma Parker, Addison; Cecilia Castillo, Irving; Amber Villarreal, Waxahachie.

Not pictured: First recertification: Belinda Berg, Cedar Hill; Wendy Blocker, Sansom Park; Donna Boner, Oak Point; Nellie De La Fuente, Galveston; Amy Dial, Roysse City Police Dept.; Isabel Fernandez, Buda; Deborah Hale, Collinsville; Jennifer Huckabee, Aubrey; Christine Loven, Colleyville; Amanda Morales, La Feria; Holly Owens, Bellmead; Heather Van Dine, Friendswood; Joni Vaughn, Oak Point; Laurie Wilson, Carrollton. *Second recertification:* Jo Ann Beard, Smyer; Tammy Cook, Wimberley; Martha Garcia, Arlington; Pamela Gregg, Alvord; Alice Holloway, Joshua; Rachael Lynch, Bellville; Shannon Montgomery, Haslet; Malinda Nowell, Weatherford; Dianne Peace, Jarrell; Tammy Varner, Midlothian; Michael Wells, Bedford; Karen Wilkerson, Stephenville; Wendy Withers, Shady Shores. *Third recertification:* Dara Crabtree, Leander; Amanda Davenport, Surfside Beach. *Fourth recertification:* Patricia Anderson, Orange; Connie Constanancio, Lockhart; Patty Cox, Kirby; Rebecca Garza, Lubbock; Kaylynn Holloway, Bee Cave; LeAnn Quinn, Cedar Park; Doris Speer, Tomball.



Congratulations

to all who graduated and recertified through TMCCP in January!

Top center: We were honored to have UNT's Clayton Gibson, Vice President for Finance and Administration and CFO, present the event's keynote address. *Middle top center:* TMCA President Jannette Goodall presided over the TMCCP graduation ceremony.

Above: Our graduating class processional concluded with special recognition to Uvalde City Secretary Sorayda Sanchez.

Windcrest City Secretary/Public Information Officer Rachel C. Dominguez of Sorayda's TMCA Alamo Chapter says, "Well-deserved special recognition was given to Uvalde City Secretary Sorayda Sanchez. Sorayda was the last first-time graduate to walk the stage after Fort Worth Assistant City Secretary Ron Gonzales gave a heartfelt message of encouragement and admiration for hard work and perseverance in the certification program, and for doing so during a tragic event in her city. The entirety of the attendees stood in unison to applaud her. Sorayda, congratulations on this triumph during a difficult season in your municipality and your personal life. The Alamo Chapter commends you for all you endured and for doing so with grace and poise." Sorayda is pictured here with TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Seven Traits of People Who Make a Difference

An interview between
Dr. Amy Holt and Kent Julian



Kent Julian

The following interview is based on Kent Julian's article. [His full article is here.](#) The abbreviated version of his "Seven Traits" is located below the interview.

Dr. Amy Holt: Often times city clerks have brief interactions with members of the public as they carry out their duties. How can you show someone that you are interested in making a difference in their life if you only interact with them for a few minutes?

Kent Julian: By following what many of us learned early on from parents, mentors, and even in etiquette class. Smile. Look directly at the person. Be an active listener. Echo back what you hear the person saying. It's amazing the difference you can make by just being present and polite in the moment.

Other times city clerks are able to interact with citizens in an ongoing way. How can you be a "truth teller" to someone when the "bad news" hurts them in a very personal way? (For instance, when a clerk has to reject an applicants application for place on the ballot.)

Telling the truth is the best approach, but that doesn't mean it needs to be communicated in a harsh manner. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

First, these conversations are not easy or comfortable. The more you practice sharing hard truths graciously, the easier and more comfortable it will get...but this will never be one of your favorite activities.

Second, be empathic and be willing to articulate your empathy. If you know a person is not going to like what you have to say, acknowledge that upfront. You can even say that you wish you didn't have to share this information.

Third, be straightforward. The more you "circle around" telling someone bad news, the worse the bad news is going to feel to that person.

Fourth, share just the facts. Avoid sharing personal opinions or, even worse, criticizing other people who might have been involved in the situation.

Finally, answer any questions and continue to be empathic, but stick with the facts.

Seven Traits of People Who Make a Difference (CONTINUED)

City clerks are “solutions-providers” as part of their DNA. They are servant leaders in their city. How can they help share this attitude with others with whom they work?

A leader’s attitude and articulation are the best tools to use to help others become solutions-providers. When facing a problem, you don’t have to be overly optimistic...that can actually lead to bad attitudes among fellow team members because it can make a leader appear out-of-touch. Instead, be realistic and recognize the problem. Even talk with team members about the problem and get their input. Then, once everyone understands the problem, then move on to asking yourself and your team: What does this make possible? This question will move you away from being problem-focused to solution-focused.

How can you attempt to “make a positive difference” in the life of someone who seems set on being negative or critical all the time?

This is a tough one, and honestly, a person’s response is out of your control. Therefore, the best approach is to focus on your RESPONSE as a leader. In these situations, it’s important to go to this person one-on-one and attempt to help the individual understand this weakness. However, over time, if this person continues to stay stuck, the leader must disempower this person by listening less to his input and providing fewer opportunities for this person. It’s important to continue to clearly communicate why these steps are being taken. What’s more, the desired outcome of these steps is to help this person see (1) how toxic constant negativity is to the team and (2) that such behavior will not be tolerated. •

ABOUT KENT JULIAN

Kent Julian is a lot of things...family man, champion swim coach, CSP* professional speaker, fish taco lover, and proud bald guy. Yet, this hasn’t always been the case. Kent started out as an at-risk child with severe learning challenges and SAT scores so low that he had to take Development Studies just to get into college—on probation. From these humble beginnings, Kent went on to become the Executive Director of a national youth association in order to help teenagers just like him. Then, after 20 years in non-profit work, he did something crazy...he launched two successful businesses. Along the way, Kent realized that the successes he experienced were never “his successes.” Each accomplishment came about because of the teams he was privileged to lead. Whether working with millennial students, coaching championship swim teams, or leading his own businesses, success was the result of committed, engaged teams. Now, with his expertise in leadership and employee engagement, he is privileged to speak, write, and consult leaders and teams all over the country on what it takes to create what he calls “DREAM-to-DO” culture.

Seven Traits of People Who Make a Difference

Kent Julian (abridged edition by Dr. Amy C. Holt)

1. Hard (and Smart) Worker. There is no such thing as easy change, easy impact, or easy success. If you’re not willing to roll up your sleeves, the likelihood of you doing well for yourself or making a positive impact in the lives of others is slim.

2. Persistence. How many life-changing stories are never written because people give up too soon? Success comes to those who consistently show up over the long haul.

3. People-Person. This is not to say introverts

cannot make a difference in people’s lives—THEY CAN. The styles between extroverts and introverts may differ, but each personality type can be passionate about seeking positive change in others.

4. Truth-Teller. It’s tough to share hard truths with others. However, difference-makers are willing to engage in tough conversations because they know the truth, when shared clearly and compassionately, can lead to growth. Difference-makers know how to balance directness with gentleness.

5. Solutions-Provider. Problems are a fact of life. But instead of complaining about problems, successful people seek answers and fixes.

6. Lifelong Learner. Successful people who make a difference are always looking to add new crayons to their crayon box.

7. Over-Deliver on Value. Difference-makers gain success by seeking to over-deliver in relationships through active listening, encouraging others, and looking for ways to serve.

Congratulations

to all TMCCP enrollees who have recently completed a course's homework and exam!

Sunshine Alcorta, Elkhart (*two courses*)
 Alaina Alvarado, La Porte (*two courses*)
 Sabrina Alvarez, Hempstead
 Jami Bonner, Waxahachie
 Geoffrey Calderon, Alpine
 Jenny Carranza, Rosenberg
 Andrea Carrillo, Vinton
 Sumer Coulston, Red Oak
 Empress Drane, McKinney
 Sara Egan, Coppell
 Anna Evelyn, West University Place
 Janie Flores, Alton
 Cheyanne Flores, Crosbyton
 Kesha Franchina, Kerrville (*two courses*)
 Detra Gaines, Gunter
 Jonni Glick, Amarillo
 Leah Granger, Sachse
 Theodore Ham, Wichita Falls
 Nichole Heinrich, Grey Forest
 Virginia Huggins, The Woodlands
 Kimberlee Hughes, Pampa
 Cynthia Karch, Mineola
 Sarah Lockenour, Stephenville
 Dung "Yung" Mach, Haltom City
 Holli Matocha, Rosenberg
 Jimmy Maynard, Lubbock
 Melisa Milliorn, Grand Saline
 Clarisa Molina, Freeport
 Ashley Osborn, Copperas Cove
 Mandy S. Roberson, Katy
 Griselda Rosas, Brownsville
 Beatris Sanchez, Waller
 Keera Seiger, Mansfield
 Dana Sharp, Spearman
 Nikki Smith, Marshall
 Janet Stehling, Horseshoe Bay
 Cassandra Stephens, Hilshire Village
 Barbara Stucker, Pampa
 Gabrielle Sutton, Princeton
 Annie Trout, Mount Pleasant
 Renea Wilson, Josephine

UPCOMING TMCCP EVENTS

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

SEMINAR

April 13-14, College Station
 Municipal Budget Cycle

WEBINAR

June 2, 1-3:00pm CT
 Harassment in the Workplace
 (Part 1: Definitions, Laws, Best
 Practices for Prevention)

WEBINAR

June 16, 1-3:00pm CT
 Harassment in the Workplace
 (Part 2: Dealing with the Aftermath)

VIRTUAL SEMINAR

June 21-23
 Special Topics in Texas Seminar

WEBINAR

July 14, 1-3:00pm CT
 City Secretary 201

WEBINAR

August 4, 1-3:00pm CT
 HR Management in the Wake of the
 Great Resignation

SEMINAR

August 24-25, Georgetown
 Legislative Update Seminar

SEMINAR

October 26-27, Frisco
 Advanced Institute: People. Pressure.
 Personality.

Chapter News



TMCA Alamo Chapter, December 2022

Alamo Chapter

By Rachel C. Dominguez, City Secretary/
Public Information Officer, Windcrest

December 2022 Holiday Banquet & Installation of New Officers

The Alamo Chapter met most recently on December 2 for the regular business meeting and the annual holiday banquet at North Paesano's in San Antonio. Attendees enjoyed fellowship, exchanged gifts, and celebrated with fellow members and their guests.

The chapter had an agenda filled with special recognition and awards. The chapter finalized annual business and honored the outgoing officers at the end of their two-year terms. A special thank you to our outgoing officers President Brenda Dennis, Vice President Amanda Valdez, Treasurer Christina Picioccio, Secretary Debbie Molina, and Historian Miguel Cantu; we

presented them certificates and plaques. Outgoing President, Brenda Dennis, also gifted her fellow officers with a special token of appreciation for their service.

Outgoing President Dennis welcomed the newly elected chapter officers and administered the oath of office for those in attendance. Join us in congratulating the new incoming Alamo Chapter Executive Board:

- President Amanda Valdez, City of Fair Oaks Ranch*
- Vice President Miguel Cantu, City of Grey Forest*
- Treasurer Christina Picioccio, City of Fair Oaks Ranch*
- Secretary Sandra Passailaigue, City of Leon Valley*
- Historian Rachel Dominguez, City of Windcrest*

Their term began January 1, 2023, and will continue through December 2024.

Additionally, a special thanks was given to the outgoing Alamo Chapter committee



Outgoing Chapter President Brenda Dennis recognizes Miguel Cantu at the December business meeting and holiday banquet.

Chapter News

members whose two-year terms were ending. Recent retirees were also recognized for their years of service as a city secretary and for their public service. The Alamo Chapter retirees recognized were: Brenda Dennis, City of Schertz; Debby Goza, City of Live Oak; and Zina Tedford, City of Castle Hills.

Kristin Mueller, chair for the Scholarship Committee, announced that recipient of the Norma S. Rodriguez Scholarship was Amanda Valdez from the City of Fair Oaks Ranch, and the recipient of the Alamo Chapter Scholarship was Sandra Passailaigue from the City of Leon Valley. Elsa Robles, Chair for the Nominating Committee, announced the recipient of the inaugural award of Alamo Chapter Clerk of the Year was Rachel C. Dominguez from the City of Windcrest.

We thank our wonderful Holiday Banquet Committee for organizing a fun and festive event for our members. Your hard work is appreciated.



At top: Amanda Valdez is awarded the Norma S. Rodriguez Scholarship at the December chapter meeting.

Above: Sandra Passailaigue - Alamo Chapter Scholarship

At left: Alamo Chapter Clerk of the Year and Windcrest City Secretary Rachel C. Dominguez (center) is recognized at the Windcrest city council meeting by Chapter Nominating Committee Representative Donna Lowder (left) and Alamo Chapter President Amanda Valdez.

Alamo Chapter Clerk of the Year

Alamo Chapter President, Amanda Valdez, and Nominating Committee representative from the City of Live Oak, Donna Lowder, attended the Windcrest City council meeting to recognize Rachel C. Dominguez (pictured above). President Valdez spoke to the Windcrest Mayor and City Council on the giant contributions and volunteerism demonstrated by Rachel on top of her day-to-day duties. The chapter has deemed it important that our achievements should be celebrated, and the Windcrest city council appreciated the presentation and expressed pride in Rachel as well.

Chapter News

Graduation photos by Paul Traves

Election Law Seminar/TMCCP Graduation Celebration



Election Law Seminar instructor Miguel Cantu, TRMC

Miguel Cantu, chapter vice president and city secretary from Grey Forest, was a first-time speaker for TMCA at this seminar (*pictured at left*). Way to go, Miguel! He led the session titled “Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections” with TMCA President Jannette Goodall. We all know Miguel is an excellent public speaker, and he did a great job representing the Alamo Chapter. Congratulations on a job well done! We are proud.

At the seminar luncheon the Alamo Chapter cheered on the following members that were recognized for their achievements and being the newest Alamo Chapter graduates of the TMCCP: Robert Cardenas from Selma, Isaura Gaytan from Live Oak, and Sorayda Sanchez from Uvalde. Congratulations on achieving this honor. Two of our very own members were also recognized on their fourth recertification: congratulations on this milestone and all the time you have dedicated toward your education in this field, retiree Brenda Dennis, and Kirby City Secretary Patty Cox.

Well-deserved special recognition was given to Uvalde City Secretary Sorayda Sanchez. Sorayda was the last first-time graduate to walk the stage after a heartfelt message of encouragement and admiration for hard work and perseverance in the certification program and for doing so during a tragic event in her city. The entirety of the attendees stood in unison to applaud her. Sorayda, congratulations on this triumph during a difficult season in your municipality and your personal life. The chapter commends you for all you endured and for doing so with grace and poise.



At top: Sorayda Sanchez, Uvalde City Secretary, receives her TRMC certificate from TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt.

At left: Education Director Dr. Holt; TMCA President and Fort Worth City Secretary Jannette Goodall, TRMC; TMCA Certification Committee Chair and Plano City Secretary Lisa Henderson, TRMC; keynote speaker Clayton Gibson, Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO, University of North Texas, congratulate Sorayda Sanchez, TRMC, as she walks the stage at TMCCP graduation.



Chapter News

In what the chapter intends to make a tradition, members and friends gathered that same evening to celebrate our graduates and enjoy the company of our peers and friends at a nearby bowling alley and restaurant. Thank you, Miguel Cantu, for organizing a gathering where we could get to know each other in a fun and relaxing environment.

Outreach to Cities (SW and NW Regions) / Virtual Meeting Options

In an effort to reach out to cities in the southwest and northwest region of our great state, the Alamo Chapter has started a new initiative to reach out to the city secretaries in these cities, introducing them to our organization and team. This initiative is being led by Miguel Cantu and along with other Chapter members, the focus is to reach out to cities who have been underserved or have no Chapter nearby in their rural areas. This effort is not meant to increase the chapters membership but to let other secretary's/clerks know they are not alone and assist them in establishing their own Chapter. With the ability to now provide "zoom" meetings, we felt it necessary to invite those who must travel several hours the opportunity to join our meetings and demonstrate to them the importance of working together to accomplish one goal—to assure the city's success.

Chapter Committees Get Started

Executive board members have each been appointed as liaisons to the chapter committees, and each officer is leading efforts, in a new process, to aid committees with a jump-start due to most of the committees' members being new. Each officer has been charged with ensuring

that each group is meeting to select a chair and to create a plan to complete their assigned tasks in a successful and timely manner. Thank you to each officer for taking the time to provide support to the committees and checking in periodically with our members.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Sheila Edmondson for her appointment as the City Secretary in Schertz and to Christina Picioccio, for being selected by TMCA President Jannette Goodall to serve on a committee to review and update the TMCA Code of Ethics.



Above: In what the chapter intends to make a tradition, members and friends gathered the evening after the TMCCP graduation ceremony to celebrate our graduates and enjoy the company of our peers and friends at a nearby bowling alley and restaurant. Thank you, Miguel Cantu, for organizing a gathering where we could get to know each other in a fun and relaxing environment.

Inset at left: Congratulations, Christina Picioccio, on your selection to the TMCA Code of Ethics Committee!





Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Kim Bryant
City Secretary/Court Clerk/Finance, Stamford

The Bluebonnet Chapter met on December 14th in Abilene at the Grace Museum.

The meeting was opened with a brief welcome from City Secretary Shawna Atkinson. During the meeting, new amendments to the Bylaws were approved. Christi Wynn was sworn as President for the remainder of the two-year term as Staci King, outgoing President, has

become City Secretary in a city outside of the Bluebonnet chapter. The other officers are Vice President Shawna Atkinson, Treasurer Kaitlin Richardson and Secretary Kim Bryant. Roma Holly of Eastland was presented the award for Municipal Clerk of the Year for the chapter from former winner Kim Bryant. Kaitlin Richards was presented with a scholarship for \$500 to be used in the 2023 calendar year from previous recipient Kim Bryant. The group discussed the upcoming Election Law Seminar scheduled for January and encouraged all members who were avail-

able to attend. After the silent auction tally was announced, the group proceeded into the annual Christmas festivities and gift exchange. The Bluebonnet Chapter meets quarterly, the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2023 at noon in Brownwood. We encourage all in our Chapter area to attend!

At the Election Law Seminar, Kaitlin Richards received her TRMC certification. The chapter is so proud of her accomplishment!

At top left: Members at TMCCP Election Law, top row: Brooke Tomlinson (Hamilton), Brenda Kilgro (Early), Sarah Lockener (Stephenville), Staci King (Glen Rose), Kim Bryant (Stamford); front row: Doris Gonzalez (Hamlin), Rose Soliz (Hamlin), Christi Wynn (Brownwood), Kaitlin Richardson (Abilene), Teresa Ballard (Bronte), Rane Weiss (Santa Anna), Roma Holley (Eastland), Melissa Minor (Dublin)

At top right: At the December meeting, top row: Jess Lewis (Tye), Rose Soliz (Hamlin), Misti Bartley (Haskell); second row: Staci King (Glen Rose), Sarah Lockener (Stephenville), Jessica Sutter (Breckenridge); third row: Danette Dunlap (Tye), Jami Perez (Abilene), Roma Holley

(Eastland); front row: Kaitlin Richardson (Abilene), Doris Gonzalez (Hamlin), Kim Bryant (Stamford), Shawna Atkinson (Abilene), Christi Wynn (Brownwood)

Below left: Bluebonnet Clerk of the Year Roma Holley, City Secretary/HR Dir., Eastland

Below center: Bluebonnet Scholarship awardee Kaitlin Richardson, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Abilene

Below right: Abilene City Secretary Kaitlyn Richardson earned her TRMC in January; she is pictured with her husband, Josh, at the TMCCP Graduation Ceremony in Denton.



Chapter News

CAPITAL CHAPTER

By Chapter Secretary Jo Ann Touchstone, TRMC
City Secretary, Lakeway

The Capital Chapter met January 27, 2023 in historic downtown Lockhart. The meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed an incredible farm to table style lunch at the Commerce Café. City Secretary Connie Constanica of Lockhart, was our hostess on this very special day, which happened to be her last day of service to the City of Lockhart after 25 years. We all joined together to wish her well in her next chapter of retirement. We also thanked our outgoing board members for their service. Our new officers were formally elected and issued their oaths of office by outgoing President Myrna Rios. New officers are: President Robyn Densmore, Vice President Trista Evans, Secretary Jo Ann Touchstone, Treasurer Karen Frost and Historian Martha Velasquez.



The chapter is looking forward to resuming more in-person meetings this year, as we will host three of our six meetings in person. The next scheduled meeting is a virtual meeting to take place in March. Please contact Chapter President Robyn Densmore at robyn.densmore@georgetown.org with questions or if you would like to join us virtually!



Inset above: Chapter President Myrna Rios, TRMC, City Clerk, Austin

Above: Capital Chapter members at the January meeting

At left: New officers Vice President Trista Evans, Secretary Jo Ann Touchstone, and Historian Martha Vasquez with outgoing President Myrna Rios



TMCA Central Texas Chapter, December 2022

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Liz Caraway, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Temple

Celebrating Christmas was the highlight of the Central Texas Municipal Clerks Chapter meeting in December, held at the Tejun Cajun restaurant in Robinson. The Christmas luncheon is always a relaxing and informal gathering where members share ideas, provide feedback on a number of issues and give an overview of what’s happening in their city. It has become an annual tradition for the chapter members to participate in a Christmas Ornament and Decoration gift exchange. Additionally, each year members bring a toy for a local Toys for Tots drive.

During the Christmas luncheon, the chapter was honored to present Renee Flores with the Chapter’s Clerk of the Year award.

The Central Texas Chapter meets quarterly, and everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting will be held on March 22, hosted by the City of Hewitt. If you would like more information please contact Jana Lewellen, City Secretary, City of Temple at 254-298-5700.



Mexia City Secretary/Finance Director Christi Shivers, TRMC, with Chapter Clerk of the Year Renee Flores, TRMC, City Secretary, Beverly Hills

Chapter News



Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Vice President April Hilbrich, TRMC City Secretary, City of Victoria

Greetings from the Coastal Bend Chapter! In December, the City of Beeville hosted a quarterly meeting and social at Hatti's and Hazel's Deli. Members were in attendance included Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, City of Corpus Christi; Gabby Hernandez, City Secretary, City of Beeville; Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Rockport; Kimberly Henry, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Rockport; Ruby Mowles, City Secretary, City of Ingleside; and April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria.

During the business meeting, member April Hilbrich was honored as 2022 Chapter Member of the Year, Cathy Duhart volunteered to serve as the nominating member chair for 2023 officers, and members voted to change the bylaws in increase the membership dues. Attendees also discussed the value of holding virtual or hybrid meetings. After the meeting those in attendance participated in a gift exchange to celebrate the Christmas holiday.

In January, the City of Corpus Christi hosted a hybrid meeting. The following members were in attendance included Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, City of Corpus Christi; Gabby Hernandez, City Secretary, City of Beeville; Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton; Teresa Valdez, City Secretary, City of Rockport; Natalie Fric, City Secretary, City of Shiner; Odilia Rodriguez, City Clerk, City of Alice; Nellie Serna, Deputy City Clerk, City of Alice; Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary, City of Kingsville; Jana Stork, Assistant City Secretary, City of Ingleside; and April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria. In addition to chapter members, Kathleen Spriggs, TMCA Program Project Specialist, and TMCA President Jannette Goodall, City Secretary, City of Fort Worth, attended the meeting.

Kathleen Spriggs virtually provided chapter members with a presentation and orientation on TMCA's new MemberClicks platform. Those in attendance were able to ask questions about and see a demonstration of the platform. TMCA President Jannette Goodall also traveled to the Coastal Bend to swear in the 2023 officers. New chapter officers are Gabby

Hernandez, President; April Hilbrich, Vice President, Cathy Duhart, Secretary, and Rebecca Huerta, Treasurer. President Goodall also provided words of wisdom and provided the Chapter with an update on the TMCA Board. Chapter members also tentatively decided on the locations and dates of the 2023 chapter meetings.

During the January meeting President Goodall agreed to facilitate a hybrid Athenian Dialogue hosted by the Coastal Bend Chapter on March 23 over the book *I Love It Here: How Great Leaders Create Organizations Their People Never Want to Leave* by Clint Plover. **Be on the lookout for more information.**

If you would like to join the Coastal Bend Chapter please contact April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria at ahilbrich@victoriatx.gov or 361-485-3040.

At top left: Chapter members and TMCA President Jannette Goodall (third from left) at the January meeting.

Top right: President Gabby Hernandez (City Secretary, Beeville), Treasurer Rebecca Huerta (City Secretary, Corpus Christi), and Vice President April Hilbrich (City Secretary, Victoria). Secretary Cathy Duhart (City Secretary, Sinton) is pictured on Zoom.

Chapter News



TMCA Hill Country Chapter, January 2023

Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter President Shelley Goodwin, TRMC, City of Fredericksburg

Hello everyone from the most beautiful region of Texas. We have rolling hills, spring fed rivers and lakes, diverse art and music, specialty shopping, plenty of adult beverages and of course some of the hardest working municipal clerks.

Since the last newsletter the Hill Country and the chapter has been a busy part of Texas. If you've never spent Christmas in the Hill Country you are missing out. With every Hill Country City holding events the "other duties as assigned" plays a huge roll with Hill Country city secretaries. Across the Hill Country Santa was also busy with airplane and fire truck rides, he was spotted in several night parades, Christmas tree lightings, holiday markets, and even wine strolls.

Our December meeting was hosted by Laurie Cassidy, Blanco City Secretary. Our guest speaker and sponsor was Sheila Bojorquez. Where she informed those in attendance of all the happenings with City Hall Essentials and life with Alan. Everyone in attendance was extremely ethical with a minimum stealing during our annual Christmas White Elephant Exchange. A chapter t-shirt was selected as well as a fundraising t-shirt. Watch for more information on the TMCA online platform regarding our fundraising municipal clerk t-shirt.



At the Hill Country Chapter's December meeting

Chapter News



Since the December meeting the Hill Country Chapter has grown: we welcomed Ruby Nix, Ingram City Secretary and Beatrice Canseco, Killeen Deputy City Secretary.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March and will be hosted by Andrea Cunningham, City Secretary of Dripping Springs.

The selection of new officers will take place at this meeting.

The members of the Hill Country had a large showing at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar, and we got to watch our very own Laurie Cassidy (*pictured at left*) walk the stage to receive her TRMC Certification.

No matter where we go, there is always lots of networking, laughs, smiles and jokes. Most meetings are started with introductions, and your option to tell a joke or sing a song or tell us something we don't know about you.

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President Alice Holloway, TRMC City Secretary, Joshua

The NTMCA has had a great beginning this year. With ten meetings scheduled for this year, we have had ARMA Records

Management (October) and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (November) as guest speakers. On February 15, 2023, we were privileged to have Alan Bojorquez, Bojorquez Law Firm, discussing Legislature updates pertaining to Municipal Clerks. In addition, we are excited to have our March meeting in the City of Euless with Stevie Dawn Blakely as the guest speaker.

On January 19 the NTMCA Board met to discuss future topics that would benefit all our members. Our goal is to provide educational opportunities that will benefit everyone.

In addition, **NTMCA is hosting a Virtual Athenian Dialogue** on Friday, March 10, 2023, from 8:30 am-3:00 pm. The dialogue will be held via the Zoom platform. We will discuss the book, *The Real Elizabeth: An Intimate Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II*, by



TMCA North Texas Chapter, 2022

Chapter News

Andrew Marr. Dr. Amy C. Holt, Ph.D., TRMC, will facilitate the dialogue. Registration cost is \$50.00, and it is still open with limited space.

I want to take this time to recognize and congratulate our members for receiving their certification or recertification in January 2023. We had several from our chapter. As we all know, this accomplishment takes a lot of work and dedication. We are surrounded by so many hard-working and yet still tenacious at the same time. They are an inspiration to all of us.

Panhandle Chapter News

By Chapter Secretary Mandy Hodge
City Secretary, City of Gruver

The Panhandle Chapter met last on December 15, 2022. The chapter held a meeting at Macaroni Joe's in Amarillo. There were 11 members were present. President Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, City Secretary of Spearman, called the meeting to order and introduced our special guest, Amanda Campos, 2022 TMCA President. The meeting began with some "Words of Wisdom" from President Campos. She gave a very insightful speech about different scenarios that secretaries face today and went over some details about the new TMCA website platform and portal during her visit. The Panhandle Chapter would like to thank Amanda Campos for attending and personally providing important and useful information for our members, as well as a great year under your leadership as TMCA president.

Members then discussed some details about the TMCA/TMCCP Advanced Institute Seminar in October, and about the then-upcoming TMCCP Election Law Seminar in January. After a few other details pertaining to the chapter were discussed, the regular meeting was adjourned, and the annual Christmas party and festivities were held as usual. We looked forward to our next meeting on February 16.

Anyone interested in the joining the TMCA Panhandle Chapter, please contact Chapter Secretary and City Secretary of Gruver Mandy Hodge at 806-733-2424 or admin@cityofgruver.com.



At top: Members at the December 15 Panhandle Chapter meeting. From left to right: Amanda Campos, Kimberly Sloat, Stephanie Coggins, Kim Hughes, Cindy Woodard, Stella Sauls, Tonya Montoya, Jonni Glick, Barbara Stucker, Mandy Hodge, Kim Fowler, sitting in front: Cheryl Gibson-Salgado.

Above: Kim Hughes, Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, Gretchen Mercer, and Machiel Covey at the 2022 TMCA Awards Banquet.

DEER PARK
Birthplace of Texas



TMCA Salt Grass Chapter, February 2023

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter President Frances Aguilar, TRMC
City Secretary, Pearland

Howdy from the Salt Grass Chapter! With the Astros, Houston Rodeo, and hosting the 2023 Final Four, around the corner, we are in full swing in the Salt Grass Chapter!! Here are some highlights!

December 2022

The chapter welcomed 2022 TMCA President Amanda Campos to celebrate the installation of the 2023 executive board at our Annual Holiday Luncheon. President Campos administered the oaths of office to President Frances Aguilar, Pearland; Vice President Gladis Sanchez, La Porte; Secretary Becky McGrew, Katy; Treasurer Courtney Rutherford, Meadows Place; and Historian Maria Rodriguez, Webster. SGC awarded \$4,000 in scholarships and gave back \$500 to the community.

January 2023

Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP hosted the January meeting. The Salt Grass Chapter meetings are the perfect opportunity for members to build and enhance their personal and professional leadership skills while building relationships and networking.

President Aguilar made the annual appointments to the following committees: Audit Committee, Annual Banquet Committee, Annual Public Information Act Seminar Committee, Bylaws Review Committee, Honorary Member Committee, Listserv/Tech Services, Nominating Committee, Outreach Committee, Policy and Procedures Manual Review Committee, Retirement Committee, and Scholarship Committee. The committees went to work planning the Annual Public Information Act Seminar, conducting the annual audit, updating our listserv, planning outreach to ALL our member cities, and

looking at ways to grow our scholarships and memberships.

On behalf of the Salt Grass Chapter, I would like to extend a HUGE congratulations to our TMCA Salt Grass Chapter graduates on obtaining their Texas Municipal Clerk Certification: Nicola Browe (Montgomery), Kimberly Dickey (Waller), Renee Kross (Friendswood), Rhomari Leigh (Texas City), Rachel Lewis (El Lago), Sasha Luna (Tomball), and Ruth Ann Sorrell (Hitchcock)!!

AND congratulations to our members who recertified: Maria Rodriguez (Webster), Heather Van Dine (Friendswood), Manuela De La Fuente (Galveston), Tracylynn Garcia (Tomball), Amanda Davenport (Surfside Beach), Doris Speer (Tomball), and Rachel Lynch (Bellville).

We are proud of your hard work and achievement!

Chapter News

February 2023

Each year, the Houston-Galveston Area Council hosts an Election Law Step by Step Workshop. Salt Grass Chapter instructors at this year's workshop were Lee Woodward (La Porte), Maria Jackson (Humble), and Thomas Harris (Sugar Land).

Members also participated in other events, such as Texas Women Leading Government Conference, Olson & Olson Annual Open Government Seminar, Certified Public Manager at the University of Houston, League of Women in Government, TML Leadership Academy cohort, Brazoria County Cities Association, Harris County Mayors' & Councils' Association, State of the City events, Day at the Capitol, and of course, TMCCP Election Law.

On January 24 the City of Deer Park experienced an EF-3 tornado. The twister had an estimated maximum path length of 18 miles, maximum path width of 0.66 miles,

and maximum wind speeds of 140 mph. A number of City of Deer Park businesses and homes were affected by the storm. We are so thankful that even with all of the destruction, no lives were lost and no major injuries were suffered. Mutual aid was provided by the neighboring cities of Friendswood, La Porte, League City, Mont Belvieu, Morgan's Point, and Pearland. The extension of support from everyone involved is truly a testament to how humanity and the community come together in times of need.

After suffering the devastating tornado, the City of Deer Park City Secretary's Office rallied to host our February meeting and presented a program on their Records Management Process. A huge thank you to Angela Smith and her staff!!

If you're ever in the area, please join us at our monthly meetings. We take a break for SUMMER!

*Salt Grass Chapter Meeting
March 8, City of La Porte*

*Salt Grass Chapter Meeting
April 12, City of Pattison*

*Salt Grass Chapter Meeting
August 9, City of Humble*

*Public Information Act Seminar
September 13, City of Missouri City*

*Salt Grass Chapter Meeting
October 11, City of Texas City*

*Salt Grass Chapter Meeting
November 8, 2023, City of El Lago*

*Salt Grass Chapter Holiday Luncheon
December 13, 2023, location TBD*

And last but not least, the Salt Grass Chapter would like to recognize and congratulate longtime SGC member Doris Speer from the City of Tomball on her March 1 retirement. We thank you for your leadership, we will miss you dearly, and we wish you all the best, Doris!

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter President Veronica Olguin, TRMC
City Secretary/Manager, Morton

The South Plains Chapter met on December 21, 2022, at Picosos, hosted by City of Whiteface.

TMCA President Amanda Campos thanked the chapter for all their involvement. She also explained all resources Texas Municipal Clerks Association offers. The best networking and support is within each chapter.

Cheyenne Flores, City of Crosbyton tested and passed a TMCCP exam. Becky Garza, City Secretary, Lubbock, retired February 2023. Joann Beard will be retiring with the City of Smyer and they have hired a replacement, Jessica Boggs.

Andréa Corley, Levelland City Secretary, was awarded Kirk Franklin Scholarship.

Appointment of the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee took place. Committee members





TMCA South Plains Chapter, December 2022

Members and guests in attendance:

- Zanea Carpenter, TRMC,
City Secretary, Muleshoe
- Kim Perez, TRMC,
City Administrator, Ralls
- Veronica Olguin, TRMC,
City Manager/Secretary, Morton
- Leslie Randolph, Deputy City
Secretary, Town of Ransom Canyon
- Courtney Paz, TRMC,
Deputy City Secretary, Lubbock
- Mary Falcon, City Secretary, Lubbock
- Sharon Trumble,
Retired City Secretary, New Deal
- Belinda Terrell,
City Secretary, Whiteface
- Susan Collazo,
Assistant City Secretary, Post
- Cheyenne Flores,
City Secretary, Crosbyton
- Becky Garza, City Secretary, Lubbock
- Andrea Corley,
City Secretary, Levelland
- Sam Gomez,
Deputy City Secretary, Morton
- Erma Lopez, Billing Clerk, Morton
- Melissa Fields-Allgeyer,
Huma Resources, Levelland
- Sylvia Garza, City Secretary, Sundown
- Amanda Cummings,
City Secretary, Shallowater
- Toni Wilson,
Retired City Secretary, Sundown
- Laci Ray, City Clerk, Ralls
- Johnna Ware, City Secretary, Ralls
- Meg Nelson, City Secretary, Post
- Jessica Boggs, Smyer
- Andrea Torrez, Smyer
- Jaime Torrez, Smyer
- Elena Quintanilla,
City Administrator, Ransom Canyon

include Elena Quintanilla (Ransom Canyon), Amanda Cummings (Shallowater), and Johnna Ware (Ralls).

TMCA President Amanda Campos administered the oath of office to the chapter's incoming officers (pictured at left): President Zanea Carpenter, Treasurer Veronica Olguin, Historian Susan Collazo, and Director Andréa Corley. Vice President Elena Quintanilla and Secretary Patricia Isaguirre will be installed at a later meeting.

The next meeting will be March 15, hosted by the City of Shallowater.

Kirk Franklin Scholarship awardee Levelland City Secretary Andréa Corley with Kirk Franklin of Franklin Legal Publishing, a General Code Company.





Thank you to our seminar sponsors!

Our sponsors at our TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Denton. From top left: platinum sponsor CivicPlus; platinum sponsor MVBA; gold sponsor Franklin Legal Publishing, a General Code Company; silver sponsor AdComp Systems Group; silver sponsor American Legal Publishing; silver sponsor City Hall Essentials; silver sponsor ClerkBase; silver sponsor CSA Software Solutions; silver sponsor eScribe; silver sponsor FundView; silver sponsor JustFOIA; silver sponsor MCCi; silver sponsor Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP; silver sponsor NDGHS; silver sponsor RCI. *Not pictured:* platinum sponsor Granicus and silver sponsor EasyVote.