



TMCA NEWS

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

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President's Message

TELLING OUR STORY—CHAPTER THREE *Education—With PASSION!*

I want to take this opportunity to inform TMCA, Inc., members of various activities and events of interest to the association and our profession.

First, we have been very busy addressing concerns related to election legislation. Although TMCA, Inc., is a non-profit, educational organization and we may not lobby legislators, we have had the unique opportunity of being invited to participate, along with county elections administrators, in the development of legislation that affects city elections.¹ The county elections administrators asked Representative Mary Denny, Chair of the House Elections Committee, to sponsor legislation to again move the May election from the first Saturday in May to a later date in order to allow them additional time to prepare for city elections following the April primary runoff. In stark contrast to the May election date confusion in 2003, this time, TMCA was invited to participate in the discussion. A consensus was reached and HB 57 (substitute) is the product of that meeting. In summary, the proposed legislation would move our election date from the first Saturday in May to the second Saturday in May, but shorten the early voting period. Instead of beginning early voting 17 days before the May election, early voting would begin 12 days before the May election. The proposed legislation also allows for earlier canvassing than the current 8-11 days after election date requirement. Although municipal elections would be one week later under the proposed legislation, the process can be completed about the same time in May. This was a good compromise for all parties. Many thanks to Mary Kayser, TRMC, TMCA Board Member; Scott Houston, TML; Shanna Igo, TML; and Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC, TMCA Executive Director, for their assistance in presenting the municipal concerns on these issues.



Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC,
President, TMCA, Inc.

Congratulations!

TMCA membership is at a record high with 894 members!

Previously, I had communicated over the list serve about a meeting with the Secretary of State to express concerns about costs for implementation of DRE voting, especially for small cities. That conversation was continued and proposed legislation has been formulated that I have been told will be filed as a substitute bill at the appropriate time. The proposed legislation significantly lowers the amount that counties can charge other entities for use

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued

of DRE equipment. It also requires counties to make the equipment available to other entities unless it is in use. If this legislation is actually filed and passed, it will be great news for Texas cities!

Legislation (HJR 44) was also filed that would require a complete recodification and rewrite of the Texas Election Code by a selected committee. One place on that committee is reserved for the President of TMCA, Inc., should that legislation pass. Now, that's progress!

Our certification program was featured in an article in the March *Texas Town and City* published by the Texas Municipal League. Executive Director Frank Sturzl and Legal Services Director Scott Houston were generous

with their time and praise in writing this article to promote the Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification (TRMC), TMCCP and TMCA, Inc.

We now use an electronic agenda packet for TMCA Executive Board meetings, saving copy and postage costs. Prior to the TMCA, Inc., Annual Membership Business meeting in September, the entire business meeting agenda packet will be available on our website for your review. I want you, our members, to come to the TMCA Annual Membership Business meeting well informed and prepared to actively participate in business issues of your association.

TMCA committees are hard at work. Thanks to all our volunteer committee members for your time and dedication. If you know of members who are

retiring this year, please let the Retirement Committee know. The Chair is Carole Ehrlich in Wylie. If you want to nominate someone for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year, contact Melissa Bruner in Flatonia for information on the nomination process. If you have a suggestion for a resolution for the membership to consider at the Annual Membership Business meeting, the Resolutions Committee would love to hear from you. The Chair is Cheryl Gibson-Salgado in Spearman. Don't forget there are various scholarships available to our members pursuing their certification and recertification.

I have started my "presidential" chapter visits. I hope to visit all TMCA chapters this year. I participated in the Salt Grass Chapter's Open Government Conference. It was well attended and very well organized. The extra touch was holding it in Sugar Land's

"Texas municipal clerks are like sponges—we soak up every bit of knowledge, information, ideas, etc., that we come across. We aren't afraid to learn and try new things. We know and recognize that the more we learn and know, the better public servant we can be. We are Texas municipal clerks—we learn like we do everything else—with PASSION!"

beautiful new city hall. If you haven't seen it, you should. It is simply gorgeous! I also had the honor of installing the Salt Grass Chapter's 2005-2006 officers at a lovely banquet held on April 9 in Houston. On April 21, I visited the Panhandle and South Plains Chapters in Amarillo. It was a wonderful day for me—very relaxing enjoying their wonderful hospitality.

The TMCA Executive Board met on March 18 and took action on a long agenda. I can't help but brag on this outstanding group of volunteers. You can rest assured that TMCA and TMCCP are in good hands. All of the Board members are dedicated to our members, our association, our certification program and our profession.

Last, but certainly not least, retired San Antonio City Clerk Norma Rodriguez dropped in at the TMCCP seminar held in Irving April 7-8. At

that time, it was my honor to announce that Norma would be receiving the IIMC Quill Award at the IIMC annual conference in St. Paul. I know all of our members join me in extending congratulations to Norma for this well deserved recognition.

Now, on to some thoughts about education—with passion!

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." This quote comes from the first African American female admitted to the Mississippi State Bar, Marian Wright Edelman. Let's think about that quote for a minute. All of our towns and cities have wonderful school teachers, volunteers, ministers and countless others who work to better their community and world. How fortunate we are to have these caring angels in our midst!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued on p. 3

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Co-Editors: Joyce Snay, TRMC; Alexandra Burke; and Peggy Burnside

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However, when I read Ms. Edelman's quote, I could not help but think how well it fits us as Texas municipal clerk. We have our own certification program that educates us to better perform our duties. Our work directly impacts the local democratic and legislative processes in our communities. We all hope to leave our communities in better shape when the time comes to retire from our beloved profession (and we will).

Our third U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, said, "Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government." By educating ourselves through TMCCP, we are able to translate that knowledge into actions that directly impact our citizens. City secretaries play a key role in educating the people in their community. It could be through a voter education campaign designed to train voters how to use a new DRE voting system. It could be through teaching government classes one day per semester at the local high

school. You might hold mock student elections in your local schools. You prepare and publish the Council's agendas. You probably have a website designed to keep your citizens well informed about life in your community and municipal services.

I have tried the last few years to take up golf. I say "take up golf" because I will play once, then it will be months before I play again. Golf is one game you can't get better at if you don't play often. I tell everyone that golf is the best game I will *never* learn. That's how I feel about being a Texas municipal clerk. I will never learn all there is to know about municipal government and my job. Just when I feel I'm getting close, laws and procedures change and here we go again! Technology changes in the blink of an eye. I have a can of coffee in my office that is older than my computer! Long ago I realized that doing this job well requires that I be in a continuous learning mode.

I was recently asked if we ever tire of this continuous learning cycle and application of new rules, laws, procedures and so on. My answer

was, "No. Texas municipal clerks are like sponges—we soak up every bit of knowledge, information, ideas, etc., that we come across. We aren't afraid to learn and try new things. We know and recognize that the more we learn and know, the better public servant we can be. We are Texas municipal clerks—we learn like we do everything else—with PASSION!"

If you are not currently a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk or enrolled in our certification program, get PASSIONATE about what you do and enroll now! You and your community will never regret the investment. As Louis L'Amour said, "The best of all things is to learn. Money can be lost or stolen, health and strength may fail, but what you have committed to your mind is yours forever."

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC
2005 TMCA, Inc., President

¹(At print time for this newsletter, the legislation referred to in the article above was pending before the State Legislature. The final outcome will be known by publication time, but too late to include in this article.) ★

**WE'RE EDITING THE
2005/2006
TMCA MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY!**

**ARE YOU
UP TO DATE?**

**HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, EMAIL,
PHONE OR FAX NUMBER SINCE SEPTEMBER 2004? MAKE SURE
WE HAVE YOUR LATEST INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING
TMCA DIRECTORY!**

email
aburke@unt.edu
with your latest contact information



Patrice Fogarty, TRMC

2006 Committees – Volunteers, We Need You!

By President-Elect Patrice Fogarty, TRMC

TMCA, Inc., members agree that a good organization requires leaders who have the ability not only to formulate a vision, but to communicate and share it. The challenge, of course, is cultivating and empowering members who understand the overall direction and goals of TMCA, Inc., and who take responsibility for carrying on these goals. Excellence in leadership is one of our standards.

This is where you come in. In the past many of you have volunteered your service on one or more of the ten TMCA committees. It is time to make plans for 2006. Please take a few minutes to review the Committee Criteria Policy and decide where your interests lie and where your talents may best be utilized. You may volunteer to serve on more than one committee if you wish. I ask that you submit the Committee Interest Questionnaire to me prior to **September 1, 2005**: Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Missouri City, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77489; or email: pfogarty@ci.mocity.tx.us.

One of my goals is to promote the education and professional development of you as a public administrator. Serving on a TMCA, Inc., committee is one avenue – and has the added bonus of shared fellowship with one another. ★

Volunteer now: go to the TMCA Committee Criteria Policy and Committee Interests Questionnaire:
<http://www.unt.edu/municlerks/tmcacommittees.pdf>



2006 COMMITTEES

- AUDIT COMMITTEE
- CERTIFICATION PROGRAM COMMITTEE
- HISTORIAN
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
- MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
- RETIREMENT COMMITTEE
- SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
- TML BOOTH COMMITTEE

TMCCP Course Certificates Awarded

The following enrollees 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

Vicki L. Collins, MANSFIELD
 Wanda Davis, ARGYLE
 Carrie Edwards, COLMESNEIL

COURSE 2

Shannon Coovert, WEBSTER
 Linda Taylor, VENUS
 Annette Villarreal, McALLEN
 Melinda K. Welsh, FRIENDSWOOD
 Kathleen Wingo, FRISCO
 Perla Zamora, McALLEN

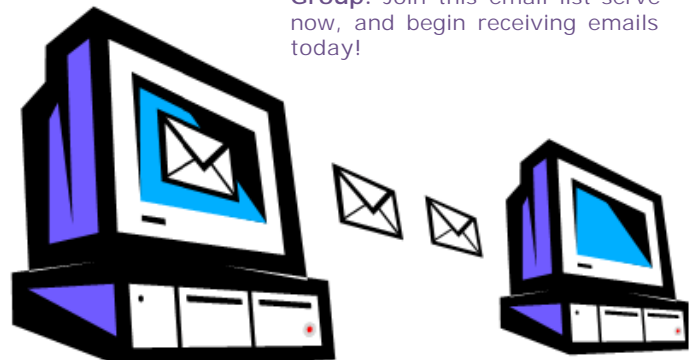
ARE YOU IN THE LOOP?

<http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/TexasMunicipalClerks>



click here

You can keep in touch with the latest news and receive instant support from your colleagues across Texas by joining the TexasMunicipalClerks Yahoo! Group. Join this email list-serve now, and begin receiving emails today!



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**TMCCP Seminar
Legislative Update**

**August 18-19, 2005
Irving, Texas**

Sheraton Grand Hotel
at DFW Airport,
972-929-8400



Bojorquez

www.texasmunicipallawyers.com

Alan Bojorquez, attorney, Akers, Bovey & Bojorquez, LLP, serves as the expert consultant and speaker for the 79th Texas Legislative Update sponsored by the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Mr. Bojorquez is the co-founder of the firm of Akers, Bovey & Bojorquez, LLP, which primarily represents municipalities (www.texasmunicipallawyers.com). Alan has served as a TMCCP speaker for previous legislative updates and for the TMCCP Election Law Seminars. He is also the author for the new fifth edition of the *Texas Municipal Law and Procedure Manual*.

Alan will select additional expert speakers to present the new legislative bills that pertain specifically to municipalities and to explain the impact of the new laws.

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter members are planning special events for this seminar. Also, following the seminar classes, attendees may shop at the Grapevine Mills Outlet Mall or the Bass Pro Shop located near the hotel. The Sheraton Grand provides shuttle transportation for a small fee.

TMCCP enrollees who attend will receive Course 2 seminar credit for this seminar. Anyone is welcome to attend this seminar. ★

SEMINAR BEGINS 8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, ENDS NOON FRI DAY

www.unt.edu/municlerks

**TMCCP Seminar
Graduate Institute**

CHARACTER FIRST!

with Cary Gniffke
and John Burnett

September 29-30, 2005

Hilton Galveston Island
Resort, 409-744-5000



Burnett



Gniffke

Mr. Cary Gniffke and Mr. John Burnett are the instructors for the TMCCP Graduate Institute in Galveston. (**More biographical information:** www.unt.edu/municlerks/tmccp_seminar_gi1.htm) The *Character First!* program was developed in 1996 and has caught the attention of leaders in business, government, education, and social organizations who are searching for a way to increase productivity and satisfaction among the workforce. Through hands-on activities and exercises that demonstrate how to recognize, develop, and promote the 49 identified character-based traits, the instructors will illustrate how putting character first will enhance morale, increase productivity, reduce turnover rate, improve service quality, and strengthen work relationships and teams. For more information, visit the *Character First!* website: www.characterfirst.com. This is a worthwhile seminar for all municipal officials and anyone may attend the session.

A grant obtained from the Municipal Clerks Education Fund (MCEF), chaired by Mr. Dale Barstow, was obtained to help finance the fee for the speakers.

Registration information may be downloaded from the TMCCP website and brochures will be mailed to every Texas municipal clerk in August. **THE SEMINAR BEGINS ON THURSDAY AT 8:00 A.M. AND ENDS ON FRIDAY AT 3:30 P.M.**

Texas Municipal Clerks Association will hold the Annual Membership Meeting at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, in the classroom at the Hilton to make it easy for all members to attend this important meeting. TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan will preside. This is a grand opportunity for all members to participate in the business matters of TMCA, Inc.

Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton, TMCA will hold the Annual Awards Event to install 2006 officers, honor the municipal clerk of the year and present scholarship awards. Attire is business or "after five." TMCA, Inc., belongs to the membership and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. ★

www.characterfirst.com

www.unt.edu/municlerks

PROFILE

Advisory Management Committee

By Chair Terri Johnson, TRMC



Johnson

The general membership of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., considered proposed changes to the Administrative Management Committee at the TMCA Annual Meeting held in October 7, 2004, in Austin. The changes were proposed by a group of past TMCA presidents who felt that budgetary restraints, both in the organization and in committee members' cities, called for streamlining this committee. Since 1993, the AMC Committee met three or four times each year and basically the members of the AMC Committee discussed the same information and agenda items at the TMCA executive board meetings. In

order to save time and money for everyone involved, the proposed changes were presented to the members.

The membership voted to make the following revisions to the guidelines for the committee:

- 1) Change name of committee to: Advisory Management Committee
- 2) Committee to consist of following members: TMCA president, president-elect, immediate past president, another past president to be appointed by the incoming TMCA president, and the current chair of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program
- 3) The offices of chair and secretary of the AMC will be elected by the membership of the committee.
- 4) The executive director of TMCA shall sit on the committee as a non-voting member.

- 5) The committee shall meet two times a year, or more often upon call of committee chair.
- 6) The committee will be charged with long-range planning of TMCA and shall conduct the annual performance evaluation of the executive director.

The 2005 Advisory Management Committee has not yet met this year, so there are no actions to report to the membership.

The members of the 2005 Advisory Management Committee are:
Chair and Past President Terri Johnson, TRMC, city secretary/city manager, Friona
President Elect Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City
Past President Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene
President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan
Certification Committee Chair Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge
Joyce Snay, TRMC, executive director, TMCCP/TMCA ★

Recognition of 2005 Retirees

By Chair Carole Ehrlich, TRMC



Ehrlich

Members,

Just a reminder that it is time to submit names of city secretaries, city clerks, or deputy city clerks who have retired or who will retire during the 2005 year to be recognized and honored during the TMCA, Inc., Annual Awards Banquet to be held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute, September 29-30, 2005, in Galveston.

Chapter presidents have been contacted and provided information and forms required to submit names for retiree recognition. You may contact the Retirement Committee chair at any time for additional information. 2005 members serving on the Retirement Committee are as follows:

Chair Carole Ehrlich, TRMC
 City Secretary, City of Wylie, 2000 Hwy 78 N, Wylie, Texas 75098
 972-442-8103; cehrich@ci.wylie.tx.us

Norma Aguilar, TRMC: 432-335-3276; naguilar@ci.odessa.tx.us
Rose Ann Jones, TRMC: 409-880-3745; rjones@ci.beaumont.tx.us
Chris Wade, TRMC: 806-894-0113; cwade@door.net ★

Guidelines for Recognition of Retirees

1. A retiree shall be employed as a municipal clerk/city secretary at the time of retirement.
2. A retiree shall be a member of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.
3. A retiree with at least ten years of service as municipal clerk/city secretary shall receive an award of recognition.
4. Retirees with fewer than ten years as municipal clerk/city secretary shall receive a certificate of recognition. Deputy or assistant municipal clerks/city secretaries who achieve the required ten years of service in municipal government shall receive a certificate of recognition.
5. Names of retirees meeting the criteria set out by TMCA, Inc., shall be submitted by July 1, to the Retirement Committee by chapter presidents along with a notation as to whether the retiree is expected to attend the Annual Awards event. In the event a retiree will be unable to attend the Annual Awards event, the appropriate award will be sent, by the TMCA Executive Director, to the retiree's chapter president for presentation by the chapter president or a TMCA, Inc., representative at a chapter meeting or a the retiree's reception given by the retiree's city.
6. Names of all eligible retirees shall be read at the annual TMCA, Inc., awards event and those attending the event will receive their awards at that time.

DOWNLOAD THE TMCA MEMBER RETIREMENT INFO FORM HERE: http://www.unt.edu/municlerks/tmca_retirees.htm



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Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., Scholarship

By Certification Committee Chair
Linda Knight, TRMC



Knight

The Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., Scholarship was established in 2002 in recognition of the mission of TMCA, Inc., and TMCCP, which states:

“The Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program are dedicated to providing an educational and professional development program for novice and experienced municipal clerks.”

This \$500 scholarship may be used by eligible members who are pursuing the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification or Recertification.

Follow this link for further information, and an application form:

http://www.unt.edu/municlerks/tmccp_scholarshipfl.htm

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT
\$500.00
DEADLINE
AUGUST 15, 2005

PURPOSE

The purpose of the scholarship is to advance the education, professional development, and job performance of Texas Municipal Clerks by providing financial assistance to the members who are enrolled in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Certification Committee will deliberate and award the Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., Scholarship. A Certification Committee member applying for the Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., Scholarship must abstain from the deliberation and award process.

The committee notifies the membership of the date, amount of the scholarship, and the selection criteria by announcement.

The executive director receives and verifies the qualifications of all the applications. The deliberations of the committee and the executive director are confidential. The selection(s) by the committee is final.

The 2005 Certification Committee members are: Chair Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Art Camacho, Jr., TRMC, city secretary, Azle; LaDonna Floyd, TRMC, city secretary, Nederland; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown.

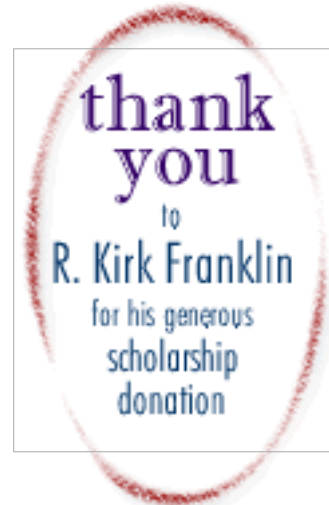
The committee notifies the TMCA, Inc., president of the named recipient(s) and the amount of the award(s). The president notifies the recipient(s) and confirms his, her, or their attendance of the Annual TMCA Awards Event held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute. The applications and committee papers will be forwarded to the corporate office by the committee chair.

SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION

The Chair of the Certification Committee must receive the scholarship application by **August 15**. Applications postmarked or faxed dated after August 15 of the specified year will be returned. The scholarship recipient(s) will be

announced to the membership at the Annual TMCCP Graduate Institute during TMCA's Annual Awards Event.

The TMCA, Inc., treasurer disburses scholarship funds to the recipient(s) on a cost-reimbursement basis not to exceed the amount(s) awarded. The recipient(s) shall be reimbursed for qualifying expenses incurred between January 1 and December 31 of the year following the award
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SCHOLARSHIP Cont. from p. 7

of the scholarship. Cost-reimbursable expenses are exclusive to cost of enrollment, textbooks, and seminar registration fees.

The recipient must submit original, official receipt(s) issued by TMCCP to receive payment for reimbursable expenses.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants shall be current paid members of TMCA, Inc., and shall have been paid members of TMCA, Inc., for two consecutive years previous to application for the scholarship. Applicants must be actively pursuing certification or recertification in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements.

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of an applicant's academic qualifications.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not received a previous award.

Preference will be given to 1) municipal clerks/city secretaries; 2) assistant or deputy municipal / deputy city secretaries; and 3) other TMCA, Inc., members.

Recipient of the Franklin Legal Publishing Inc., Scholarship is automatically ineligible to receive the Lila Fern Martin Scholarship, the Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship, or the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship within the same year.

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The scholarship recipient must complete the same TMCCP course for which the Franklin Legal Publishing Inc., Scholarship funds were reimbursed. Failure to fulfill these requirements will obligate the recipient to repay TMCA, Inc., the amount awarded. Failure to repay the awarded funds shall result in appropriate legal action by the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.

The scholarship recipient pursuing TRMC certification shall maintain a C+ grade point average, receive passing examination grades, and attend the total 24 hours of the two required seminars. ★

Rodriguez Receives 2005 IIMC Quill Award



Norma Rodriguez received her Quill Award at the IIMC Awards Ceremony in May 2005.

After 23 years in office, San Antonio City Clerk and former IIMC president (1994) Norma Rodriguez retired in September 2002. Norma was the city's longest serving clerk and also was the first Hispanic and the first woman to hold the job.

Rodriguez was widely regarded as one of San Antonio's most faithful public servants, well known for treating all residents with equal respect. She was active in her state association, serving as president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association in 1989. In 1992, she received the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Award.

"She was a wonderful city clerk, always careful and meticulous," said former Mayor Lila Cockrell. "She was the best choice we could have made for that position."

Norma has been praised as an individual who brought the city clerk's office up to a newer and higher standard and has been called a role model for Hispanic women and for many other people in the community.

Norma served as IIMC President from 1993 to 1994. This year marks Norma's 30th anniversary as an IIMC member.

The decision to retire came after Norma achieved some notable goals, including playing host to 1,200 colleagues from around the world when IIMC's Annual Conference in 2002 convened in San Antonio. In September 2002, Rodriguez was honored in Washington, D.C., as one of four Las Primeras honorees of MANA, a National Latina Organization. Norma received the Leadership Award for her achievements and national recognition in the field of municipal government. Last year, Norma received the Emblema de Ouro from ATAM (Portugal).

Rodriguez will continue her relationship with IIMC, working on special projects and serving on the MCEF Board.

From the IIMC 2005 Ceremony Program.

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION
Deadline: August 15, 2005

In 2004,
TMCA awarded
\$5,062.50
in **scholarships**
to **21** recipients!

OXFORD ROUND TABLE 2005—WOMEN’S ISSUES

Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford, March 20-25, 2005

By Susie Quinn, TRMC

This article was prepared by City Secretary Susie Quinn, TRMC, Rowlett, who was invited to participate at the Oxford Round Table. Twenty-five people (twenty-three women and two men) embarked on a week-long discussion concerning women’s issues.

The Round Table began with registration on the afternoon of Sunday, March 20, 2005, followed by a reception and an eloquent banquet, complete with a five course meal. In the group were four city officials: Councilmember Dogan of South Carolina; Chief of Staff (same as a city manager) Aldard of Oregon; Assistant City Manager Rose of Texas; and yours truly, City Secretary Quinn, TRMC, of Texas. We had five attorneys, and the remaining sixteen people all held PhD’s and represented universities and colleges from across the United States. We were introduced to the President of Harris Manchester College, Rev. Dr. Ralph Waller; then to our high steward, Mr. David Woodfine; and our facilitator Aileen Rogers.

On Monday morning, March 21, we met for a buffet of a traditional English breakfast at 7:30 a.m.; this included mushrooms, grilled tomatoes, baked beans, fried eggs, sausage and a choice of toast or croissant rolls. Then we moved to a large room where we had assigned seating and began the morning with the presentation of the first paper, “From Women’s Rights to Women’s Liberation: Social Movements and the Quest for Equality in the United States,” prepared by one of the attendees. After that presentation the assigned panelists provided feedback as to what the paper represented, or similarities with today’s issues, or solutions to problems presented. It was very unstructured as to how the two pre-selected

panelists could respond, but they had the same amount of time as the speaker to make their thoughts known, then the group would offer their opinions. We moved on to consider the next paper, “A Global Perspective on Gender and Occupational Safety and Health: Implications for Future Research,” followed by two more panelists. We then had a tea and coffee break. After the break, the paper, “A Comprehensive Approach for the Empowerment of Women” was presented and discussed. Then the paper, “Que Pasa? The Status of Women Hispanics in the United States.” The two panelists selected for this paper were Attorney Sutton-Robinius and City Secretary Quinn. The attorney discussed the merits of the Spanish

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QUINN RECEIVES CERTIFICATE



KELLOGG COLLEGE



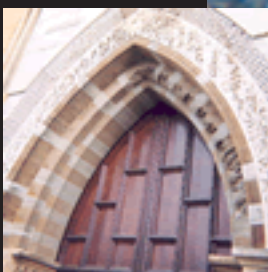
WADHAM COLLEGE



QUINN AND DELGATES



OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF HISTORY



ST. PETER’S COLLEGE



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teachers using their unions to obtain better salaries for themselves and I compared the issues of the Spanish teacher's salaries as being similar to the same salary issues department heads and directors face in government. This opened a very lively discussion among the other officials and the other professors who teach subjects that do not rank as high as some of the other subjects but still require the same amount of education but are not paid the same. Differences in men's and women's salaries were also discussed briefly and then it was lunchtime. After lunch, we departed for a walking tour of the 39 colleges which make up Oxford University. Another reception was held prior to a three course dinner being served.

The next day began with breakfast and Session II of the talks. The papers presented that morning were: "Gender and Judging," "Women's Rights in Africa," "Effective Implementation: The Barriers Between Title VII and Equality," and "Wanted: Equal Opportunity in Higher Education," which was followed by the same type of panel discussions. It ended at lunch and then we went on a walking tour to the "Natural History Museum." That evening we once again had a reception followed by dinner. At the dinners we generally continued to discuss the hottest topic that would arise from the earlier discussions.

On Wednesday, it was the same type of schedule. The papers presented were: "Women's Rights Time Line," "Understanding Abuse of Women in Prison: A Textual Reading of Neema Barnett's 'Civil Brand,'" and "President Jimmy Carter and Women's Rights: A Reappraisal." The discussions regarding these papers were extremely lively. After lunch we were free to do as we pleased and a group of eleven of us chose to take a guided bus tour of the Cotswolds. It was a very fascinating adventure with beautiful scenery, rolling landscapes, interesting history and a good ghost story.



Susie Quinn, TRMC (second from right), with several of the delegates outside of the Natural History Museum, Oxford.

On Thursday, we were gently reminded by our facilitator that we needed to do our best to stay within the time limits set out in the program in order to finish our work. Our papers were: "A Course on Gender, Women and Science: Helping Students Understand the Interaction of Science, Culture and Gender," "Sexual Harassment in the Classroom: Exploring the Limits of Academic Freedom," "Notorious Massachusetts Women: Marriage and Civil Rights," and "The Media Myth of Superwoman: An Impossible Idealized Image." The final paper, in which I was one of two pre-selected panelists, was discussed as to how much the media uses sex to sell any and every product and how that is affecting our children, especially girls, as a woman is supposed to be a size 6 and be able to bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan and now defend her family if anyone tries to take it. This discussion was based on movies like *G.I. Jane*, *The Long Kiss Goodnight*, *Resident Evil* and others. After our talks, the week was summed up with this finding: as long as women do not agree on specific issues, their plights will never be resolved. Some of the issues which remained unresolved were "gay rights as a civil rights issue," "same sex marriages," and "tenure should be mandatory not earned."

That afternoon we took a tour of Blenheim Palace, at Woodstock, home of John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. That evening we had our final reception and another elegant banquet. We were presented our certificates of completion. On Friday morning, we met for brunch and said our good-byes to one another.

All in all, the trip was an outstanding experience I will not soon forget and I do hope if any of you receive an invitation to attend the Oxford Round Table, do take advantage, as you won't regret it. ★

EDITOR'S NOTE

MORE INFORMATION ON THE OXFORD ROUND TABLE

The Oxford Round Table has been convening since 1989 to provide "a forum for the study and consideration of current issues facing state and national systems of education. Past membership has included ministers of education, state governors from the United States, members of Parliament, executive officers of international corporations, educational administrators, pastors, attorneys and academicians from major universities."

www.oxfordroundtable.com

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IIMC News

Cox and Simpson Awarded Certified Municipal Clerk Designation

Patty Cox, TRMC, city secretary, Live Oak, and Lisa Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour, have been awarded the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). They join 80 active municipal clerks from the State of Texas who currently hold the CMC designation.

Patty Cox, TRMC, has been employed with the City of Live Oak since 1988, serving as planning and zoning secretary and assistant city secretary before appointment to her current position of city secretary in March 1999. Patty earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) (No. 415) in 2003. She is active in professional affiliations, maintaining membership in IIMC, TMCA, the Alamo Chapter of TMCA (where she served as treasurer), and the Society of Human Resources Management.

Lisa Elaine Simpson, TRMC, has been employed as city secretary of the City of Seymour since July 2000. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas in Denton, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. Elaine earned her TRMC (No. 383) in 2001. She is active in professional affiliations, maintaining membership in IIMC, TMCA, and the Red River Chapter of TMCA (where she has served as president and vice president).

Delcambre and Moore Accepted into Master Municipal Clerk Academy

Codi Delcambre, TRMC, city secretary, Argyle, and Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, have been accepted as members of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program of IIMC.

Codi Delcambre, TRMC, has been employed with the City of Argyle since April 2000, serving as assistant city secretary before appointment to her current position of city secretary in September 2001. Previous municipal service includes serving two years with the City of Ponder. Codi earned her TRMC in 2002 (No. 392). She is active in professional affiliations, maintaining membership in IIMC, TMCA, and the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter of TMCA.

Jo Moore, TRMC, has been employed with the City of Abilene since October 1988, where she serves in the position of city secretary. Previous municipal service includes serving 13 years with the City of Tye as city secretary. Jo earned her TRMC in 1986 (No. 114) and recertified in 1991, 1996 and 2001. She is active in professional affiliations, maintaining membership in IIMC, TMCA, and the Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA. She has served as president, president elect, vice president, secretary, treasurer and trustee of TMCA, and has served as vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian and advisor of the TMCA Bluebonnet Chapter. ★

2005 TMCCP Seminars

Legislative Update Seminar
 SPEAKER: Alan Bojorquez
 Irving, Texas, August 18-19, 2005

Graduate Institute Seminar: "Character First"
 SPEAKERS: Cary Gniffke & John Burnett
 Galveston, Texas, September 29-30, 2005



view our online seminar schedule for more information and more seminars!

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BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

By Nancy Turnbow

The Bluebonnet Chapter's March 9 meeting was held at K&J Bar-B-Que in Hamlin. Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin, welcomed all in attendance and a wonderful meal was served. President Kathy Keane, TRMC, city clerk, San Angelo, called the business meeting to order. A discussion was held concerning elections and employee benefits. The next meeting will be held in Abilene in June and hosted by Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene.

Members present were as follows: Louetta Davis, city secretary, Haskell; Virginia Dill, city secretary, Cisco; Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin; Karen Lou Graham,

city secretary, Anson; Kathy Keane, TRMC, city clerk, San Angelo; Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Jaime McCright, city secretary, Stamford; Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; Billie Pearce, city secretary, Tuscola; Renee Scott, assistant to city secretary, Abilene; Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland; Nancy Turnbow, city secretary, Baird; and Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin.



The Bluebonnet Chapter had thirteen members in attendance at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in January 2005. *Back row:* Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin; Jo Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; Renee Scott, assistant city secretary, Abilene; Virginia Dill, city secretary, Cisco; and Nancy Turnbow, city secretary, Baird. *Second row:* Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Kathy Keane, TRMC, city clerk, San Angelo; Louetta Davis, city secretary, Haskell; and Jean Gilmore, city secretary, Clyde. *Front row:* Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin; Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Shirley Stuart, city secretary, Eastland; and Karen Lou Graham, city secretary, Anson.

The Bluebonnet Chapter will hold its 10th Anniversary Celebration on June 25 hosted by TMCA Past President Jo Moore in Abilene! Interested members are invited to contact Chapter President Kathy Keane for more information.



CAPITAL CHAPTER

By Melissa Brunner, TRMC

The Capital Chapter held a meeting on March 17 which was hosted by the City of Thorndale. President Shirley Garvel called the meeting to order.

The following members were in attendance: Susan Brock, city clerk, Taylor; Betty Brown, TRMC, local government election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; Shirley Brown, city clerk, Austin; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Lauren Davis, deputy city secretary, Bee Cave; Shirley Garvel, city secretary, Elgin; Shawn Hedrick, city secretary, Troy; Linda Hambrick, city secretary, Jonestown; Amy

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Kopriva, city secretary, Cameron; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave; Toni Milam, city secretary, Buda; Connie Ortiz, TRMC, city secretary, Lockhart; Melissa Perry, city secretary, Hutto; Rose Sickel, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Liberty Hill; Yvonne Spence, deputy city clerk, Austin; Joyce Stapleton, city secretary, Lago Vista; Shelli Turner, city secretary, Rockdale; Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; and Violet Zbranek, city secretary (ret.), La Grange. The guests present were: Lisa Oltmann, city secretary, La Grange; Meichihko Proctor, associate, Bickerstaff Heath; and Jennifer Zufelt, city secretary, Volente.

The minutes of the January 20 meeting held in Austin were approved. Treasurer Teresa Valdez presented the financial report, which was also approved. President Garvel appointed Sherry Mashburn, TRMC; Betty Brown, TRMC; and Toni Milam to serve as committee members of the Capital Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee; Sherry Mashburn is to serve as chair.

President Garvel went over the program for the seminar to be held in Salado in July. Teresa Valdez, chair of the Silent Auction at the Salado meeting, reminded members to be on the lookout for items to bring for the Silent Auction. President Garvel reported that the Capital Chapter membership is now at 55, up from 50 last year. President Garvel presented Violet Zbranek with a plaque celebrating her retirement after 34 years with the City of La Grange, 27 of which she served as city secretary. Betty Brown shared information about new bills that were being introduced in the state legislature that are of interest to cities. ☆

Below: At the Central Texas Chapter's April meeting, **Kathy Van Wolfe**, McLennan County elections administrator, presented options for compliance of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) and demonstrated two DRE machines that McLennan County was considering purchasing.

At bottom: The Central Texas Chapter at their April meeting.



CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

By Lydia Lopez, TRMC

The Central Texas Chapter held their quarterly meeting at City of Beverly Hills' city hall on April 13.

Chapter members present were: Christa Albert, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Corsicana; Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway; Sheryl Christian, city secretary/court clerk, Crawford; Glynnis Coalter, Groesbeck; Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne; Sherry Dowd, Corsicana; Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; President Connie Foreman, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Becky Frels, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; Lee Garcia, finance director, Hewitt; Debbie Gauthier, city secretary, Mart; Benevolence Officer Audie Good, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bellmead; Betty Harrell, city secretary, Hillsboro; Treasurer Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills; Brenda Jackson, city secretary, Groesbeck; Secretary Lydia Lopez, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco; Historian Yrene Morgan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Mexia; Patty Paschal, city secretary, McGregor; Ivy Peterson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Cleburne; Sherrill Prevost, customer service representative, Waco; Kendra Pursche, Robinson; Christi Shivers, payroll clerk, Mexia; Linda

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The Central Texas Chapter at their April 2005 meeting.

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Vranich, city secretary, Robinson; and Diane C. Williams, Corsicana.

Kathy Van Wolfe, McLennan County elections administrator, presented options for compliance of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) and demonstrated two DRE machines that McLennan County was considering purchasing. She advised members that the

county would be purchasing enough to service those cities within McLennan County and responded to questions. Members were allowed to test both voting machines and vote for their preference.

Ms. Ervin informed the group on following issues being reviewed by the TMCA Executive Board:

- She encouraged members to serve on TMCA committees.
- She asked members to complete seminar evaluations so that the board could make effective decisions regarding training needs.
- The board is also currently working on revisions to the policy manual.

The next chapter meeting will be June 8 in the City of Hillsboro. ☆



COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

By Irma Parker

Edna City Secretary Becky Miska hosted our meeting at the Lariat Restaurant on February 17. Attendees enjoyed lunch and an informative program on "Salvaging Books & Papers After a Fire" as presented by Billie Jo Tennill, city secretary/administrator, Odem. Chapter members were given first hand stories of how the Town of Odem dealt with recovering from losing their city hall and records to a fire in the 1970's and of the city secretary's role in recovery after a disaster. This is an ongoing program to assist in development of an emergency management resource book for use by both coastal and inland communities.

The meeting was attended by: Sylvia Aparicio, city secretary, Taft; Pat Brown, administrative assistant, Rockport; Cynthia Contreras, city secretary, Bishop; Kimberly Drysdale, city secretary/human resources director, Ingleside; Elizabeth Gonzalez, city secretary, Woodsboro; Edna Lopez, city secretary, Kingsville; Nelda Martinez, city secretary, Mathis; Karen Mayer, city secretary, Aransas Pass; Becky Miska, city secretary, Edna; Ada Owens, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Aransas Pass; Irma Parker, city secretary, Rockport; Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Bonnie Taylor, city secretary, Lakeside; Billie Jo Tennill, city secretary/

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administrator, Odem; Betty Wood, TRMC, city secretary, Sinton; and the special guest was City of Edna finance director Olga Solomon.

Cynthia Contreras, city secretary, Bishop, will be hosting the next chapter meeting on May 25 in Bishop at the Taqueria Jalisco, 535 S. Hwy 77-Bypass, Bishop. The speaker for this meeting will be Clarissa Martinez, community services specialist, Office of Rural Community Affairs.

Upcoming meetings and workshops will include a May 4 meeting at Rockport Beach Park with Nan Pfiester of the Texas State Library presenting a workshop program on

“Improving Your Filing Systems.” The August chapter meeting will be held on August 25. Coastal Bend Council of Governments Instructor Danielle Gibson will present a program on “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, will be the chapter’s special guest at the August meeting.

Chapter newsletters are distributed to members with specific details of any upcoming meeting. For further information concerning our chapter or meeting dates, contact any members of the chapter or President Kimberly Drysdale, 361-776-2517 or email inglesidecs@cableone.net, or chapter Secretary/Treasurer Irma Parker at 361-729-2213 ext. 138 or email citysec@cityofrockport.com. ☆



Teresa Navarro, elections administrator, Hidalgo County, was the guest speaker at the March meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

By Perla Zamora

The LRGV Chapter met on March 16 at the McAllen International Airport. The guest speaker was Teresa Navarro, Hidalgo County elections administrator. She addressed the status of the purchases of the Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Voting System. After concluding her presentation, Ms. Navarro allowed some time for a

question-and-answer session as it related to the DREs and the process. The order of business also provided for the oath of office for the office of vice president to Mary Munoz, city clerk, Pharr; and secretary/treasurer to Aida Rivas, city clerk, Palm View. The oath was administered by Annette Villarreal.

The following members were in attendance: Anna Carrillo, acting city secretary, Pharr; Sara Castillo, Progresso; Immediate Past President Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Weslaco; Vice President

Mary Munoz, city secretary, Pharr; Roy Cantu, media director, McAllen; Myra Garza, city secretary, Edinburg; Linda Gonzalez, Weslaco; Danny A. Guzman, Elsa; Cindy Hernandez, city secretary, Penitas; Clarece Y. Martinez, Edinburg; Teresa Navarro, Hidalgo County; Olga Oberwetter, city secretary, La Feria; Vickie Ramirez, city secretary, San Juan; Yanet Reyna, Alton; Secretary/Treasurer Aida Rivas, city secretary, Palmview; Julianita Sabala, city

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 secretary, La Joya; Albesa Solis, assistant city secretary, Mission; Aida Vega, assistant city secretary, Pharr; Annette Villarreal, city secretary, McAllen; and Historian Perla Zamora, city secretary, McAllen. ☆



Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Aida Rivas, city secretary, Palmview, and Vice President Mary Munoz, city secretary, Pharr, are sworn into office.

NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER

By Nancy Meadows, TRMC



The current North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Officers are: President Nancy Meadows, TRMC, city secretary, Watauga; Vice-President Jeanne Fralicks, TRMC, city secretary/director of administrative Services, Duncanville; Treasurer Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; Secretary Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, city secretary, Carrollton; and Historian Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney.



The chapter held its annual all day Professional Seminar on February 9. Our topics were "Lead Where You Live! How to Encourage Through Role Modeling"; "Legal Notices: When and How to Publish Them"; "Tools of the Trade" show and tell; and a Notary Workshop. There were 27 persons in attendance for the seminar and 10 additional members attended the luncheon and business meeting portion. The seminar was very informative and enjoyable.

The March meeting was hosted by the City of Frisco and was held at the Rough Riders Founders Club in Frisco. We had a very enjoyable meeting with Frisco Mayor Mike Simpson as our speaker. Frisco City Secretary Nan Parker, TRMC, and Deputy City Secretary Kathy Wingo planned a wonderful meal and a great time for all who attended.

Above photos: The NTMCA Chapter at their Professional Seminar in February.

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The NTMCA Chapter had the honor of hosting the TMCCP Personnel Management Seminar on April 7 and 8 in Irving.

We were fortunate that Vice President Jeanne Fralicks, TRMC, could schedule Dallas County Elections Administrator Bruce Sherbet as our speaker for the April 13 NTMCA monthly meeting. Mr. Sherbet gave us an update on proposed legislative election law changes. We always enjoy and learn from Mr. Sherbet's sessions on elections.

We do not hold a meeting in May, due to the elections and the IIMC Conference.

All of our different committee members are busy accomplishing the goals of each committee.

Currently there are 140 NTMCA members. The Membership/Communications Committee, which includes Chair Kathleen Wedell, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Watauga; and members Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Alicia Richardson,

TRMC, assistant city secretary, North Richland Hills; and Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Richland Hills; is working on enrolling more members. The NTMCA Chapter covers a very large area, which includes all of TML Regions 8 and 13.

The June 8 NTMCA regular meeting at Harvey Hotel at 12:00 noon, will include our annual recognition of accomplishments of members. The City Secretary of the Year Committee, which includes Chair Codi Delcambre, TRMC, city secretary, Argyle, and members Pam Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, and Jean Dwinell, TRMC, city secretary, Westlake, will announce and recognize the NTMCA City Secretary of the Year.

In July our Nominating Committee, which includes Chair Paula Lawrence, TRMC, town secretary, Flower Mound, and members Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne, and Ivy Peterson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Cleburne, will present the slate of proposed

officers for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to the membership and the slate will be voted on in August.

The TMCCP Reception Committee, which includes Chair Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, city secretary, Grand Prairie, and members Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson; and Kathy Wingo, administrative assistant, Frisco, is planning for a special event for the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar on August 18 and 19, in Irving.

Legislative Committee Chair Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen, is working on informing the members of legislative and current events impacting the various duties of the municipal clerks' profession.

The Holiday Celebration Committee, which includes Chair Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie, and members Rosa Stovall, city secretary, Lavon, and Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy, is busy making plans for the holiday celebration.



Top: At the NTMCA 2005 Professional Seminar, Marti Miller spoke about "Lead Where You Live! How to Encourage Through Role Modeling."

Above: At the February 2005 Professional Seminar, Attorney Debra Drayovitch spoke to the NTMCA Chapter about "Legal Notices: When and How to Publish Them."



NTMCA MEETING CALENDAR 2005:

- July 13**, regular meeting at Harvey Hotel at 12:00 noon
- August 18-19**, NTMCA will host the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar in Irving.
- We will not have a regular meeting in August.
- September 7**, regular meeting at Harvey Hotel at 12:00 noon
- October 12**, regular meeting
- October 25-29**, NTMCA members will be the TMCA Booth Committee for the TML Conference in Grapevine
- November 9**, regular meeting
- December 14**, holiday luncheon ★

Left: At the NTMCA 2005 Professional Seminar.

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PANHANDLE CHAPTER

By Connie McKiernan

The Panhandle Chapter met on October 21, 2004; December 16, 2004; and February 17, 2005. Attendees at the meetings included: Secretary/Treasurer Crystal Black, city clerk/court clerk, Fritch; LaRita Butler, city secretary, Stratford; Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart; Suzanne Finch, city secretary, Hereford; Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman; President Janice Henson, TRMC, city secretary, Perryton; Frances Hibbs, assistant city secretary, Amarillo; Phyllis Jeffers, city secretary, Pampa; Terri Johnson, TRMC, city manager/city secretary, Friona; Historian Mary Sue Lyles, city secretary, Groom; Connie McKiernan, city secretary, Panhandle; Carolee Nance, city secretary, Fritch; Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas; Vice President Terry South, city secretary, Canadian; Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis; and Mark Washburn, city secretary, Gruver.

Jim Parish, personnel director, Amarillo, gave a presentation entitled "What to Do About Raising Health Care Costs" at the February 17 meeting. The health care cost crisis and insurance alternatives were presented in detail.

The TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Austin on January 19-21 was well-attended by members of the Panhandle Chapter.

Suzanne Finch and Connie McKiernan attended the April 7-8 TMCCP Personnel Management Seminar in Irving. This program was a wealth of information and so worth the time to attend.

Terri Johnson, acting on behalf of the scholarship committee, developed and presented a Panhandle Chapter TMCA scholarship policy for review by the membership. The application format was reviewed and accepted by the members.

President Henson read correspondence from Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave, soliciting comments and concerns regarding the Open Records Act and its implementation by records retention officers. Discussion on the need for training opportunities was presented by several of the membership. President Henson reminded the membership that TMCA annual dues were now payable to the association. ☆



PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

By Terre Noble, TRMC

The Pineywoods Chapter held their quarterly meeting on April 14 at Woodville city hall. Members present were: President Betsy Gregson, city secretary, Huntington; Terri Bible, city secretary, Woodville; Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil; Tina Cavazos, city secretary, Diboll; and Tommy Boykins, city secretary, Jasper.

On the agenda was election of new officers for 2005-2007. Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center, was elected as president. Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil, was elected vice president, and Tina Cavazos, city secretary, Diboll, was elected secretary/treasurer.

The group also had a session on the upcoming city elections to be held on May 7. ☆

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RED RIVER CHAPTER

By Trish Holley, TRMC

The Red River Chapter met March 16 for their quarterly meeting at the Oxford Street Restaurant in Wichita Falls. Members attending were: Stacy Clark, TRMC, city secretary, Throckmorton; Trish Holley, TRMC, city secretary, Burkburnett; Carol Loucks, TRMC, city secretary, Henrietta; Pat Quisenberry, TRMC, city

secretary, Vernon; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour; Lydia Torres-Ozuna, TRMC, city secretary, Wichita Falls; Conchita Torrez; assistant city secretary, Seymour; Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie; and visitor Sandy Page, deputy city secretary, Bowie.

Congratulations to Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, and Marie Balthrop, TRMC, for earning their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification and to Stacy

Clark, TRMC, for completing her recertification.

The members had a roundtable discussion on the upcoming election.

Newly elected officers are: President Trish Holley, TRMC, city secretary, Burkburnett; Vice President Pat Quisenberry, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon; and Secretary/Treasurer Stacy Clark, TRMC, city secretary, Throckmorton. The next meeting will be held June 15 in Wichita Falls. ☆



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

By Michele L. Glaser, TRMC

The Salt Grass Chapter conducted its annual public information seminar on February 3-4 at the beautiful new Sugar Land city hall. This is a popular event, attended not only by city secretaries, but by employees from many other city departments and from other governmental agencies. Speakers were: Baytown City Clerk Gary Smith, TRMC; Missouri City Secretary Patrice Fogarty, TRMC; and Assistant Attorney General Karen Rabon. A new feature this year was a half-day parliamentary procedure module conducted by TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

The Salt Grass Chapter held its March meeting at the Baytown Community Center. Court Administrator Lynda Kilgore presented a very informative talk about Baytown's innovative juvenile community service program.

The chapter held its annual banquet on April 9 at the beautiful Inn at the Ballpark. The guest speaker was Oliver Luck, CEO of the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority. Sheila Williams, assistant city secretary, Brazoria, received the Deloris McKenzie Scholarship Award for 2005/06. Patrice Fogarty, city secretary, Missouri City, was named Salt Grass Chapter Clerk of the Year. Special guests were TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta and her husband, J.J. Mary



Above: TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, installs 2005/06 Salt Grass Chapter Officers.



Left: Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood, presents the 2005 Deloris McKenzie scholarship to Brazoria Assistant City Secretary Sheila Williams.

Lynne conducted the initiation for the 2005/06 officers: President Jenny Key, TRMC, city secretary, Morgan's Point; Vice President, Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook; Secretary Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Bunker Hill Village; Treasurer Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; and Historian Gary Smith, TRMC, city secretary, Baytown. Outgoing President Marla Porter, TRMC, city secretary, Conroe, was given an award and thanked for her service to the chapter. Retiring Assistant City Secretary Linda Thornton, Friendswood, was presented with a gift from the chapter.

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CHAPTER NEWS



SALT GRASS Continued from p. 19

Several members attended a retirement party held for League City's retiring city secretary, Barbara Nugent, on April 12. Congratulations to Barbara and Linda on your successful careers! We wish you a happy retirement.

Members are looking forward to a busy 2005/06 year with meetings starting again in August. On September 14, Deer Park will host an all day seminar on the "Duties of Notaries." The location of the meeting will be the Battleground Golf Course. This is a fantastic facility with delicious food. The law firm of Olson & Olson will conduct the seminar. ☆



Above left: La Porte City Secretary **Martha Gillett, TRMC** (right), presents the Salt Grass Chapter Clerk of the Year Award to Missouri City Secretary **Patrice Fogarty, TRMC**.

Above right: Outgoing **President Marla Porter, TRMC** (left), city secretary, Conroe, presents a gift to retiring Friendswood Assistant City Secretary, **Linda Thornton**.



SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER NEWS

By Toni Chrestman, TRMC

The South Plains Chapter met on March 16 in Lubbock at the Lubbock Club. The meeting was hosted by Lubbock City Secretary Becky Garza, TRMC, and City of Lubbock staff.

Becky Garza introduced Dorothy Kennedy, Lubbock County Elections Administrator, as our speaker. Ms. Kennedy gave an informative presentation on the process she has been going through to obtain DREs for Lubbock County.

Gayla Cowan, city secretary, Amherst, presented a crystal bowl to Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains, in appreciation for serving as the South Plains Chapter's past president.

New chapter directories were available for members. A thank-you note was sent to Kirk Franklin and staff for their help updating and printing the directories. Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada, was commended for her work in compiling the data and binding them.

A committee was appointed for our local chapter training consisting of Chairman Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada; Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/manager, Morton; Chris Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland; and Tommy Combs,

deputy city secretary, Lubbock. The committee has tentatively set the one day seminar for October 14, with TMCA President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, presenting a program on parliamentary procedure. Mark the date on your calendars—this should be a very informative session, and one that is important to all of us.

The Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee for our chapter was appointed as follows: Chairman Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Mary Jo Collins, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Brownfield; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown.

The next meeting will be June 15, to be hosted by LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe.

Members attending were: Jane Bell, Lubbock; Hilda Cannon, city secretary, Abernathy; Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Mary Jo Collins, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Brownfield; Tommy Combs, deputy city secretary, Lubbock; Gayla Cowan, city secretary, Amherst; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Debbie Gressett, city secretary, Seminole; Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary/treasurer, Lamesa; Dorothy Kennedy, Lubbock County; Sharon Kerby, Slaton; Pat Kidd, Lubbock; Sylvia Martinez, TRMC, billing clerk, Plains; Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/city manager, Morton; Chris Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland; Carlo Wade and Cedric Wade of Brownfield; and Lynette Whitten, deputy city secretary, Morton. ☆

CHAPTER NEWS

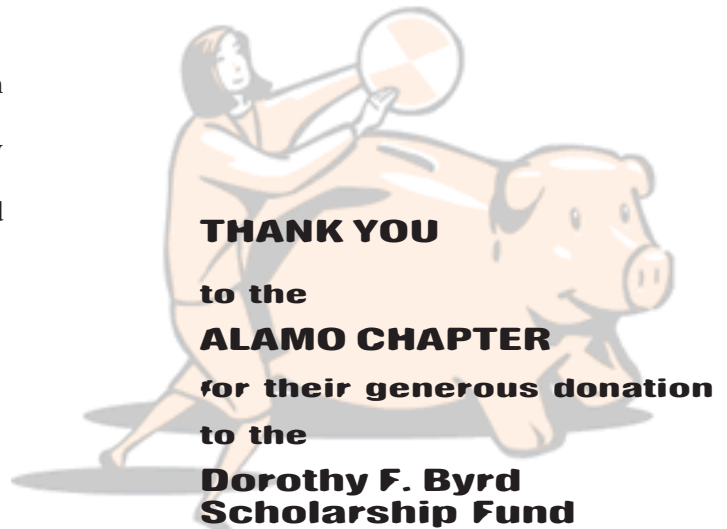


WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

By Tami Matthews

The West Texas Chapter met on January 20 in Austin at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. President Laura Barragan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Van Horn, called the meeting to order and the members discussed the following items: the constitution and bylaws; the Open Records Steering Committee plans; a chapter donation to the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship Fund; and the Education Committee.

The following members were present; Laura Barragan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Van Horn; Lou Ann Watson, city secretary, McCamey; Maria E.V. Rodriguez, city secretary, Balmorhea; Tonya Thomas, city secretary, Wink; Jerri Curfew, city secretary, Crane; Karen Gryder, deputy city secretary, Crane; and Evelyn Ammons, city secretary, Big Lake. ★



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