

TMCA NEWS



President's Message

“A Year of Service”

Last year I wrote an article calling for volunteers for TMCA committee service, and in my acceptance speech at the TMCA banquet in October, I declared 2015 as the “Year of Service”:

- To our city organization
- To our citizens
- To our peers
- To TMCA

Kevin Hall, author of *Aspire*, stated, “Your gifts are not about you. Leadership is not about you. Your purpose is not about you. A life of significance is about serving those who need your gifts, your leadership, your purpose.”



TMCA President
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC
City Secretary, College Station

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Service happens in ways big and small, in public and in private, and it can provide us a special kind of satisfaction by connecting us to those around us, be they co-workers, family, friend, or stranger. And the list of things we can do in service to others is endless. Imagine the financial, emotional, physical, and spiritual help we can offer. Recognize your own talents and their value, and “Never decide to do nothing just because you can only do little. Do what you can. You would be surprised at what ‘little’ acts have done for our world.”

— *Steve Maraboli*

Maybe you're a whiz with budgeting; you think outside the box; you're a good listener—whatever it is, think how much those talents mean when you share them with someone who needs that particular talent. Even the little things we do, like helping that neighboring city secretary with an election question or just holding open a door for a total stranger, can make life a little easier for someone else. Consider a simple smile: “Service is a smile. It is an acknowledging wave, a reaching handshake, a friendly wink, and a warm hug. It's these simple acts that matter most, because the greatest service to a human soul has always been the kindness of recognition.” —*Richelle E. Goodrich*



TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, represented Texas during the Parade of Flags at the International Institute of Municipal Clerks's Annual Conference this year in Connecticut. Read more about the conference [here](#).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Opportunities to donate our time and energy are all around us... and we don't need to evaluate who, when, or how we serve: we just need to act. Planned or spontaneous, for a stranger or for someone we know, service is a very special and rewarding thing.

Maybe you're wondering what can you do that is service-oriented and can truly help someone? Take a moment, and reflect back to a time when someone helped you through a situation. Now take that service, that kindness, and pay it forward. Maybe you received a phone call from someone that just wanted to say, "Hi," and it really lifted your spirits. Or perhaps you posted a question on the **TexasMunicipalClerks list serve**, and a city secretary you'd never met replied to you with the answer and offered encouragement. Now call someone you haven't talked to in a while. Help someone with their problem. Pay it forward. Over time, all of those small acts, those small moments, will lead to a state in which service becomes increasingly effortless.

On **page 6** of this newsletter is an article written by TMCA President Elect Cheryl Gibson-Salgado seeking volunteers for the 2016 TMCA committees. Offer up your time, presence, attention, and make a commitment to service by sending in your completed application to serve TMCA and fellow city secretaries. Pay it forward.

Sherry Mashburn, TRMC

2015 TMCA President

smashburn@cstx.gov

Upcoming 2015 Events

June 18-19, League City • **Registration open**

TMCCP Seminar: "Goals for Public Service: A View from the City Clerk's Office"

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 1 or 2 or Recertification seminar credit

July 8, Richardson • **Registration open**

Lone Star Chapter's Athenian Dialogue: "I Am Malala"

Educational credit: TMCCP recertification credit can be earned with dialogue participation and satisfactory completion of the learning assessment. Also preapproved for three IIMC CMC or MMC education points with completion of a learning assessment.

July 10, Lubbock

South Plains Chapter's Athenian Dialogue: "Lord of the Flies"

Educational credit: TMCCP recertification credit can be earned with dialogue participation and satisfactory completion of the learning assessment. Also preapproved for three IIMC CMC or MMC education points with completion of a learning assessment.

July 22-25, Austin • **Registration open**

National Association of Government Archives & Records Administrators' Annual Meeting

July 24-25, Belton • *Contact Chapter President Jeanna Bellinger*

Capital Chapter's Annual Conference at Summer's Mill Retreat

August 20-21, San Marcos • **Registration opens in late June**

TMCCP Seminar: "Legislative Update"

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 2 or Recertification seminar credit

September 2, McKinney • *Learn more*

Lone Star Chapter's Records Management Workday

September 9, Deer Park • *Contact Chapter Secretary Doris Speer*

Salt Grass Chapter's Annual Public Information Seminar

Give and Live: Volunteer in 2016

By President Elect **Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC**

City Secretary/Assistant City Manager, Spearman

Volunteer for a 2016 TMCA Committee By September 1!



Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC

Give a little of your time and live with a gratified mind by volunteering to commit yourself to a TMCA 2016 committee! You will be enriched by your participation in the Association.

You can help grow our outstanding professional organization by volunteering to serve on a committee. Help keep TMCA strong by providing your support, knowledge, and leadership. Your participation will help you better understand the important role these committees play in TMCA's structure and growth.

Perhaps your vim and vigor can be directed to one of these committees: Audit, Technology, Resolutions, TML Booth, Retirement, Scholarship, Nominating, Membership, Certification, or Municipal Clerk of the Year. Most committees will not take much of your time **and meet only by email or phone.**

Whether you have previously served on a committee or this is your first time, I ask you to take that next step: complete the **Committee Interest Questionnaire form** and submit it to me no later than **September 1:**

City Secretary Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC

City of Spearman

P.O. Box 37

Spearman, TX 79081-0037

Or email: **citysec@ptsi.net**

Or fax: 806-659-3859

I look forward to us serving as a team in 2016! ★

TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Shhh...

By **Dr. Amy Holt**

Who loves it when you are at the movies and a couple people are talking in front of you or another person is using their phone for communication or an extra source of entertainment? Most people find this type of behavior rude.

I would like to extend this thought to our seminars. When the TMCA staff members in the office review the evaluations submitted after a seminar, there are usually multiple comments from participants asking us to be more diligent in asking individuals who are talking during the presentation or using their devices for “extra-curricular activities” to quit those behaviors. It is distracting to other audience members and the presenter(s). I am kindly asking that you monitor your own actions in this regard. I do not like being the “heavy” but I felt this message was necessary. ★



IIMC Annual Conference

May 17-20, Hartford, Connecticut

There were ten Texas clerks in attendance at the 69th Annual International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference in beautiful Hartford, Connecticut.

Congratulations to 2011 TMCA President Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth, who was installed as IIMC vice president! As current vice president, Mary Kayser is on track to become IIMC president in two more years.



Above: IIMC Past President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, administers the oath of office to IIMC Vice President Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth.

Top right photo: IIMC Past President **Norma Rodriguez**, retired city clerk, San Antonio; IIMC Vice President **Mary Kayser**, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; and IIMC Past President **Mary Lynne Stratta**, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

At right: **Texas attendees at the 2015 IIMC Conference** (from left to right): **Mary Kayser**, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; **Betty Brown**, TRMC, local government specialist (retired), Bickerstaff Heath; **Sherry Mashburn**, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; **Lee Woodward**, TRMC (background), city secretary, Huntsville; **Theresa Scott**, TRMC, town secretary, Flower Mound; **Jannette Goodall**, TRMC, city clerk, Austin; and **Dr. Amy Holt**, TMCA/TMCCP education director.

Not pictured: Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave; Norma Rodriguez, retired city clerk, San Antonio; Cynthia Singleton, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Hurst; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

IIMC Annual Conference

Also, congratulations to the three new Athenian Fellows from Texas who were announced at the conference: Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary, Highland Village; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; and Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park! ★

Photos clockwise from top left: TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station, represents Texas in the IIMC Parade of Flags ceremony. Inset: TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, with the Texas flag. Lower left: **Dr. Amy Holt**, TMCA/TMCCP education director; "Mark Twain" of Hartford, Connecticut; and **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville. Lower right: Attendees of the IIMC Region IV meeting. Below, left to right, front row to back: **Theresa Scott, TRMC**, town secretary, Flower Mound; **Jannette Goodall, TRMC**, city clerk, Austin; **Betty Brown, TRMC**, local government specialist (retired), Bickerstaff Heath; and **Mary Kayser, TRMC**, city secretary, Fort Worth; **Dr. Amy Holt**, TMCA/TMCCP education director; **Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC**, city secretary, Bryan; **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; and **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville.



Background photo: "Hartford, Reflection" by Brian Rumbulakku. Photo licensed under Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 2.0 license.

Celebrate 2015 Retirees

By Retirement Committee Chair **Cara McPartland, TRMC**

City Secretary/Assistant City Administrator, Wimberley

The TMCA Retirement Committee extends a big thank you to all of our local chapters who have helped us identify and reach out to our 2015 retirees. We ask that local chapter presidents submit any additional names of retirees to the Retirement Committee. Committee members are continually updating the retiree list to ensure everyone receives their well-deserved recognition at TMCA's Annual Awards Banquet, which will be held on October 8 in Fort Worth. Names of all TMCA retirees will be announced at the banquet. For all of our retirees: this is your time to be honored for your service and dedication to your citizens, co-workers, and colleagues, so please try to attend, if at all possible.

If you are retiring this year, please complete the **2015 Retirement Information Form** and return it to me or one of my fellow Committee members listed below. **If you know of anyone who plans to retire this year, please have them contact any member of the committee, who will be happy to answer any questions and forward a Retirement Information Form for the retiree to complete and return.**

On behalf of all your peers at TMCA, the Retirement Committee congratulates all 2015 retirees and sends our very best wishes for a happy and rewarding retirement, full of joyful times with family and friends. Your personal and professional accomplishments are a great source of pride and inspiration to those of us who follow in your footsteps. ★



Illustration © Sapannpix | Dreamstime.com

2015 TMCA Retirement Committee:

Chair Cara McPartland, TRMC,

Assistant City Administrator/City Secretary, Wimberley

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

Christi Wynn, TRMC, *City Secretary, Brownwood*

Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Lydia Lopez, TRMC**

City Secretary, Hewitt



Lydia Lopez, TRMC

The TML Board of Directors met on March 27 at the Texas Municipal Center in Austin.

TML staff briefed the board on the 84th Legislative Session. A total of 6,411 bills were filed by the deadline. This has been a tough year for cities in that the new philosophy at the Capitol is local control is bad, “liberty” is good. TML President Nelda Martinez thanked the board for their assistance and support in opposing legislation harmful to Texas cities.

The board approved a budget amendment to fund an economic impact analysis of the harmful property tax revenue cap bills that appear to have traction at the Capitol. House Bill 365 and Senate Bill 182 propose to reduce the property tax revenue cap from its current level at 8% down to 4% plus requiring an automatic election. TML staff has worked diligently to help cities maintain local control and their ability to raise municipal revenue by fighting these two bills and others that could be detrimental. The session is scheduled to end by release of this newsletter. We can only be hopeful

that our unity and partnership with TML has helped us win the fight against bad legislation.

SAVE THE DATE! The **TML 103rd Annual Conference and Exhibition** will be held **September 22-25 in San Antonio**. Conference registration and housing will open at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14. The conference will be held in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. The TMCA Board met on March 20 and voted to participate by conducting a concurrent session at the conference. Check the **TML website** for posted information. ★

TMCCP Certificates Earned

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

Course 1

Adriana Moreno, Odessa

Course 2

Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi

Course 3

Kristy Ashberry, Rockwall
Cindy Bartlett, Redwater
Donna Boner, Lake Dallas
Kelly Burris, Brownfield
Jennifer Clements, Lubbock
Stephanie Dimas, Arlington
Cinda Etheridge, Rusk
Jennifer Evans, Texarkana
Holly Fimbres, Trophy Club
Maria Franco, San Angelo
Ann Franklin, Austin
Mona Lisa Galicia, Grand Prairie
Marisela Garcia, Nassau Bay
Deborah Hale, Collinsville
Carrie Jones, Denison
Staci King Stephenville
Shelley Major, Hudson Oaks
Mary McDonald, Midlothian

Rosa Mendez, Friona
Pamela Mercado, Friona
Adriana Moreno, Odessa
Tracy Norr, Wichita Falls
Debora Penberg, Leander
Jennifer Phillips, Irving
Myrna Rios, Austin
Donna Schmoekel, Schertz
Virginia Singleterry, McAllen
Tina Stewart, Arlington
Ana Valdez, Penitas
Carla Walker, Granbury

Course 4

Lucretia Alvarez, Elgin
Cindy Bartlett, Redwater
Ann Franklin, Austin
Kathy Styles, Perryton
Ana Valdez, Penitas

IIMC Bulletins

Congratulations to Kathy Hoover, TRMC; Gay Ferguson, TRMC; and Wendy Withers, TRMC, on receiving the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality.

Congratulations also to Lee Woodward, TRMC, on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from IIMC. MMC program participants must pursue extensive and rigorous educational and professional components. The participant must also already hold the CMC.

Longtime TMCA member **Kathy Hoover, TRMC**, city secretary, Lufkin, earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) designation in 2012 (No. 643) and is enrolled in her first recertification. She is a member of the Northeast Texas Chapter of TMCA.

Gay Ferguson, TRMC, city clerk, Nederland, earned her TRMC Certification in 2014 (No. 715) and is enrolled in her first recertification. Gay is a member of the TMCA Alamo Chapter.

Wendy Withers, TRMC, city secretary, Shady Shores, earned her TRMC Certification in 2013 (No. 386) and is enrolled in recertification. Wendy has been a member of TMCA for over fifteen years and is a member of the Lone Star Chapter of TMCA.

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, earned her TRMC Certification in 2012 (No. 663) and is enrolled in recertification. She is an active member of the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter.

TMCCP SEMINAR

Municipal Budget Cycle

April 16-17, with speakers Patrick Shinkle and Dr. Robert Bland

Over 160 were in attendance at the TMCCP “Municipal Budget Cycle” seminar in Waco. Speakers Patrick Shinkle and Dr. Robert Bland of the University of North Texas covered a variety of topics. ★



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

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

The Alamo Chapter met in February at Pericos Mexican Cuisine with a very special visit from TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station. President Mashburn motivated and inspired chapter members with a presentation on “Service and Leadership.” Afterwards Alamo Chapter President Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley, gave a brief description of proposed chapter bylaws which would create three new committees: Legislative Committee, Budget Committee, and Audit Committee. Congratulations were expressed to Sheila Edmondson, assistant city secretary, Cibolo, for passing her TMCCP exam in January and to all members who recertified their first, second, and third time. Finally, sincere appreciation was expressed by all chapter members to San Antonio City Clerk Emeritus Norma Rodriguez for her generous donation to the Alamo Chapter Norma Rodriguez Scholarship Fund. This fund was begun in an effort to fund continuing education for the purpose of assisting city secretaries and municipal clerks in the pursuit of certifications through TMCCP and IIMC.



At the February chapter meeting at Pericos Mexican Cuisine. From first row back, and from left to right: Chapter Secretary **Angela Cantu**, city secretary-treasurer, La Vernia; Chapter Vice President **Leticia Saenz, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, San Antonio; Chapter President **Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC**, city secretary, Leon Valley; TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Chapter Treasurer **Lisa Hernandez, TRMC**, city admin./secretary, Natalia; **Jennifer Reyna, TRMC**, city secretary, Alamo Heights; **Debby Goza, TRMC**, city secretary, Live Oak; **Yolanda Benitez, TRMC**, city secretary (ret.), Garden Ridge; **Delia Flores, TRMC**, city secretary, Balcones Heights; **Janice Alamia, TRMC**, city secretary, Hollywood Park; **Pricilla Abrego**, deputy city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; **Exzentrius Sturdivant**, city secretary, Castle Hills; **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**, dep. city administrator, Fair Oaks Ranch; **Debra Howe, TRMC**, city secretary, Castroville; **Joy Hart, TRMC**, account manager, Franklin Legal Publishing; and **Trudy Whitfield**, HR generalist, Live Oak.

ALAMO CHAPTER

The Alamo Chapter met again in April at Milano Café. Our speaker was James Williamson who gave a presentation on “Eat Right, Sleep Well,” which was followed by the presentation of the proposed Alamo Chapter bylaws amendments. The chapter will vote on the amendments in June. Appointments were made to the existing committees for a term of two years.

Priscilla Abrego, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, provided a beautiful gift basket full of treats that was won by Debby Goza, TRMC, city secretary, Live Oak. ★



Having a good time and celebrating fiesta in April at Milano Café. *From first row back, and from left to right:* Chapter Historian **Grace Tamez, TRMC**, city secretary, Helotes; Chapter Vice President **Leticia Saenz, TRMC**, dep. city secretary, San Antonio; Chapter President **Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC**, city secretary, Leon Valley; Chapter Treasurer **Lisa Hernandez, TRMC**, city admin./secretary, Natalia; Chapter Secretary **Angela Cantu**, city secretary, La Vernia; **Melinda Uriegas, TRMC**, asst. city clerk, San Antonio; **Janice Alamia, TRMC**, city secretary, Hollywood Park; **Priscilla Abrego**, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; **Delia Flores, TRMC**, city secretary, Balcones Heights; **Leticia Vacek, TRMC**, city clerk, San Antonio (*unseen*); **Debra Howe, TRMC**, city secretary, Castroville; **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**, dep. city admin., Fair Oaks Ranch; **Sheila Edmondson**, asst. city secretary, Cibolo; **Debby Goza, TRMC**, city secretary, Live Oak; **Trudy Whitfield**, HR generalist, Live Oak; **Diane Gonzales**, city secretary, Olmos Park; and **Joy Hart, TRMC**, account manager, Franklin Legal Publishing.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Lucretia Alvarez**

City Secretary, Elgin

The Capital Chapter met on January 14 in Austin with twenty-one members present. They were hosted by Betty Brown and RaeAnn Morris, election specialists, of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, LLP. Human Resources Director Summer Jurels gave a presentation on communication tips related to interactions in the job place.

Chapter President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, called the meeting to order. Halfway through the meeting, a delicious soup lunch was enjoyed by all. There was discussion and action regarding the committee appointments and Summers Mill Retreat and Conference Center for the chapter's July 24-25 conference.

The Capital Chapter met again on March 11 in Pflugerville with 21 members present. They were hosted by Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville. Terri Waggoner, Pflugerville's public information officer, gave a presentation on the City of Pflugerville's 50th Birthday celebrations and interactions with the community.

President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, called the meeting to order. A delicious sandwich lunch was enjoyed by all. There was discussion and action regarding the bank account transfer and setting the



Two Capital Chapter members received their TMCA certifications at the graduation ceremony held at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco on January 22 (from left to right): Tanya McNutt, TRMC, deputy city secretary, College Station, and Seth Gipson, TRMC, recently promoted to city secretary, Hutto; Chapter President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, earned her recertification.

CAPITAL CHAPTER

registration fee for the Summers Mill Retreat and Conference Center for the chapter's upcoming July 24-25 Conference.

We would love for anyone to come join us as a member or guest at one of our future meetings. Our next meeting is on May 13 in Leander, and our summer conference is set for July 24-25 in Belton. Please contact: Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, at 979-337-7567 or jbellingercityofbrenham.org. ★

Chapter members in attendance at the meeting:

Lucretia Alvarez, city secretary, Elgin
 Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown
 Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham
 Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia
 Chance Chatham, village secretary, Point Venture
 Shirley Garvel, city secretary (ret.), Elgin
 Seth Gipson, TRMC, city secretary, Hutto
 Jannette Goodall, TRMC, city clerk, Austin
 Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander
 Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron
 Joy Hart, TRMC, Franklin Legal Publishing
 Elizabeth Lopez
 Christine Martinez, Hutto
 Debora Penberg, administrative assistant, Leander
 Melissa Perry, city secretary, Jarrell
 Myrna Rios, assistant city clerk, Austin
 Meagan Spinks, deputy city clerk, Round Rock
 Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville
 Julia Vicars, city secretary, Volente
 Sara White, TRMC, city clerk, Round Rock



The youngest attendee at the March meeting, Charlie Garvel, came as a guest of Shirley Garvel, retired city secretary, Elgin. He is unofficially proclaimed the youngest assistant secretary to a retired city secretary in the Capital Chapter. Pictured from left to right: Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron; Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown; Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville; Shirley Garvel, city secretary (ret.), Elgin (holding Charlie Garvel); Melissa Perry, city secretary, Jarrell; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Susan Brock, TRMC, city clerk, Taylor; and Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Amber Fuller, TRMC**

City Secretary, Hubbard

The Central Texas Chapter held their annual Chapter Christmas Luncheon on December 19. The City of Belton hosted the meeting at The Gin at Nolan Creek. Chapter President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city clerk, Belton, welcomed everyone and presented attending members with a Christmas gift.

Chapter members brought unwrapped toys to donate to “Toys for Tots” and participated in a Christmas ornament exchange.

The chapter presented Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway, with a retirement gift to honor her for her years of service.



At top right: At the December meeting, (from left to right): **Donna Barkley, TRMC**, city secretary, Woodway; **Jennifer Canady, TRMC**, city secretary (ret.), Woodway; **Michelle Hicks, TRMC**, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; **Jana Lewellen, TRMC**, city clerk, Belton; **Patricia Ervin, TRMC**, city secretary (ret.), Waco; **Amber Fuller, TRMC**, city secretary, Hubbard; **Dorothy Jackson**, city manager, Hubbard; and **Cynthia Ward, TRMC**, city secretary, Waller.

Inset: Retiree **Jennifer Canady, TRMC**, city secretary, Woodway, was presented a retirement gift.



CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

The Central Texas Chapter held a bi-monthly meeting on February 18. The City of Robinson hosted the meeting at the Robinson Fire Station. Robinson City Manager Robert Cervenka welcomed everyone, and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Blanek's Catering. Karen Sanchez gave chapter members a tour of Robinson's beautiful new fire station.

The chapter presented Patricia Ervin, TRMC, retired city secretary, Waco, with a plaque and beautiful flower arrangement honoring her, and wished her well on her retirement.

Top right: Retiree **Patricia Ervin, TRMC**, city secretary, Waco, was honored at the February meeting.

Below: At the April meeting (from left to right): **Amber Fuller, TRMC**, city secretary, Hubbard; **Sandra Barton**, city secretary, Lago Vista; **Karen Sanchez**, finance director, Robinson; **Kathy McKenzie**, HR director, Robinson; **Jana Lewellen, TRMC**, city clerk, Belton; **Michelle Hicks, TRMC**, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; **Althea Wall**, city secretary, Morgan's Point Resort; TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; **Lydia Lopez, TRMC**, city secretary, Hewitt; and **Ronda Cockerham, TRMC**, assistant city secretary, Italy.



CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

The Central Texas Chapter held their next bi-monthly meeting on April 15. The City of Lacy Lakeview hosted the meeting at the Lacy Lakeview Civic Center. Chapter President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, welcomed everyone and introduced TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station. Chapter members enjoyed box lunches provided by Dickey's Barbeque.

After the chapter members introduced themselves, TMCA President Sherry Mashburn gave an informative and rewarding speech on what she called the year 2015: "The Year of Service."

The chapter's next meeting will be held in June in Mexia. ★

Chapter members present at the April meeting:

Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson

Ronda Cockerham, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Italy

Codi Delcambre, TRMC, interim city secretary, Bellmead

Michelle Ficker, administrative assistant, Robinson

Renee Flores, court administrator, Bellmead

Amber Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Hubbard

Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills

Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview

President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city clerk, Belton

Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt

Kathy McKenzie, HR director, Robinson

Karen Sanchez, finance director, Robinson

Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan's Point Resort

Taylor Weatherby, juvenile case manager, Hubbard

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Rebecca Huerta**

City Secretary, Corpus Christi

The Coastal Bend Chapter meeting held on April 8 was graciously hosted by the City of Port Aransas. Port Aransas City Secretary Irma Parker, TRMC, welcomed all the attendees.

Ms. Parker introduced a special guest to the chapter meeting, TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station. Ms. Mashburn spoke regarding the theme she has selected for her presidency, "A Year of Service." In her inspiring speech, she defined "service" in terms of the "servant leadership" concept espoused by Mr. Robert Greeley. Specifically, she offered five reasons why we should serve: 1) to discover abundance; 2) to express gratitude; 3) to transform oneself; 4) to honor our profound inner connection; and 5) to align with a natural unfolding. She spoke how customer service is a way of life for city secretaries. Finally, she led a call to action, asking us to call a new city secretary we know today, offering ourselves as a resource.



TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, administered the oath of office to the new officers. *From left to right: Secretary **Rebecca Huerta**, city secretary, Corpus Christi; Treasurer **Scarlet Swoboda**, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Vice President **Mary Valenzuela**, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville; **Irma Parker**, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas. (In foreground, outgoing president **Teresa Valdez**, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport.)*

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

During our April meeting, the Coastal Bend Chapter elected a new slate of officers for 2015 as follows: President Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas; Vice President Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville; Treasurer Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Secretary Rebecca Huerta, city secretary, Corpus Christi.

TMCA President Mashburn administered the oath of office to the new officers.

In other business, the Coastal Bend Chapter nominated Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria, as the Coastal Bend Chapter Clerk of the Year and the chapter's nominee for the 2015 TMCA Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Finally, the Coastal Bend Chapter discussed hosting an Athenian Dialogue in the fall (September or October) to discuss the

Top right photo: TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, makes a presentation to the chapter. In background: Jan Hill, city secretary, Fulton, and Robert Seward, city secretary, Palacios; in foreground: Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas, and Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport.

In foreground: Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville. Background, from left to right: Paul Pierce, deputy city secretary, Corpus Christi; Barbara Trevino, city secretary, Beeville; Cathy Duhart, city secretary, Sinton; Rebecca Huerta, city secretary, Corpus Christi; Kimberly Sampson, city secretary/HR dir., Ingleside; and Ruby Beavin, deputy city secretary, Rockport.



COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

book, *When Character was King: the Story of Ronald Reagan*. The date and location of the dialogue are yet to be determined, but we will post in a future newsletter. This book comes highly recommended by President Mashburn and by Victoria City Secretary Scarlet Swoboda, so it promises to be an informative and engaging Athenian Dialogue. Don't miss it!

Once the meeting adjourned, Port Aransas City Secretary Irma Parker, TRMC, hosted an exclusive tour of the Port Aransas resort community for our chapter members. All in all, another productive meeting for the Coastal Bend Chapter! Anyone interested in joining the Coastal Bend Chapter, or for general inquiries, can contact Chapter Secretary Rebecca Huerta, city secretary, Corpus Christi, at 361-826-3015 or rebeccah@cctexas.com. ★

April meeting attendees:

Ruby Beaven, assistant city secretary, Rockport

Cathy Duhart, city secretary, Sinton

Jan Hill, city secretary, Fulton

Rebecca Huerta, city secretary, Corpus Christi

TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC,
city secretary, College Station

Francisca Nixon, assistant city secretary, Port Aransas

Paul Pierce, assistant city secretary, Corpus Christi

Kimberly Sampson, city secretary/HR director, Ingleside

Robert Seward, city secretary, Palacios

Scarlet Swoboda, city secretary, Victoria

Barbara Trevino, city secretary, Beeville

Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport

Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Vickie Schmid, TRMC**
Deputy City Secretary, Richardson

February Meeting

The February Lone Star Chapter meeting was held in McKinney at the Olive Garden restaurant. Speaker Greg Sowell, City of Richardson Director of Communications, presented humorous ideas on how to encourage municipal employees to help each other across departmental lines, noting that “We are all in this together.”

Three deserving Lone Star Chapter members were awarded scholarships: Alice Snyder, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano—Athenian Dialogue Scholarship; Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing—Lone Star Chapter Scholarship; and Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina—Lone Star Chapter Scholarship.

Audit Committee Chair Denise Vice, TRMC, assistant city secretary, McKinney, presented a detailed report of the committee’s findings to the chapter.

League of Women Voters Anniversary Celebration

The League of Women Voters—Collin County honored public servants at their 41st Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, March 14. Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney, and Robyn Battle, town secretary, Prosper, were recognized for their outstanding service to their respective communities. Lone Star



Speaker **Greg Sowell**, City of Richardson Director of Communications.

LONE STAR CHAPTER

Chapter Member Shelley George attended the celebration and reported that “Sandy Hart and Robyn Battle did an excellent job representing our organization. They were very professional and definitely informed those there of the important role our positions play at the city and to the citizens.” Congratulations and many thanks to Sandy and Robyn for being such shining examples of service in action!

March Meeting

Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony, hosted the March Lone Star Chapter meeting at Amore’s Italian



Top right: Chapter scholarship winners (from left to right): Alice Snyder, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano—Athenian Dialogue Scholarship; Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina—Lone Star Chapter Scholarship; and Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing—Lone Star Chapter Scholarship.

Near right: Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney, and Robyn Battle, town secretary, Prosper, were among those recognized for their outstanding service to their respective communities by the League of Women Voters. Honorees left to right: Phyllis M. Jarrell, director of special projects, Plano; Major Pam Palmisano, sheriff’s office, Collin County; Renaé Ollie, director of development services, Wylie; Nell Lange, assistant city manager, Frisco; Linda Truitt, finance director, Murphy; Shelli Siemer, assistant city manager, Allen; Robyn Battle, town secretary, Prosper; and Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney.



LONE STAR CHAPTER

Restaurant. Members conducted a round-table discussion of various aspects of the Public Information Act and how each city responded to open records requests. Immediate Past President Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing, gave a “Character First” presentation on “Joyfulness.” She stated that joyfulness was defined as maintaining a good attitude, even when faced with unpleasant conditions and she noted that a kind word to a co-worker, citizen, or customer could make a big difference. The City of Garland’s new city secretary Rene Dowl attended her first chapter meeting and received a warm welcome from Lone Star members. Rene is currently enrolled in the TMCCP program, so I’m sure you will see Rene at conferences soon!

April Meeting

Hats off to Mike Mowery, Ph.D., chief operations officer of Strategic Government Resources for an outstanding presentation at the April 1 Lone Star Chapter meeting. His presentation highlighted I-OPT leadership/management/personality assessments; the summaries were right on target! Mr. Mowery explained how the I-OPT assessment could be used as a highly effective tool to identify: the best candidate choice for city government management teams; the dynamics of each personality type and how they work together; and the character strengths and weaknesses for each personality type.

Janis Cable gave an inspiring “Character First” presentation on “Enthusiasm,” defining enthusiasm as the sincere satisfaction in

doing the right thing. She urged members to “Give enthusiasm your best effort!”

Mark Your Calendars

Athenian Dialogue: The Lone Star Chapter Athenian Dialogue is right around the corner. We look forward to hosting in Richardson on July 8 featuring the book *I Am Malala*. There are still a few seats available. **The registration form can be found here.** See you at the Dialogue!

Records Management Workday: The Lone Star Chapter Records Management Workday will be held on September 2 in McKinney, Texas at the McKinney Performing Arts Center and will feature a PIA Panel. Watch for more information coming soon to our chapter website: www.TMCALoneStarChapter.com. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC**

Administrative Supervisor, McAllen

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter met in February and April. The February meeting was hosted by South Padre Island at Parrot Eyes Bar and Grill. Our guest speaker was South Padre Island City Manager William "Bill" Dilibero, who spoke on Senate Bill 343.

New officers were sworn in: Secretary/Treasurer Veronica Montoya, city secretary, Elsa, and Historian Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC, administrative supervisor, McAllen.

In April, City of Elsa hosted the LRGV Chapter meeting at La Hacienda Restaurant and conducted regular business.

A special congratulations to Ana Valdez, city secretary, Peñitas, for passing her final test towards her TRMC Certification!

To join the LRGV Chapter or for more information, on this chapter, please contact Baudelia Rojas, TRMC, city secretary, at baudelia.rojas@alton-tx.gov; our meetings are a great way to network and get business done. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Also be sure to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries.



The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter met in February in South Padre Island.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER



Above: The Lower Rio Grande Chapter in February at their meeting in South Padre Island. Top right: The chapter at their April meeting in Elsa. At right: Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC, administrative supervisor, McAllen, is sworn in as historian at the April meeting.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter Officers:

President Baudelia Rojas, TRMC, city secretary, Alton
 Vice President Ana Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Peñitas
 Secretary/Treasurer Veronica Montoya, city secretary, Elsa
 Historian Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC, administrative supervisor, McAllen

The cities of the LRGV Chapter members include: Alamo, Alton, Brownsville, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elsa, Granjeno, Harlingen, Hidalgo, La Feria, La Joya, La Villa, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Los Indios, Lyford, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, Port Isabel, Palmhurst, Raymondville, Rancho Viejo, San Benito, San Juan, South Padre Island, Sullivan City, and Weslaco.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Mary Supino, TRMC**
City Secretary, Arlington

Greetings to our fellow chapters from the North Texas Chapter!

We want to thank Sheila Morales, TRMC, town secretary, Copper Canyon, for hosting a lovely meeting at the Copper Canyon Town Hall on February 18. Mayor Sue Tejml welcomed us to this gorgeous town. I had never been to Copper Canyon before, but now I can't wait to go back. It is absolutely beautiful there!

The Honorable Denton County Commissioner Bobbie J. Mitchell joined us to talk about the important role that women play in government. Bobbie talked about her climb to her current position as County Commissioner. Bobbie began her career in government by serving on both the Board of Adjustment and the Planning & Zoning Commission in the City of Lewisville. She served as a councilmember for several years and was then elected as the mayor of Lewisville in 1993 and served as mayor until 2000. Since 2000, Bobbie has been serving in her current position as a Denton County Commissioner.

Top right: Chapter members at the February meeting in Copper Canyon.

At right: The Honorable Denton County Commissioner Bobbie J. Mitchell.



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Bobbie is so passionate about her role in government and about public service. She talked a lot about why women make great politicians — women don't mind getting their hands dirty, they are effective in building consensus, and create harmony in a community. She talked about how passion propels you to do more. We need to be excited about our jobs and our community. She encouraged all of us to run for office, but if being a municipal clerk is our calling, be the BEST clerk you can be!

This meeting was so much fun and we enjoyed hearing from these strong and powerful women!

At this meeting, the membership approved the meeting minutes from January 15 business meeting and the monthly treasurer report from January.

We want to thank Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville, for hosting a fantastic meeting at the Colleyville library on March 18. Colleyville City Manager Jennifer Fadden welcomed us to beautiful Colleyville.

We had a great panel of city attorneys who discussed a variety of



Top right: The chapter's April meeting featured a panel of city attorneys who covered a variety of issues. At right: Attendees of the April NTMCA meeting. Inset: Russell Haddock, territory manager, MCCi, takes a selfie at the April meeting.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

issues presented in city governance and how legal staff and city secretaries work together to provide effective service to elected officials and the community. The panel included: Cathy Cunningham, Boyle & Lowry, LLP, who currently represents several cities across the Metroplex; Jennifer DeCurtis, deputy/assistant city attorney, Denton, who represents the City of Denton on a multitude of legal issues; and Kevin Laughlin, senior associate, Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, LLP, who also currently represents several cities in the Metroplex.

The most common issues city attorneys deal with pertain to public information requests, records retention, open meetings, and elections. The panelists agree that a well-versed and organized city secretary makes all the difference in the effectiveness of the attorney-secretary relationship.

The panelists discussed social media and how the laws are unclear when it comes to open meetings on web logs (blogs), online bulletin boards, Facebook, and Twitter.

Processing public information requests, as we all know, can be challenging. One issue discussed by the panel was handling requests for emails, when city employees are using their personal email accounts for city business. These records are subject to disclosure requirements and mandating their release can be difficult for city secretaries, as liability under the law becomes a very big concern. The best defense

to any potential for criminal penalties is to continually document and follow-up. Keep good and accurate records for everything! A city secretary must make “every effort” to produce records. If another person is designated to handle police department or EDC records, make sure that designation is in writing.

We learned a lot and this session certainly could have lasted all afternoon. So much information! It was a great discussion and we really appreciate our city attorneys coming to provide their thoughts on “burning issues” occurring in their cities.

At this meeting, the membership approved the meeting minutes from February 18 business meeting and the monthly treasurer report from February 2015.

Congratulations to Michael and Lindsay Wells, who announced that they are expecting their second child this fall! We are so happy for them and wish them all the best!

We want to thank Tara Brooks, TRMC, city secretary, Grapevine, for hosting our Professional Seminar/Athenian Dialogue at The Grapevine Convention & Visitor’s Bureau on April 1. What a beautiful location!

We’d also like to thank our Professional Seminar Committee members: Chair Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Tara Brooks, city secretary, Grapevine; Krystle Nelinson, city secretary/man-

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agement analyst, Carrollton; and Board Liaison Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville. These ladies worked so hard and put an amazing program together—and of course delicious food and snacks!

And a huge thank you to Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP, who facilitated our discussion of *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* by Eric Metaxas. We had a fantastic day! We had great discussions relative to William Wilberforce, as a person and as a leader. We participated in group discussions and a short public speaking exercise.

For those of you that have not participated in an Athenian Dialogue, I highly recommend it. They are so much fun: you get to read a great book, have a fantastic discussion about the book with colleagues, and you're able to apply leadership traits and skills learned in the book to our role as city clerks.



At top: Athenian Dialogue facilitator Dr. Amy Holt. Above: Athenian Dialogue attendees worked in groups. At left: The North Texas Chapter's Athenian Dialogue in Grapevine.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

AND, while having all of this fun, you can earn credit towards your TRMC recertification! Try one, you'll love it!

The NTMCA is embarking on a scanning project in order to digitize all of our chapter photos and documents in order to preserve our history and make this information more accessible to our members. We are really excited to get started on this project and hope to roll out the changes to our website this summer!

The NTMCA is always looking to expand our membership and meet new clerks in our area. For anyone interested in attending our meetings or joining our chapter, please see our chapter website www.ntmca.org or contact Mary Supino at Mary.Supino@arlingtontx.gov or 817-459-6186. We are very fortunate to be able to have amazing speakers to come to our meetings to share information and knowledge with us in order to enhance our leadership skills. We would love to share these opportunities for professional development with more of our colleagues. Please join us at an upcoming meeting to see what our chapter has to offer you. ★

April meeting attendees:

President Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington
 Vice President Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary
 Treasurer Carol Ann Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Westworth Village
 Historian Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville
 Nan Billings, TRMC, city secretary, Bangs
 Tara Brooks, city secretary, Grapevine
 Cecilia Castillo, TRMC, projects administrator, Irving
 Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur
 Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield
 Janice England, TRMC, city secretary, rSaginaw
 Christine Green, city secretary, University Park
 Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point
 Jeanine Inman, TRMC, assistant to the city secretary, Newark
 Lori Payne, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake
 Christel Pettinos, TRMC, city secretary, Coppell
 Diane Rasor, TRMC, city admin./city sec., Newark
 Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth
 Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, North Richland Hills
 Traci Riggs, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Southlake
 Monica Solko, TRMC, deputy city secretary, North Richland Hills
 Susan Stewart, TRMC, administrative secretary, River Oaks
 Lindsay Wells, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Euless
 Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Sherry Roberts, TRMC**

City Secretary/Office Manager, White Oak

The Northeast Texas Chapter held its first quarterly meeting of the year on March 13 at The Farmhouse restaurant in Van, where despite the rain; members enjoyed lunch, fellowship, and a presentation by Chapter President Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak, on several items.

Sherry urged everyone to participate in the Texas Cities Salary Survey by Waters & Company Consulting even if they do not pay to subscribe for the service. Any data provided is helpful to the cities who subscribe to the service.

Sherry informed the chapter about The Texas Community Development Institute (CDI) that she attended at Lone Star College in The Woodlands and urged everyone that is interested in community development to attend. The four-day class was very in-depth and well worth the costs.

Sherry explained a team thinking exercise called “de Bono’s Six Thinking Hats” and a note-taking and brain-

storming skill called Mind Maps.

Once again, Gladewater City Secretary Melba Haralson, TRMC, was nominated as the Northeast Texas Chapter’s Municipal Clerk of the Year as well as TMCA’s Municipal Clerk of the Year. Melba is now a TMCA board trustee and is well deserving of our Clerk of the Year nomination.

Chapter meetings are a fun time of fellowship where we can exchange experiences, ideas, ask questions and learn from each other. Meetings are hosted by alternating cities within the region to garner more participation. The next meeting will be on June 12, hosted by the City of Gladewater. ★



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Kimberly Sloat, TRMC**

City Secretary, Canadian

The Panhandle Chapter of Texas Municipal Clerks met February 19 and April 23 for our bi-monthly meetings. We met in Amarillo at The Amarillo Club with 15 members present for both meetings.

On February 19 the meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman. Members ate lunch while Geoffery E. Weise, TABC-Enforcement, presented the program. He had a lot of very interesting stories to tell. After the minutes and the treasurer's report were presented and approved, the meeting was adjourned.

In April our guest speaker was Tammy Hamby with the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority. Her non-profit organization helps supply water to 11 Panhandle cities. She gave a very interesting presentation on drought and their main water source, Lake Meredith, while members enjoyed their meal. We then approved the minutes, treasurer's report, and the revised by-laws for our chapter.

Our next scheduled meeting is June 25 at 11:30 a.m. in Amarillo at the Amarillo Club; however, it looks as though we will have adequate representation at the TMCCP seminar in League City in June.

Hope to see you there! ★

Members in attendance at the February meeting:

Treasurer Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon

Charlene Gardner, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Pampa

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

Frances Hibbs, TRMC, city secretary, Amarillo

Andrea McDonald, TRMC, administrative assistant, Amarillo

Historian Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon

Patricia Phipps, TRMC, city mgr./city sec., Friona

Vice President Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa

Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas

Stella Sauls, TRMC, city secretary, Borger

Secretary Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian

Kristina Solomon, city secretary, Tulia

Kathy Styles, city secretary, Perryton

Nelwyn Ward, TRMC, city secretary, Memphis

Lynn Vela, city secretary, Gruver

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Kara Atwood, TRMC**

City Secretary, Lufkin

Hello from the Pineywoods!

The Pineywoods Chapter met on February 26 in Lufkin at Ralph and Kacoo's Restaurant. Huntsville City Secretary Lee Woodard, TRMC, was gracious enough to join us and provide an informative presentation on parliamentary procedure. As always, Lee did a wonderful job and we want to extend our sincere appreciation to her for making time for us!

Our next meeting was held on April 24 in Lufkin. President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, joined us with a presentation on service and its importance in every aspect of our lives. President Mashburn reminded us how serving others and our communities benefits everyone involved and can continue to have a positive effect for a long time to come. We greatly enjoyed President Mashburn's presentation and the chance to visit and share with her.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July and will be held in Lufkin as well.



The Pineywoods Chapter at their April meeting in Lufkin.

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER



Above: The chapter at their February meeting in Lufkin.

Above right: Speaker **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville, addressed the chapter at the February meeting.

At right: TMCA President **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station, gave a presentation at the chapter's April meeting.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By Chapter Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer **Janelle Dolan, TRMC**
City Clerk, Burkburnett

Members of the Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at Logan's Roadhouse in Wichita Falls on March 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Chapter President Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted. The minutes of December 10, 2014, were approved, as well as the treasurer's report through March 23, 2015.

President Byers provided an update on all of the upcoming seminars offered by TMCCP and reminded all the members that are several scholarship opportunities available.

Nominations were accepted for 2015 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year and the Red River Chapter will be submitting the name of Chapter President Linda Byers, TRMC. Linda was appointed as the city secretary of the City of Vernon in November of 2007. She has served on the TMCA Retirement Committee in 2012 and 2013 (chaired in 2012)



The Red River Chapter with special guest TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, at their March meeting in Wichita Falls.

RED RIVER CHAPTER

and on the TMCA Resolutions Committee in 2014 and 2015 (chaired in 2015). She has been the Red River Chapter president since January 2013.

The chapter enjoyed listening to TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, speak to us about “Leading with Service.” This includes serving to discover abundance, expressing gratitude, transforming ourselves, and honoring our profession. President Mashburn reminded us to be there for each other and the

importance of mentoring each other. We also had the pleasure of Lydia Ozuna, retired city secretary of Wichita Falls, visiting during our meeting. Lydia shared the joys of retirement with us and was able to catch up with her good friend, Sherry.

Our next meeting will be held June 17 at El Mejicano Restaurant. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings. For more information about the chapter contact Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett, at jdolan@burkburnett.org or 940-569-2263. ★

Those in attendance at the March meeting:

Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday

Tracy Blankston-Smith, administrative assistant, Lakeside City

Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon

Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett

Tracy Norr, city clerk, Wichita Falls

Sandy Page, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Bowie

Brenda Tarpley, human resource director, Jacksboro

Conchita Torrez, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour

Special Guests: TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, and Lydia Ozuna, retired city clerk, Wichita Falls (and past Red River Chapter Member).

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Doris Speer, TRMC**
City Secretary, Tomball

January Houston-Galveston Area Council Election Law Workshop

On January 28 the Houston-Galveston Area Council hosted its annual Election Law Workshop at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square in Sugar Land. Following a warm welcome by Jack Steele, H-GAC executive director, and introductions by Jackie Palmer, H-GAC procurement services technician, speakers Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster; Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball; Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; and Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, presented the “Step-by-Step Conduct of an Election” from the January 2015 TMCCP Election Law Seminar to approximately 82 attendees.

Top right: H-GAC Election Law Workshop speakers **Sandra Watkins, TRMC**, city secretary, Deer Park; **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville; **Crystal Roan, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Webster; and **Doris Speer, TRMC**, city secretary, Tomball, presented the “Step-by-Step Conduct of an Election” from the January 2015 TMCCP Election Law Seminar.

Center right: **Patrice Fogarty, TRMC**, city secretary, La Porte, and **Pauline Small, TRMC**, city secretary, Webster, also participated in the presentation, providing much-appreciated insights, advice, and anecdotes.

Lower right: H-GAC and attendees declared the workshop a great success and very helpful, especially for the new election clerks. Plans are already underway for the 2016 Houston-Galveston Area Council Election Law Workshop.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

February Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their monthly meeting on February 11 at Cisco's Salsa Company in Tomball. Chapter President Lee Woodward, TRMC, called the meeting to order with many members in attendance, including special guests Gretchen Fagan, mayor of Tomball, and Bruce Hillegeist, president of the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce, who visited with Salt Grass members and their guests prior to the meeting. Mayor Fagan thanked everyone for attending the luncheon and welcomed them to Tomball. Michael Baxter, marketing director for the City of Tomball, was the speaker and presented an excellent PowerPoint presentation on creating and developing Tomball's image/brand as a "destination city" over the past four years.

Donna Johnson and Jennifer Namie, Olson & Olson, along with Gary Smith, director of development services, Missouri City, were unanimously approved as honorary members of the Salt Grass Chapter.

The Salt Grass Chapter's annual "Public Information" seminar will be held on September 9 in Deer Park. For additional information on the Public Information Seminar, please contact Doris Speer, city secretary, Tomball (281-290-1002 or dspeer@tomballtx.gov).



Top left: Chapter President **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, and speaker **Michael Baxter**, marketing director, Tomball, at the chapter's February meeting.

Above: The chapter at the February meeting in Tomball.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

March Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their March 11 meeting at city hall in Seabrook. Chapter President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, called the meeting to order, welcoming those in attendance and thanking the City of Seabrook for hosting the luncheon. President Woodward introduced Robert Seward, city secretary, Palacios, and the speaker, Allison Curry, HR manager, La Porte, welcoming them to the meeting.

Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook, announced her pending retirement and encouraged applicants interested in applying for her position to contact her.

Allison Curry, HR manager, City of La Porte, presented an excellent PowerPoint presentation regarding "Performance Evaluations" and fielded numerous questions from the audience.

The Salt Grass Chapter unanimously approved underwriting the cost of bus services to convey attendees at the June 18-19 TMCA "Goals for Public Service: A View From the City Clerk's Office" Seminar, from League City to the Kemah Boardwalk and back, and to provide gift bags from the Salt Grass Chapter for the seminar attendees.

April Notary Training Session

The Salt Grass Chapter hosted a free notary training session in Friendswood on April 8 with 47 attendees from 21 cities, counties, and companies. The session was led by Tomball City Secretary Doris Speer, TRMC, who presented a PowerPoint regarding proper procedures for



Top right: President **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, and speaker **Allison Curry**, HR manager, La Porte.

Near right: **Doris Speer, TRMC**, led a notary training session hosted by the Salt Grass Chapter.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

notarial acts, how to avoid costly mistakes, and vital techniques and disciplines. Attendees also had an opportunity to purchase a copy of the Texas Notary Self-Study manual for their personal use.

April Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their April 8 meeting at city hall in Friendswood. Chapter President Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, called the meeting to order, welcoming those in attendance and thanking the City of Friendswood for hosting the notary training session and the luncheon. President Woodward also introduced her new deputy city secretary, Clasina Watson.

The next Salt Grass Chapter meeting is set for August 12 in Baytown. Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month, January through April and August through December. Our meetings are open to anyone and we love visitors!



At top and near right: The Salt Grass Chapter's Notary Training Session in April; there were 47 attendees from 21 cities, counties, and companies.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Members in attendance at the April 2015 Salt Grass Chapter meeting were:

Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Spring Valley

Susan Blevins, city secretary, Hilshire Village

Anna Evelyn, assistant city secretary, West University Place

Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte

Olga Garza, city secretary, Southside Place

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte

Kelly Johnson, city secretary/dir. of fin., Bunker Hill Village

Jennifer Namie, paralegal, Olson & Olson, LLP – honorary chapter member

Michelle Perez, deputy city secretary, Friendswood

Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball

Heather Van Dine, records clerk, Friendswood

Karen Vannerson, consultant, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP - honorary chapter member

Clasina Watson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Huntsville

Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville

Guests attending the meeting included:

Susan Ballard, administrative assistant, Friendswood

Karri Castellow, records clerk, Friendswood

Marie Janie Chiasson, Missouri City

Kevin Glover, Walker County Dept. of Planning & Development

Pam Guillory, administrative coordinator, Webster

Susan Hopkins, Webster

Brandi Jimenez, assistant to the city manager, Wharton

Dashawn Keary, Missouri City

Gwyn Laney, assistant to the building official, Wharton

Nancy Ludlow, Webster

Beverly McMinn, Meadows Place

Jasmine Moss, intern, Huntsville

Annette Olivier, development program coordinator, Walker County Dept. of Planning & Development

Shelly Simon, secretary IV, La Porte

Patty Spade, Meadows Place

Maggie Townsend, Friendswood

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By **Jodie House**

City Secretary, Crosbyton

Greetings from West Texas!

The South Plains Chapter met at the Italian Garden Restaurant in Lubbock on March 18 for our quarterly meeting. Our meeting was hosted by Elena Quintanilla from South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG).

The guest speaker was Danny Barrett with Texas Communities Group.

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, was presented with a beautiful Texas shaped plaque from the chapter. LeAnn was the 2014 Texas Municipal Clerks Association's Municipal Clerk of the Year! We appreciate LeAnn's hard work and tireless dedication and are so proud she is a member of our chapter!

Top right: **Beth Walls, TRMC**, city secretary, Levelland, and **LeAnn Gallman, TRMC**, city secretary, Muleshoe. Beth Walls was honored as Chapter Municipal Clerk of the year.

Near right: **LeAnn Gallman, TRMC**, with **Toni Chrestman, TRMC**, city secretary, Slaton, who was selected by the chapter to be the South Plains Chapter's nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2015.



SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland, was honored as Chapter Municipal Clerk of the year. Beth has been with the city of Levelland many years and wears many hats!

Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton, was selected by the chapter to be the chapter's nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2015. Toni along with Beth and LeAnn bring many years of knowledge and experience to the table. They are such an asset to our group.

Our next meeting will be June 17 and will be hosted by Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton. ★

Members and guests attending:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Jo Ann Beard, TRMC, city secretary, Smyer | Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton |
| Janine Butler, TRMC, city secretary, Littlefield | Patricia Isaguirre, city secretary, Hale Center |
| Sue Castles, Xcel Energy | Monica Lopez, city secretary, Lorenzo |
| Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton | Mark McDonald |
| LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe | Marty Martinez, Texas Communities Group |
| Lesley Gama, city secretary, Bovina | Rosa Mendez, deputy city secretary, Friona |
| Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock | Kim Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls |
| Linda Gibson, city clerk, Spur | Ida Rodriguez, Lamesa |
| Debbie Gressett, TRMC, city secretary, Seminole | Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city mgr./city sec., Morton |
| Teresa Grimaldo, Lubbock | Belinda Solis, SPAG |
| Thomas Harris III, TRMC, dep. city sec., Lubbock | Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface |



LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, was presented with a beautiful Texas shaped plaque from the chapter. LeAnn was the 2014 Texas Municipal Clerks Association's Municipal Clerk of the Year! We appreciate LeAnn's hard work and tireless dedication and are so proud she is a member of our chapter!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Adriana Moreno**

Deputy City Secretary, Odessa

The West Texas Chapter was blessed with new and returning faces at their first quarterly meeting of the year. The meeting was held at the Cork & Pig Tavern in Odessa on February 18. Regular business was conducted at the beginning of the meeting. The group discussed the logistics of the upcoming meetings such as an electronic records management presentation by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the meeting in which TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, will be visiting.

Chapter Vice President Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, invited attendees to a notary training hosted by the City of Odessa.

For the special program, Midland Public Information Act Coordinator Tammi Casey shared insightful information on processing open records requests.



February chapter meeting attendees in Odessa. *Back row, from left to right: Adriana Moreno, deputy city secretary, Odessa; Laquetta Harris, city secretary, Iraan; Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland; Miriam Watson, city secretary, Rankin; Renee Lee, assistant city secretary, Rankin; Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Karla Mata, deputy city secretary, Midland.*

Front row: Tammi Casey, guest; Elodia Gomez, deputy clerk, McCamey; Alma Acosta, city secretary, McCamey; Sara Copeland, city secretary, Andrews; SueAnn Reyes, deputy city secretary, Midland.

WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

Congratulations to former City Secretary Anita Sparks who retired from the City of Rankin on January 31 after providing Rankin 21 years of service! Miriam Watson is her replacement and has been a citizen of Rankin for over twenty years. Miriam is excited about her new role as city secretary, and stated she learns something new in the position every day and hopes to make a difference in her community.

We look forward to seeing you on August 19, Sherry! ★



Retired Rankin City Secretary **Anita Sparks** in 2005.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Vicki Collins, TRMC**

City Secretary, Mansfield

The yellow roses are blooming in 2015. The Yellow Rose Chapter has held two meetings so far in 2015.

The Yellow Rose Chapter held their first meeting of 2015 on February 5 at the City of Mesquite. Chapter President Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield, welcomed everyone and thanked Mesquite City Secretary Sonja Land, TRMC; Assistant City Secretary Susan House, TRMC; and Executive Secretary Keely Wells for offering the beautiful facility and having everything so well prepared. Due to the meeting being held in the month of February, the room was decorated to celebrate Valentine's Day. Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie, gave the invocation and everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch filled with great fellowship.

President Collins recognized Lancaster city council member Stanley Jaglowski who was in attendance at the luncheon.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Mesquite Police Officer Jeff Goodfred, who gave a presentation on "Personal Safety" and highlighted



Top right: Speaker Officer **Jeff Goodfred**, Mesquite Police Department, with Chapter President **Vicki Collins, TRMC**, city secretary, Mansfield. *Near right:* Chapter Secretary **Kisha Morris**, city secretary, DeSoto; **Amber Villarreal**, assistant city secretary, Waxahachie; and **Lori Saunders**, city secretary, Waxahachie.

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

the topics: the definition of a “stranger,” woman vs. men stereotypes, protecting your personal identity, crime statistics, and home safety and possible discounts available. President Collins presented Officer Good-fred with a small token of their appreciation from the chapter.

The business portion of the meeting began with President Collins recognizing Angie Arenas, TRMC, city secretary, Lancaster, and Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak, for receiving their TRMC certification. Congratulations to both of these ladies for all their hard work!

Other business matters considered by the chapter was the approval of the December 4, 2014, chapter meeting minutes and an update on the chapter financials.

Names were drawn for door prizes.

Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak, graciously offered to host the April 2 luncheon.

Fast forward to April!

The April 5 meeting of the Yellow Rose Chapter was held in the Reagan Room at the City of Red Oak.



Top right: Chapter President **Vicki Collins**, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield, and **Pam Woodall**, city secretary, Ovilla. *Near right:* Valentine's cupcakes at the February meeting.

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

Chapter President Vicki Collins, TRMC, welcomed everyone and thanked Red Oak City Secretary Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, for offering to host the luncheon at their facility. Dana did an outstanding job decorating the room in an Easter theme and the food looked delicious! President Collins gave the invocation and everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch catered by My Sisters Affair Catering located in Red Oak.

President Collins welcomed Angie Wade, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Venus, to the luncheon as her guest.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Krystal Hays, regional sales representative, Municode, who gave a presentation on the “MunicodeNEXT Website and New Municode Services.” The presentation was very informative and Ms. Hays provided the chapter with information for services provided by Municode. President Collins presented Ms. Haynes with an arrangement of tulips as a small token of appreciation from the chapter.

Matters considered during the business portion of the meeting were the approval of the February 5 chapter meeting minutes and an update of the chapter financials.

Names were drawn for door prizes.

The Yellow Rose Chapter meeting on June 4 will be hosted by the City of Mansfield. We welcome you to come and visit us.

For those wishing to join the Yellow Rose Chapter, please contact President Vicki Collins, TRMC, at vicki.collins@mansfieldtexas.gov. Our meetings are held bi-monthly at 11:30 a.m. ★

Chapter members and guests present at the April meeting:

Vice President Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak

Belinda Berg, city secretary, Cedar Hill

Terri Childers, secretary to the city manager, Ferris

President Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield

Historian Dara Crabtree, TRMC, Seagoville

Treasurer Susan House, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Mesquite

Mary McDonald, deputy city secretary, Midlothian

Secretary Kisha Morris, city secretary, DeSoto

Ronda Quintana, city secretary, Oak Leaf

Sherry Reeves, TRMC, city secretary, Grandview

Alicia Thomas, assistant city secretary, DeSoto

Marlene Tinker, executive assistant to the city secretary, Cedar Hill

Tammy Varner, TRMC, city secretary, Midlothian

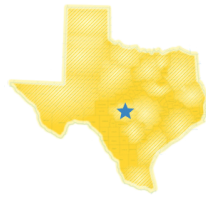
Amber Villarreal, assistant city secretary, Waxahachie

Angie Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Venus

Pam Woodall, city secretary, Ovilla

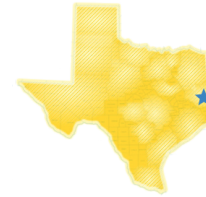
Destiny Wright, city secretary, Ferris

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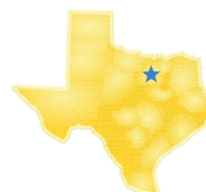
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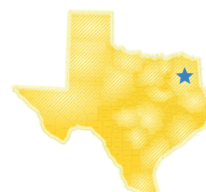
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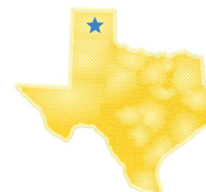
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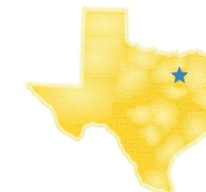
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*non-voting member

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