

TMCA NEWS



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TMCA President
Art Camacho, TRMC
City Secretary, Haltom City

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“But You’re a Guy” – Engaging the Misconception

While working a teenage summer camp a few years ago, several boys asked me what I did for a living. I asked them to guess my occupation, like Tom Hanks’ character in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*. Their first answer was “football coach,” and I told them that was my first choice after graduating high school.

“You’re wrong, but keep guessing.”

The next answers were gym owner, banker, lawyer, computer technician, newspaper writer, and building construction foreman. Their responses were all incorrect, and they asked for a clue. I told them my job was connected with working for a city.

CONTENTS

President’s Message • page 1

TMCA Annual Business Meeting & Awards

Banquet • page 7

TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar • page 8

Volunteer Opportunity: TMCA Booth at TML

Conference • page 9

Profile: 2014 TMCA Certification Committee

• page 10

Education Director’s Corner • page 14

First TML Leadership Academy • page 16

TML Report • page 17

Upcoming Events • page 18

Chapter News • page 19

Chapter Contact Information • page 46

2014 TMCA Officers & Committees • page 47

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Oh man, you’re a cop!” one replied.

“I’m not a police officer, but I am involved with the public quite a lot.”

They guessed city manager and parks director, but were completely stumped. I said, “I’m a city secretary,” and they responded with a very confused look. I think they were trying to imagine me wearing heels and a dress.

“But, you’re a guy,” one of them said.

“That’s right. I’m a guy. But where is it written that a guy can’t be a city secretary? And not only that, I just received my chapter’s ‘Clerk of the Year’ award (North Texas, 2008), which means I happen to be good at what I do.”

Unfortunately, my last reply didn’t reach them at all. They couldn’t mentally conceive that a man who could bench press over 300 lbs. would be sitting behind a desk, doing office tasks such as mailing letters, taking minutes, or answering the phone. And they were also disappointed because their concept of

a city clerk doesn’t include an exciting career. They had a preconceived notion that a city secretary is an occupation for women only, and it is unfortunate that misconception is shared with a large majority of the public. But how did this happen?

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, a tremendous upward shift occurred in the employment of women immediately after WWII, during the height of production in the 1950’s. Prior to WWII, many women worked in textile and clothing factories, generally out of necessity, but most stayed at home and raised families. During the war, women stepped up into the role of providing for the family while their husbands were away, which was exemplified through the famous “Rosie the Riveter” poster, and many found themselves laboring in a different role outside of the traditional family maternal position. Others waited until their children were grown and then re-entered the job market. The classic “secretary” occupation was in demand because of the huge increase in the economy and the need for office personnel and phone communications. There



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

have been other occupations that have been traditionally gender-linked, such as nurses, airline attendants, and elementary teachers, but even these job statistics are changing every year with a male influx.

If you recall my TMCA president's speech in October 2013, I mentioned my research on the city secretary position in Texas, particularly in relation to our former association presidents being male during nineteen out of twenty-eight years (1952-1980). The occurrence was due to the city secretary also holding the finance director's position, which many cities began to separate because of the huge workload. The city secretary was then generally assigned to many of the duties we now perform. And because this position involved a lot of typing and dictation—some of you may remember taking “shorthand” in school—it was often given to females because training was made available, and sometimes even exclusively, to women. However, I recently discovered that even after WWII, some municipalities preferred men as city secretaries because their work attendance and longevity was considered more valuable than a woman's office abilities because there were no worries with marriage, pregnancy, or children being sick at home, causing absenteeism or possibly a resignation.



The Carol Burnett Show

The word “stereotype” comes from the combination of two Greek words and it means “solid impression.” The unfortunate problem is both male and especially female city clerks must consistently struggle against the concept that all a city secretary does is “answer the phone and take dictation,” which is what has been often displayed to the American public

by different genres. Movies, literature, and television have portrayed office secretaries in roles that actually demean the position by suggesting that a secretary is more interested in her looks rather than her proficiency. In some instances, they have been depicted to be less than moral in their behavior and somewhat mindless. We all laughed at the Carol Burnett character “Mrs. Wiggins” when her boss, Mr. Tudball, played comically by Tim

Conway, would get frustrated at her work ethics, or rather, her lack of work ethics. The Huffington Post recently posted an article containing a questionnaire from a 1959 secretarial program that asked 20 questions, none of which particularly mentioned administrative skills, but posed such as “Do you have a pleasing, well-modulated voice?” and “Can you talk to your boss as easily as you can converse with the office boy?”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am glad that the Texas Municipal Clerks Association changed its name from the Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas in 1986, because it gives a better description of our organization. Our primary function is situated to a municipality and this provides a clear distinction from just being a secretary of a corporation. Election processes, records management, public information requests, and other duties we perform are not generally linked to office companies. And while we do the occasional “secretarial” duties—such as providing coffee at our council meetings—the majority of our work is different and more specialized. Perhaps a more descriptive term will eventually be given to describe our specific role, and the public will be better acquainted with our actual job function.

This misconception goes even further in some areas. As a male city clerk, I know my career happens to be extremely unique for a man. I am a reverse “Danica Patrick”—the female race-car driver—being in an occupation rarely held outside the female gender. On one particular occasion, I felt there was a prejudice leveled at me during a city clerk job interview. An official of that city privately relayed to me years later that the council felt more “comfortable” having a female city secretary, and it wasn’t just for appearance’s sake. One concern was that if they hired me, they would have to pay me more money because a man is considered to be the primary “bread-winner” of the family and they

would do better financially by paying a woman less for this position, which was wrong on both counts. I have heard similar stories from other male clerks. Please understand I don’t harbor any animosity, because it was years ago and things have worked out for me for the best, but I hope such distortions no longer exist.

But does being a member of a specific gender actually hinder or enhance a work performance or career? We all have read the scientific and medical studies about the differences in perceptions that males and females both possess, and while that may be beneficial in certain occupations, I don’t think that either gender has an advantage in the role of a city clerk. Maybe the general public doesn’t share that opinion because of archaic notions that have been formed regarding a city secretary. “Secretary” comes from the Medieval Latin word “secretaries,” which means “one who is trusted with secret or private matters.” During the Middle Ages, kings and governors had an individual who kept a written record of legal matters, laws, and even the private thoughts of the leaders. Even as far back as ancient times, “scribes” were assigned to keep record of activities, genealogies, and other important accounts of the powers that reigned. These secretaries were held in high regard because they preserved the law and history accurately in their job performance. I find it very interesting that the minutes of a meeting I produce may be referenced hundreds of years later.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The reality is that it may take years to undo the public concept of the role of the office secretary, which is automatically linked to our profession because of the job title, and we all have a serious challenge in representing a career that deserves respect. But I firmly believe we are making positive changes to give our position more accreditation. My former Mayor Pro Tem, Darlene Hooks, attended the 2013 October Graduate Institute, and after some in-depth reading about our profession, she found it remarkable about how important our position is with the city. She then helped host an area gathering of clerks and council in Forest Hills, Texas, last spring to further enhance our roles to area councils. I am also glad that the TMCA will have an opportunity during the Texas Municipal League (TML) Annual Conference to be a part of a panel discussion and possibly our validity in the municipal work process will be improved.

But while we can't necessarily change the attitudes and beliefs that people have about city secretaries throughout America, we can make a substantial difference in our local community regarding the significance of our office. Our words, actions, and attitudes are constantly presented before our citizens, staff, and councils, and they are the ones who actually witness the level of our professionalism. That is how the eventual change is going to happen, especially in Texas, by one clerk and one city at a time.

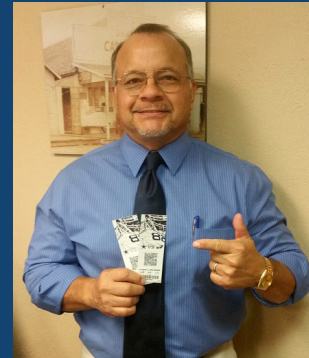
Do your part and keep up the good work!

Art Camacho, TRMC

2014 TMCA President

acamacho@haltomcitytx.com

"Adopt a Neighboring Clerk"— Prize Drawing!



As president of the TMCA, I have heard several good reports from around the state in regard to promoting the "Adopt a Neighboring Clerk" program. Clerks who have never been able to participate in chapter meetings or attend seminars are being encouraged and even assisted in this activity. I would like to carry this a little further with a promotional prize for the

chapter clerks who are participating in this.

Whenever a clerk (or clerks, if they are working together) in a chapter brings a new clerk to a chapter meeting, assists with a ride to a seminar or chapter meeting, or even has a lunch or visitation with a new clerk, they can submit their names to their chapter presidents for each individual effort. This activity will continue until **October 10**, and then the chapter presidents will send TMCA Membership Committee Chair Kathy Wingo their list of chapter clerk names with their number of participation activities. Each activity means an additional drawing name. At the TMCA Banquet on October 23 in Kerrville, a name will be drawn and the winner will receive **two tickets to the Dallas Cowboys vs. Philadelphia Eagles game on Thanksgiving, November 27, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, with an additional \$50 cash spending money**. The winner does not have to be present at the banquet to win. I hope this might spur some additional participation from among the membership and also reward the clerks for their effort. Also, the tickets are not for resale and must be used by the winner.

Sincerely,

Art Camacho, TMCA President

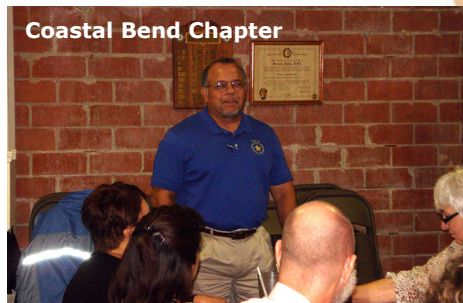
President's Travels

Is this a great big state or what? I love Texas, and over the last three months I have really enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow clerks at their chapter meetings. Their generosity and hospitality has exceeded anything I could imagine, and I especially thank the chapter presidents in their efforts toward encouraging members to attend. I can't wait to visit the remaining chapters, and hopefully I can also take some time to visit their perspective areas.

— Art Camacho, 2014 TMCA President

Travels so far:

- July 25 - Capital Chapter
- July 16 - North Texas Chapter
- June 26 - Coastal Bend Chapter
- June 25 - Alamo Chapter
- June 18 - Northeast Texas Chapter
- May 18-21 - IIMC Conference, Milwaukee
- April 9 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
- April 3 - Yellow Rose Chapter
- March 19 - Red River Chapter
- March 12 - Bluebonnet Chapter
- February 19 - Central Texas Chapter
- February 5 - Lone Star Chapter





Celebrate!

Join your fellow TMCA members in celebration on October 23 at the Y.O. Ranch in Kerrville at the Annual TMCA Business Meeting and the TMCA Awards Banquet.

TMCA Annual Business Meeting, Thursday, October 23, 11:30 a.m. The meeting includes the 2013 Annual Business Meeting minutes, the treasurer's report, election of our 2015 officers, and the 2014 resolutions.

Reception & entertainment, 5-6:00 p.m., and TMCA Annual Awards Banquet, Thursday, October 23, 6:00 p.m. The agenda includes recognition of our 2014 retirees, presentation of scholarship awards, presentation of the 2014 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year, the installation of 2015 TMCA officers, and the 2015 president's acceptance speech. Dress is "after five."

*A banquet ticket is included in your Graduate Institute registration. If you are not attending the seminar but would like to attend the banquet, please purchase your **banquet ticket** in advance. We hope to see you there!*

TMCCP GRADUATE INSTITUTE SEMINAR

Influencing Behavior & Impacting Results: People Working Together

October 23-24, 2014 • Y.O. Ranch Hotel, Kerrville



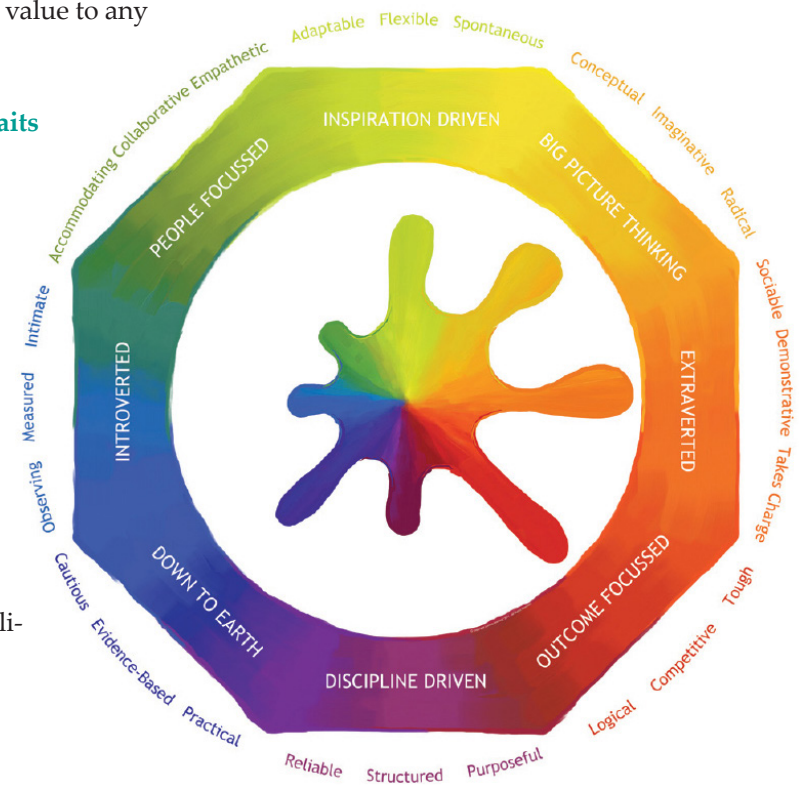
Marcel Brunel, founder and president of Brunel Group. [[read more](#)]

The 2014 TMCCP Graduate Institute promises to be an interactive, practical, intuitive, and enjoyable seminar with facilitator **Marcel Brunel** as he helps you **explore who you are**, learn how to **improve working relationships with others**, and become inspired to **embrace your personal and professional development**.

Participants will complete an online questionnaire and receive a personal **Lumina Spark** assessment—an awareness tool of great value to any municipal employee, as it:

- Includes an explanation of the assessment of **your traits and behaviors**
- Highlights **what you do naturally** and **don't do naturally**, and shines a light on your blind spots and **where you get stuck**
- Helps you **value diversity** while **working with people opposite to your personality** and people who are similar to your personality, and helps you **see yourself in others**
- Facilitates a better way to **speed-read the people you work with**—both colleagues and citizens
- Guides you on how to better fulfill your responsibilities while maintaining **professional neutrality**

Learn more here. See you in Kerrville this October! ★



Municipal Clerks Will “Rock Your World” At the TML Annual Conference in the Bayou City!

Volunteer Today • September 30-October 3, Houston

By TML Booth Committee Chair **Crystal Roan, TRMC**
City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch



TMCA and the Salt Grass Chapter are in search of enthusiastic volunteers to show folks “the world” of municipal clerks at the TML Annual Conference to be held September 30-October 3 in Houston.

This is one of the most visible venues to showcase our profession by reaching out to other municipal clerks, as well as other cities and elected officials from all over Texas. The TML Annual Conference is another opportunity to share the value and many benefits of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association!

If you plan to attend and would like to help spread the word about TMCA and the Certification Program by volunteering to work at our TMCA booth for a shift or two, please contact me at 281-316-4144 or croan@cityofwebster.com.

See you in the Bayou City!! ★

At right: This year's TMCA booth will feature TMCA-imprinted globe giveaways!



PROFILE

2014 TMCA Certification Committee

The TMCA Certification Committee promotes the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and sets the policies and procedures for the operation of the Certification Program. This is a brief introduction of the TMCA members who have comprised this vital committee in 2014.

Chair Shelley George, TRMC

City Secretary, Allen

Shelley George, TRMC, has served as Allen city secretary since 2003. Her previous municipal experience at the City of Allen includes assistant city secretary (1998-2003) and secretary II (city secretary's office) (1997-1998). She has also served as administrative secretary of the City of McKinney Planning Department (1996-1997) and served at the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (1986-1996).

Shelley earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) in 2002. She recertified in 2007, again in 2012, and is currently enrolled in her third recertification.



Members of the 2014 Certification Committee. *Seated:* **Dr. Amy Holt**, education director, TMCA/TMCCP, and Committee Chair **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen. *Standing, from left to right:* ex-officio member TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City; **Peggy Burnside, TRMC**, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; **Lee Woodward, TRMC**, city secretary, Huntsville; **Melissa Brunner, TRMC**, city secretary, Flatonia; **Melba Haralson, TRMC**, city secretary, Gladewater; ex-officio member TMCA President-Elect **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; ex-officio member TMCA Immediate Past President **Norma Aguilar Grimaldo, TRMC**, city secretary, Odessa; **Danette Dunlap, TRMC**, city secretary, Abilene.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE PROFILE

Shelley is a member of the Lone Star Chapter of TMCA. She currently serves as the chapter historian and has served as chapter secretary (2009-2010) and on several committees: 2011 Clerk of the Year Committee; 2009 Legislative Committee; 2008 Audit Committee; 2007 Nominating and Bylaws Committees; 2006 Scholarship, Audit, and Clerk of the Year Committees. Shelley is also a member of the ARMA and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

“I am honored to continue to serve the TMCA membership on the Certification Committee. Through my service, I will work with the committee members, TMCA Board, and directors to continue strengthening TMCCP in setting policies and procedures for the program. It is truly rewarding to be able to encourage my peers through my service as the Chair of the Committee.”

Melissa Brunner, TRMC City Secretary, Flatonia

Melissa Brunner, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of Flatonia since 1999. She earned her TRMC in 2003, recertified in 2008 and 2013, and is currently enrolled in her third recertification. Melissa received her CMC from IIMC in 2009.

Melissa is an active member of the Capital Chapter of TMCA. She has also held the offices of past president, president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, as well as having served on numerous committees.

Melissa is also active in TMCA. She currently is serving her second term on the certification committee. She has served on the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as a member and as Chair, the Retirement committee, TML Booth Committee member and Chair and the Membership Committee.

“I feel that the certification program provided by the Texas Municipal Clerks Association

is such an amazing asset to our profession. I am pleased and honored to be able to serve on the Certification Committee.”

Danette Dunlap, TRMC City Secretary, Abilene

Danette Dunlap, TRMC, is a graduate of Cisco College with an associate's degree with a major in accounting and computer software. Her education and experience in accounting and computer technology helped her to begin a career in city government. In March 1983, she was hired as assistant city secretary for the City of Throckmorton. She held that position until March of 1996 when she was appointed as city secretary. In January 2001, she was appointed as city secretary for the City of Tye. In June of 2007, she was hired as assistant city secretary for the City of Abilene, and in December 2007, she was appointed city secretary.

Danette received her TRMC Certification in January 1992, recertified in 1997, 2002,

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE PROFILE

2007, and 2012, and is currently enrolled in her fifth recertification.

Danette is a member of the Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA and a past member of the Red River Chapter, where she served as treasurer and vice president. She is an active member of TMCA, and has served on the TMCA Resolution and Retirement Committees.

“It is an honor to serve as a member of the Certification Program Committee. As a member of TMCA, I have enjoyed working with many great members of the organization. I look forward to enhancing the educational opportunities for others in the TMCA organization.”

Melba Haralson, TRMC City Secretary, Gladewater

Melba Haralson, TRMC, spent the first 16 years of her career in the banking industry as a loan officer. Her financial background led her to an accounting position for the

City of Gladewater in January 1995. Shortly thereafter she served as interim city secretary and was officially appointed city secretary in June 1997. She is also is the finance director and HR director, and served as the interim city manager in 2010.

Melba earned her TRMC certification in 2005, recertification in 2010, and will receive her second recertification in 2015. She has served on the TMCA Scholarship Committee (2007), Membership Committee (2009), Audit Committee (2011), Audit Committee Chair (2012), and began serving on the Certification Committee in 2012.

She is a member of the Northeast Texas Chapter of TMCA where she served on various committees and held offices of vice president (2007-2008) and president (2008-2010). She is a member of Texas Municipal Human Resources Association and Government Finance Officers Association of Texas.

“The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program is essential to becoming a successful, integral, and respected leader both in your community and profession. It gives you the tools of competence and confidence in managing your role, as well as mentoring others in the many facets of municipal government. It is my privilege to serve on the Certification Committee and to serve the members of TMCA.”

Lee Woodward, TRMC City Secretary, Huntsville

Lee Woodward, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of Huntsville since September 2009. She received her TRMC Certification in 2012 (No. 663) and became a Certified Municipal Clerk with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 2013. Lee is completing the Certified Public Manager Program through the William P. Hobby Center.

Lee is active in TMCA, where she has served on the Resolutions Committee (2013

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE PROFILE

chair) and the Scholarship Committee (2012), and is now proudly completing her first year on the Certification Committee. She is also active in the Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA, where she has held the offices of secretary, historian, and is the 2014 vice president. Lee was a member of the 2012 Legislative Policy Committee on Personnel and Pension Reform for TML and is honored to be following in the footsteps of some of her city secretary heroines as an instructor at TMCCP's annual Election Law Seminar and for the annual Houston-

Galveston Area Council seminar on election law.

"The Certification Committee is a great chance to work with more seasoned members of the TMCA leadership. The Committee was invaluable to my deputy and me as we were completing the TMCCP requirements, with scholarships and support making it possible. Education and lifelong learning are huge to both of us, so I am indebted to TMCA for giving me this special opportunity and look forward to giving back to our members." ★

TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Wow!



TMCCP Education Director
Dr. Amy Holt

Wow! You all are amazing! I continue to be impressed by Texas clerks. I wanted to take some time to point out a few highlights of some specific individuals. (I know there are others doing GREAT things too that aren't mentioned here. Good job to each of you!)

Kristin Edwards, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Huntsville, recently completed her Masters of Public Administration at Sam Houston State University. This is a great degree for this profession since students learn about fundamentals of leadership in the public sector.

Joy Hart, TRMC, CMC, city secretary, Buda, recently completed her Bachelor of Applied Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. She studied with an emphasis in Leadership in Public Service. Joy graduated with honors (Cum Laude). She highly recommends UW, partly because they accepted portions of her TRMC certification as credit towards her degree!

Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary, Hemphill, was awarded the Clarence E. Ridley Scholarship through the Texas City Management Association as she pursues her Master of Public Administration degree. Only two graduate students from the state of Texas are awarded this scholarship each year.

Ruby Nixon, administrative assistant, Ingleside, recently completed an associate's degree in business administration from Del Mar College. Del Mar College has been in existence for over 75 years and is reported to be the largest



Kristin Edwards



Joy Hart



Laure Morgan

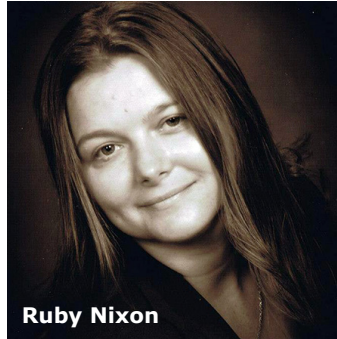
EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

institution of higher education in South Texas.

Grace Tamez, city secretary, Helotes, is a certified ombudsman with the Bexar Area Agency on Aging and volunteers with a senior center in her area. While this type of environment can be a sad one and sometimes leaves the volunteer with a morose feeling, Grace knows she is making a positive difference as the clients tell her they are excited about her next visit.

Wendy Withers, TRMC, town secretary, Shady Shores, pursues a healthy lifestyle in part because of a kidney transplant she received many years ago. In addition to this Wendy is raising her young great-nieces and is a mentor to incarcerated juveniles through a ministry with a purpose of showing love to troubled youth. Wendy is committed to these boys and desires to have a positive influence on them before they are returned to our communities.

Great job, ladies. I know this is only a small sampling of the "good" all city clerks do in your individual lives, the lives of your families, and the life of your community. ★



TMCCP Certificates Earned

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

Course 1

Kristy Ashberry, Rockwall
 Robyn Battle, Prosper
 Mona Lisa Galicia, Grand Prairie
 Angela Galvan, Clear Lake Shores
 Marisela Garcia, Kemah
 Seth Gipson, Hutto
 Juanita Gonzalez, Dilley
 Lacie Hale, West Lake Hills
 Lindsay Harris, Port Arthur
 Carrie Hart, Denison
 Francis Hibbs, Amarillo
 Holly Houston, Euless
 Bilierae Johnson, Dallas
 Veronica Lomas, Coppell
 Shelley Major, Hudson Oaks
 Rosa Mendez, Friona
 Pamela Mercado, Friona
 Jennifer Phillips, Irving
 Myrna Rios, Austin
 Imelda Rodriguez, Eagle Pass
 Kathryn Sanchez, Blue Mound

Alicia Smith, Boyd
 Tina Stewart, Arlington
 Ana Valdez, Penitas
 Barbara Denise Vice, McKinney
 Angie Wade, Glen Rose
 Zolaina Reyes, Watauga
 Dalessa Vardell, DISH

Course 2

Robyn Battle, Prosper
 Lisa Palomba, Garland
 Deborah Sorensen, McLendon-Chishom

Course 3

Shelly Antilley-Guevara, Winters
 Jennifer Faircloth, Lucas
 Mary Valenzuela, Kingsville

Course 4

Krista Beach, Weatherford
 Veronica Lomas, Coppell
 Janice Moore, Meadows Place

First TML Leadership Academy

Texas Municipal League held its first Leadership Academy during June, July, and August. There were 60 attendees, and 5 were city secretaries that became Leadership Fellows:

Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth

Sheila Moore, city administrator/city secretary, Cottonwood Shores

Edie Sims, city secretary, Farmersville

Zina Tedford, city secretary, Shavano Park

Elizabeth Walker, city secretary, Weslaco

These Leadership Fellows completed a three-course, six-day program held over three months to enhance their leadership skills. The TML Academy's faculty of university professors, thought leaders, and governing officials counseled participants on how to critique their own decisions and actions and develop the competencies to excel in their leadership role. Participants explored the principles and characteristics of ethical leadership, learned to build trust and community, discovered ways to improve team-building and communication skills to lead people through change, and practiced negotiation for strategic influence. They discussed local issues in the broader leadership context, with the goal of applying what they had learned to their public service role and to benefit their cities and residents. ★



Mary Kayser



Sheila Moore



Edie Sims



Zina Tedford



Elizabeth Walker

Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**

City Secretary, College Station



Sherry Mashburn, TRMC

At the July Board meeting in Fort Worth, TML President Jungus Jordan presented for the board's consideration a resolution supporting Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus' proposal to end "diversions" of state transportation revenue to non-transportation programs. President Jordan stated, "State and federal funding for highways and transit projects has fallen far short of meeting the needs of our rapidly growing population. The continued economic viability of Texas and quality of the life of our citizens is dependent on efficient mobility." The resolution passed unanimously.

TML President-Elect Nelda Martinez, chair of the 2014 TML Budget and Audit Committee, presented the proposed FY 2014-15 TML operating budget (\$5,716,000). The proposed budget is a surplus budget, due to 2014-15 being the first year in which the 2013 member service fee increase adopted by the board is fully phased in. It was noted that this is the first increase in twelve years and brings our revenues back in line with needed added expenditures for the important work done at the capitol during a legislative session. This will also

begin to grow our reserves. It was reported that the committee felt it is important to include in each year's budget a discussion of "where we stand" on service fees. Therefore, all future budgets will contain detailed information about important service fee facts such as a history of previous increases, the effect of inflation on the buying power of current fees, the effect of various hypothetical increases on TML member cities, etc.

Another significant feature of the budget is that it reflects the first year TML will be recording its unfunded pension liability on its balance sheet in accordance with FASB accounting standards. While this will have no effect on the day-to-day operations of TML, it will necessitate a one-time change in TML's reserve policy. The board unanimously approved the budget along with a revised Reserve Policy.

Executive Director Bennett Sandlin reported on the Local, Texas Foundation and played a video available on the Local, Texas website. This PSA may be used, free of charge, by cities on their own website or their

TML REPORT

public access channel. This video is very professionally done and focuses on the value of local government. The website is www.localtxfoundation.org.

The 2014 TML Annual Conference to be held in Houston is coming together, and once again TMCA, Inc., will be a sponsor for the Women in Government Breakfast. The speaker this year will be Gloria Campos, a recently retired 30-year career newswoman veteran from WFAA Channel 8 Dallas. Additionally, TMCA, Inc., was asked to provide a breakout session, and TML accepted our proposal for a panel discussion entitled, “Hitting the ‘Trifecta’ in City Management!—Elected Officials, Administration, and City Staff Working Together.” Panel participants include city managers, city secretaries, city attorneys, and mayors. Look for more information on this session in your TML conference guide and make your city officials aware of this important discussion. ★

Upcoming Events

view upcoming TMCCP seminars on our [website](#)

September 10-12, San Antonio • **Registration open**

IIMC Region IV Meeting

Two Athenian Dialogue choices will be held at this event. 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.

September 17, Deer Park • **Registration open**

TMCA Salt Grass Chapter's 13th Annual Public Information Seminar

September 30-October 3, Houston • **Registration open**

TML Annual Conference

Be sure to **volunteer to serve at the TMCA booth** at the TML Conference. Don't miss TMCA's session, “**Hitting the ‘Trifecta’ in City Management—Elected Officials, Administration, and City Staff Working Together**” on Thursday, October 2. TMCA will also sponsor the **Women in Government Breakfast** on Friday, October 3.

October 22, Kerrville • **Registration open**

IIMC Athenian Dialogue: “Mandela's Way”

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.

October 23-24, 2014, Kerrville • **Registration open**

TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar: “Influencing Behavior & Impacting Results: People Working Together”

Educational credit: TMCCP Course 2 or Recertification seminar credit.

The **TMCA Annual Meeting** and the **TMCA Annual Banquet** will be held October 23.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Carole Vanzant, TRMC**
City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch

At the chapter's April meeting, Chapter President Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, announced a new TMCA scholarship sponsored personally by TMCA President Camacho. The scholarship is for \$250 for new clerks, employed under two years, to attend the 2015 TMCCP Election Law Seminar. President Vanzant encouraged members to apply, if eligible, and to also consider one of the other TMCA scholarships and the local chapter's scholarship.

Cibolo City Secretary Peggy Cimics, TRMC, was nominated by the chapter for the 2014 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year for her outstanding performance as a city clerk.

A short discussion of upcoming seminars was held. Celia De Leon, former city secretary and new city manager of Olmos Park, introduced her replacement, City Secretary Diane Gonzales. A review of the chapter bylaws was performed with



Front row, left to right: Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville; Angela Cantu, city secretary-treasurer, La Vernia; TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Mary Ybarra (retired executive assistant to the assistant city manager, Schertz), and Janice Alamia, city secretary, Hollywood Park.

Back row, left to right: Saundra Passailgue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley; Leticia Saenz, TRMC, deputy city clerk, San Antonio; Patty Cox, TRMC, city secretary, Kirby; Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes; Yolanda Benitez (retired Garden Ridge city secretary); Melinda Uriegas, TRMC, assistant city clerk, San Antonio; Janie Willman, city secretary, Castle Hills; and Latoya Johnson, acting city secretary, China Grove.

ALAMO CHAPTER

several amendments suggested. A suggestion of starting a mentoring program for new clerks in the area was welcomed by the group. Diane Gonzales won the beautiful basket of household/yard tools that was donated by City Secretary Peggy Cimics and Assistant City Secretary Sheila Edmondson, Cibolo, as the chapter's scholarship door prize.

On June 25 chapter members drove through torrential rains to the City of La Vernia, where TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, spoke on "The Value of the City Clerk." After a wonderful lunch of South Texas-style barbecue, members approved the amended chapter bylaws and approved contributing funds for the evening event to be held during the IIMC Region IV meeting in San Antonio on September 11-12. ★



Raffle winner **Diane Gonzales**, city secretary, Olmos Park (the basket of household/yard tools was donated by City Secretary Peggy Cimics and Assistant City Secretary Sheila Edmondson, Cibolo).

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Karen Wilkerson, TRMC**

City Secretary/Administrator, De Leon

The Bluebonnet Chapter held their June meeting in Dublin at the “Little Church on Grafton” with a meal provided by Granny Clark’s. On behalf of the chapter, we would like to thank Dublin City Secretary Rhonda Williams for hosting the meeting site and all of the work that went into getting it set up. The Bluebonnet group would also like to thank City Manager Nancy Wooldridge for taking time out of her busy day to come out and greet us and bless our meal.

We are excited to introduce Tammy Thorn, deputy city secretary, Bronte, and Ryan Polster, city secretary, Hamilton, to our group!

*Above photo: Front row, from left to right: **Karen Wilkerson, TRMC**, city secretary/admin., De Leon; **Diane Latham**, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; **Danette Dunlap**, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene; and **Tammy Thorn**, deputy city secretary, Bronte. Back row: **Christi Wynn, TRMC**, city secretary, Brownwood; **Rhonda Williams**, city secretary, Dublin; **Heather Robertson**, city secretary, Breckenridge; **Mary Wells**, city secretary, Ranger; **Pat Martindale**, city secretary (ret.), Bronte; **Cindy Stafford**, city secretary, Stephenville; **Ryan Polster**, city secretary, Hamilton; and **Staci King**, administrative assistant, Stephenville.*

*Near right photo: Breckenridge Assistant City Secretary **Diane Latham** (at right) presented Bronte City Secretary **Pat Martindale** with a Bluebonnet Chapter throw upon her retirement, for her dedication and love for our chapter.*



BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

The chapter had the regular reading of the minutes, treasurer's report, and historian's report. Breckenridge Assistant City Secretary Diane Latham presented Bronte City Secretary Pat Martindale with a Bluebonnet Chapter throw upon her retirement, for her dedication and love for our chapter.

Bluebonnet Scholarship Committee will be: Maria Franco, deputy city clerk, San Angelo; Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee; and Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin.

Bluebonnet group will only be awarding one scholarship, and that will be awarded in December 2014. We will be looking into chapter shirts and discuss and the next chapter meeting in September in Abilene. The silent auction brought in \$136.00.

Dublin City Manager Nancy Wooldridge addressed the group, stating what a pleasure it was to serve us today. She stated that the city council/management was the head of the city, but we the city secretaries were the neck that gets things turning, without the neck the head would be nothing and she appreciates the jobs that we all do.

Above right photo: **Rhonda Williams**, city secretary, Dublin, and guest speaker **Kathy Keane**, Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) executive director.

Near right photo: New Bluebonnet Chapter members **Tammy Thorn**, deputy city secretary, Bronte, and **Ryan Polster**, city secretary, Hamilton.



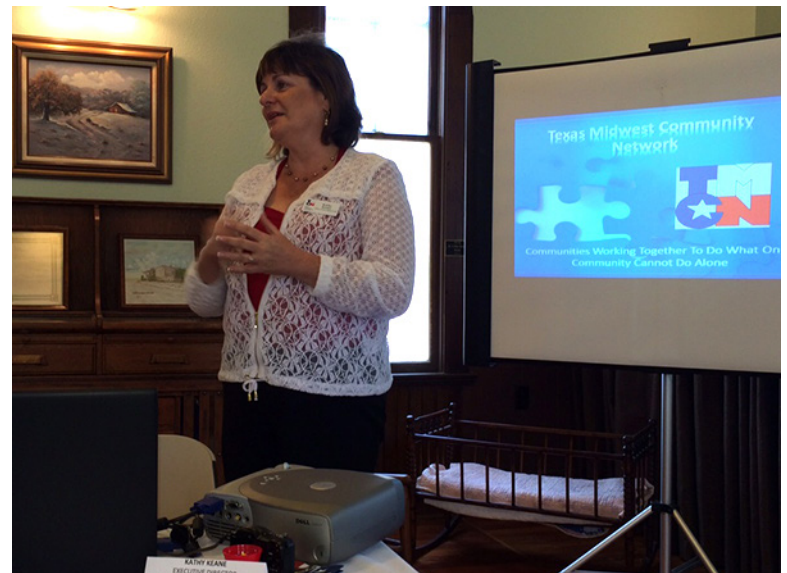
BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

Karyn with the EDC board gave us some history on the building that we were meeting in today, stating that it was built in 1890.

Our speaker was Kathy Keane, Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) executive director. She spoke about what TMCN could offer to rural communities. TMCN has 49 member cities, and they hold an annual conference every October in Abilene at the civic center. There are 50,000 TMCN Midwest guides published and distributed, featuring hotels, motels, chambers, and ads within the region. TMCN not only promotes our region in the guide, but they go to the capitol and speak on our behalf when it is in session, which is a great asset to us, to have our voice heard there. ★



Chapter members at the June meeting in Dublin at the "Little Church on Grafton."



At top: **Diane Latham**, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge, and **Christi Wynn**, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood.

Above: Guest speaker **Kathy Keane**, Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) executive director.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Sandra Barton**
City Secretary, Robinson

The Central Texas Chapter held a bi-monthly meeting on June 18. The City of Lacy Lakeview hosted the meeting at Heitmiller Steakhouse. Chapter President Jana Faucett, TRMC, city secretary, Belton, welcomed everyone, and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Heitmiller Steakhouse.

Chapter members congratulated Michelle Hicks, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview, on being the Central Texas Chapter's Clerk of the Year. Further congratulations to Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia, on her nomination for TMCA's Clerk of the Year.

The chapter awarded both Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville, and Cynthia Ward, city secretary/HR, Bellmead, with Central Texas Chapter scholarships.

Members also discussed the upcoming July 25-26 Summers Mill Retreat (formerly the Salado Seminar), updates, future chapter meetings, and upcoming seminars.



The Central Texas Chapter at their April meeting. *Front row, left to right: **Karen Sanchez**; **Michelle Hicks**, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; **Sandra Barton**, city secretary, Robinson; **Patricia Ervin**, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; and **Kathy McKenzie**, HR director, Robinson. *Back row: **Cresandra Polk**, records coordinator, Waco; **Christi Shivers**, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia; **Ronda Cockerham**, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Italy; **Jill Anderson**; **Crystal Briggs**, city secretary, Nolanville; **Cynthia Ward**, city secretary/HR, Bellmead; **Lydia Lopez**, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; **Donna Hawkins**, city secretary, Beverly Hills; **Jana Lewellen**, TRMC, city secretary, Belton; **Althea Wall**, city secretary, Morgan's Point Resort; and **Jana Taylor**, city secretary, Fairfield.**

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Upcoming chapter meeting dates:

August – Hosted by City of Waco

October – Hosted by City of Morgan’s Point Resort ★



At the Central Texas Chapter and Capital Chapter’s joint retreat at Summers Mill in July. Standing, from left to right: Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville; Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Angelia Sloan, city secretary/HR, McGregor; Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia; Amber Fuller, city secretary, Hubbard; Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown; Dorthy Jackson, city manager, Hubbard; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Elizabeth Lopez, city secretary, Bastrop; Shirley Garvel, city secretary (retired), Elgin; Michelle Hicks, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Betty Brown, TRMC, local gov. election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. Kneeling: Sandie Polk, Waco; Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan’s Point Resort; Lucretia Alvarez, city secretary, Elgin; Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills.

Chapter members present at the June meeting:

Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson

Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville

Ronda Cockerham, TRMC, city secretary, Italy

Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco

Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills

Michelle Hicks, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview

Esmeralda Hudson, assistant city secretary, Waco

President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Belton

Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt

Kathy McKenzie, HR director, Robinson

Cresandra Polk, records coordinator, Waco

Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan’s Point Resort

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Mary Valenzuela**

City Secretary, Kingsville

The Coastal Bend Chapter has met twice since its last update in the June issue of the TMCA newsletter. Mary Valenzuela, city secretary, Kingsville hosted the first meeting on April 23 in Kingsville. Chapter members gathered at Butch's Restaurant where they enjoyed a wonderful lunch and a great program presented by Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas: "Election Wrap-Up: What's Next?" Mrs. Parker spoke about the importance of deadlines and the election calendar. It was a great subject to speak about as we were all going through an election in May. Chapter members took the opportunity to ask election questions to those who were most experienced in elections.

During this meeting, chapter members nominated and voted on the Texas Municipal Clerks Coastal Bend Chapter Clerk of the Year for 2014. The chapter voted Mary Valenzuela, city secretary, Kingsville, as Coastal Bend Chapter Clerk of the Year. Mrs. Valenzuela has been a member of the chapter for nearly two years.



Coastal Bend Chapter at their June meeting in Sinton. Seated from left to right: Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Jan Hill, city secretary, Fulton; Mary Valenzuela, city secretary, Kingsville; Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom; Rebecca Huerta, city secretary, Corpus Christi; Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Paul Pierce, Corpus Christi. Standing from left to right: Cathy Duhart, city secretary, Sinton; Kimberly Drysdale, city secretary/HR director, Ingleside; Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas; Maria Trejo Padron, Mathis; Mary A. Gonzales, Mathis; and Yvonne Stonebraker, city secretary, Aransas Pass.

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

A nomination was also made to nominate Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria, to the 2014 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. Mrs. Swoboda has been an active member of the Coastal Bend Chapter as well as having served on various committees for TMCA. The Coastal Bend Chapter wishes the best of luck to Mrs. Swoboda in her nomination.

The City of Sinton hosted a chapter meeting on June 26 where we had the privilege of having TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, visit with the chapter. President Camacho spoke on the importance of being a city secretary and the importance of the Certification Program. He further visited with chapter members while enjoying a great lunch at Back Street Café in Sinton. We would like to thank President Camacho for taking time from his busy schedule to visit with us.

The Coastal Bend Chapter would like to invite those individuals who are not a member of the chapter to join. Being a part of a chapter is a great way to network with those who are in the same working positions as one another. For information on how to join the Coastal Bend Chapter, please contact Chapter Secretary Mary Valenzuela at 361-595-8002 or mvalenzuela@cityofkingsville.com.

The Coastal Bend Chapter is thankful to our host cities/towns for the wonderful hospitality. ★



At top: TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, speaks to the Coastal Bend Chapter about the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program during the June chapter meeting in Sinton.

Above: Coastal Bend Chapter members at their June meeting in Sinton.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By Secretary **Toni Milam, TRMC**
City Secretary, Llano

GREETINGS from the beautiful Hill Country! The wildflowers this season have been amazing, and if you've never visited the Hill Country, consider this your personal invitation!

The Hill Country Chapter met June 16, just outside of Fredericksburg, with City Secretary Shelley Britton hosting the meeting. Lunch was held at the Hill Top Cafe. Those in attendance included: Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Margie Rivera, Fredericksburg; Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Kristi Walker, city secretary, Blanco; Pattie Grote, city secretary, Mason; and Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals. What a great group of ladies representing our Hill Country Chapter.

The Hill Country Chapter is gearing up and moving full speed ahead with plans of hosting this year's TMCCP Graduate Institute that will be held in Kerrville at the Y.O. Ranch Hotel. Do you know how hard it is to decide on what goodies and door prizes we'll be having? You'll be pleasantly surprised, and what a great city (Kerrville) to host the Graduate Institute this year. JOIN US!

The Hill Country Chapter is holding their next meeting in August in Kerrville, hosted by President Brenda Craig. The chapter is hard at

work assembling "goodie bags" and making your visit to Kerrville for this year's October 23-24 Graduate Institute excellent. It should be a beautiful time of year to visit with the smell of fall in the air, not to mention the beautiful colors that come when fall has arrived. Don't miss this year's Graduate Institute in Kerrville!

To join the Hill Country Chapter of City Secretaries, please contact Kerrville President Brenda Craig at brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Janis Cable**

City Secretary, Lowry Crossing

The Lone Star Chapter has had only one meeting since the last TMCA newsletter, but it was an excellent meeting. Hosted by Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen, it was beautiful June day and very fitting as we were able to name our recipients for Member of the Year and Clerk of the Year.

After our welcome and general business was conducted, Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, made the presentations of Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco, as our Member of the Year, and Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen, as Clerk of the Year. We are so lucky to both of these wonderful clerks as part of our chapter. Congratulations, ladies—we are very proud of you and appreciate your support in the Lone Star Chapter and TMCA.

Member of the Year recipient Jenny Page provided attendees an overview and highlights from her participation at the IIMC Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and encouraged everyone not currently a member to become involved with IIMC.

Our meeting concluded with a presentation by speaker Rebecca Vice, executive assistant to the city manager, Allen: “Branding Yourself.” Rebecca was very encouraging in the use of social media to connect with peers, and challenged everyone to determine your superpowers and make yourself shine. ★



Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco, was presented the Lone Star Chapter Member of the Year Award, and **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen, was presented as the Lone Star Chapter's nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Diane Cockrell, TRMC**
City Secretary, Decatur

An enthusiastic hello to all our friends from the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association. Our members survived elections and have moved into the beloved budget-planning process that will be complete by the time this message reaches you. On June 11 we met in Lewisville at the MCL Grand, hosted by Julie Heinze, for the yearly awards meeting. Theresa Scott, TRMC, city secretary, Flower Mound, was the recipient of the the Alyce Deering Scholarship. I was honored to be named the NTMCA City Secretary of the Year.

The 2014-2015 slate of officers was announced, and they are anxious to serve and grow this chapter. Thank you for your dedication. 2014-2015 officers: President Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington; Secretary Sheila Morales, town secretary, Copper Canyon; Vice President Shannon DePrater, TRMC, town secretary, Cross Roads; Historian Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville; and Treasurer Carol Borges, city secretary, Westworth Village.



Top right: The North Texas Chapter at their June meeting.

Near right: **Mary Kayser, TRMC** (left), city secretary, Fort Worth, presents the chapter's Alyce Deering Scholarship to **Theresa Scott, TRMC**, city secretary, Flower Mound.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

The June business meeting actions included approval of the March 19 and April 16 meeting minutes and approval of the treasurer reports for March, April and May, as well as the 2013-2014 second-quarter treasurer report. The chapter received a mid-year audit report due to officer transition. There were 40 attendees.

The July meeting was held at the new Roanoke Library, hosted by Roanoke City Secretary April Hill, TRMC. Thirty members were in attendance. We were enlightened by attorney Lisa Mares of Brown & Hofmeister, L.L.P., regarding “Habits of Highly Effective City Secretaries.” Municipal clerks are expected to be effective leaders within their cities. Lisa gave us pointers on how to improve our leadership and management skills with employees and officials.

At this meeting, Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, was named as the chapter’s TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee. TMCA President Camacho is a blessing to our chapter, TMCA, and all city secretaries/clerks. He is a great leader, and I know that all that know him are considered Art Camacho Groupies!

The business meeting included a TMCA update from President Art Camacho.

The chapter approved the June 11 minutes and the June treasurer’s report; transferred funds to the Special Project Fund; and approved the 2014-2015 slate of officers. Our chapter is very fortunate to have such an outstanding board for next year.



At top: **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, was named as the North Texas Chapter’s nominee for the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Above: The North Texas Chapter at their July meeting.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

In closing, we look forward to seeing many of you in October in Kerrville. ★

Members present at the June meeting:

Julie Arrington, city secretary, Pantego

Laura Bell, TRMC,
deputy city secretary, Carrollton

Carol Borges, TRMC,
city secretary, Westworth Village

Peggy Burnside, TRMC,
administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP

Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary,
Highland Village

Cecilia Castillo, TRMC, projects
administrator, Irving

Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary,
Decatur

Shannon DePrater, TRMC,
town secretary, Cross Roads

Jean Dwinell, TRMC, city secretary, Fate

Kristin Harrison, executive assistant to
the mayor, Irving

Julie Heinze, city secretary, Lewisville

Susie Hiles,
assistant to city manager, Azle

Mary Kayser, TRMC,
city secretary, Fort Worth

Lindsay Wells, TRMC,
administrative secretary, Euless

Sheila Morales,
town secretary, Copper Canyon

Krystle Nelinson, city secretary/
management analyst, Carrollton

Aimee Nemer, TRMC,
city secretary, Richardson

Alicia Richardson, TRMC,
city secretary, Southlake

Traci Riggs, TRMC,
deputy city secretary, Southlake

Theresa Scott, TRMC,
town secretary, Flower Mound

Miriam Sheehan, TRMC,
administrative specialist, TMCA/TMCCP

Amy Shelley, TRMC,
city secretary, Colleyville

Monica Solko, TRMC, assistant city
secretary, North Richland Hills

Mary Supino, TRMC,
city secretary, Arlington

Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless

Lluvia Tijerina,
assistant city secretary, Lewisville

Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle



At top: TMCA President **Art Camacho** addressed the chapter.

Above: July meeting speaker **Lisa Mares**, Brown & Hofmeister, L.L.P.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By **Gail Weir, TRMC***City Secretary, Ore City*

The Northeast Texas Chapter had an exciting time preparing for the TMCCP Public Funds Investment Seminar held at the Holiday Inn in Tyler on June 19-20. The attendance was great, and helped us fulfill the law requiring the investment officer, chief financial officer (if the treasurer is not the chief financial officer), and treasurer to attend training.

Before the TMCCP seminar began, members met for their quarterly meeting, and prepared gift bags for each seminar attendee. Chapter President Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC, city secretary/court administrator, presided, and TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, was the guest speaker. We appreciate Art for all he does, and especially his weekly "TGIM" emails in the TexasMunicipalClerks Yahoo Group, which keeps us connected and inspired!

The chapter looks forward to our next meeting October 3 at 10:00 a.m. in Canton. If you would like more information about the chapter, or directions



At top right: The Northeast Texas Chapter. *Near right:* Guest speaker TMCA President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, addresses the chapter.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

to the meeting, please contact President Becker-Ross at citymte@eastex.net.

Well, friends, the days of yellow squash, tomatoes, and juicy watermelons are drawing to a close; but if you look beyond the evening haze, there are pumpkins, falling leaves, and beautiful crimson sunsets waiting to come into view. Enjoy the season; it is a gift from God. ★



The Northeast Texas Chapter members created gift bags for attendees of the TMCCP seminar held in Tyler in June.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By **Kimberly Sloat, TRMC***City Secretary, Canadian*

The Panhandle Chapter met for their bi-monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. on June 26 at The Amarillo Club in Amarillo, with 13 members present.

Vice President Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and welcomed our speaker, Claudia Stravato, faculty member at West Texas A&M University; our special guest, Nancy Tanner, Potter County judge elect; and all members. The minutes and financial statements were approved prior to Ms. Stravato starting the presentation. Her program was about networking and using resources for small cities. She encouraged everyone to create a working relationship with their county workers, and she went over the FAQ's from the TML lawyers on the TML website.

We would also like to take this opportunity to let everyone know of some things going on in the Panhandle. I believe there is often a misconception that there is nothing out here, but this is the place we all love to call home. So if you have a free weekend, come check out one of the events we have coming up.

Memphis will have "Hall County Weekend" September 15-16.

Clarendon has the Cornel Charles Goodnight Chuck Wagon Cook-Off on September 27. Ranchers compete using actual chuck wagons and Dutch ovens on open fires. More info at www.clarendonchamber.com.



The chapter's guest speaker Claudia Stravato, faculty member at West Texas A&M University.

Canyon has WTAMU Homecoming October 4. There is a huge “Fair on the Square,” homecoming parade, and the big football game. More info at www.canyonchamber.org.

Canadian has the “Fall Foliage Festival” the third weekend in October. The leaves are changing colors in our beautiful little town. There are several things to do such as the arts & crafts fair, nature fun at Lake Marvin, “Tour of Homes,” “Quilt Show,” etc. More info at www.canadiantx.org. ★

Present at the June meeting:

Treasurer Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon

Charlene Gardner, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Pampa

Frances Hibbs, TRMC, city secretary, Amarillo

Andrea McDonald, administrative assistant, Amarillo

Historian Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon

Patricia Phipps, TRMC, city secretary, 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, city secretary, Memphis



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 June 25 at 1:00 p.m.

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 March 19 and the treasurer's report through June 25 were approved.

Discussion was held on establishing new programs and committees within the Red River Chapter to develop and enhance our chapter. Three committees were formed at the meeting:

- President Byers and Wichita Falls City Clerk Tracy Norr will serve on the Program Committee. The Program Committee will provide programs for our quarterly meetings. We also discussed hosting an Athenian Dialogue locally.
- President Byers, Burkburnett City Clerk Janelle Dolan, TRMC, and Tracy Norr will serve on the Travel Stipend Committee. The Travel Stipend Committee will award two travel stipends of \$100 each. These stipends will assist our members in attending

the TMCCP seminars and furthering their certification process.

- Conchita Torrez, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour; Kim Hemmi, city secretary, Scotland; and Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday, will serve on the Christmas Project Committee. For the past few years the Red River Chapter has provided Christmas gifts to a local family. Last year we chose a family—a single mother with five children—who had previously been staying at Faith Refuge. Our chapter made a \$100 donation and then individual members made their own donations as well. We were able to provide some very nice gifts to this family. Our chapter feels that we are very blessed and feel privileged to make a difference in someone else's life.

President Byers informed the chapter that there is a link to TMCCP seminar registrations in the TMCA newsletter. The upcoming seminars were reviewed. Janelle Dolan will email the chapter's travel stipend application. Everyone was reminded to have those in by September 2 and the stipends will be awarded at the September meeting.

Our next meeting will be held September 17 at Logan's Roadhouse.

RED RIVER CHAPTER

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. ★

Attending were:

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday

Renae Benham, deputy city clerk, Wichita Falls

Tracy Blankston-Smith, administrative assistant, Lakeside City

Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon

Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett

Kim Hemmi, city secretary, Scotland

Tracy Norr, city clerk, Wichita Falls

Conchita Torrez, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Paula Favors, TRMC**

City Secretary, Wharton

Salt Grass Summer

The Salt Grass Chapter took a three-month hiatus after its April meeting, but continued to grow with the addition of new member Megan Mayes, city secretary, Morgan's Point.

The chapter geared up for an exciting next few months with plans to return with a meeting on August 13 in West University Place. The chapter also hosted an Athenian Dialogue on August 15 in Webster. The book was *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. The facilitator was IIMC Past President and Athenian Fellow Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan.

The chapter is looking forward to being the host for the TMCA booth at the TML Annual Convention, September 30-October 3, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Salt Grassers hope to see everyone and their city officials, even if it's just stopping by to say hello! In other chapter news, all are reminded that the annual Salt Grass Chapter Public Information Act Seminar in Deer Park is set for September 17.

Guests are always welcome! For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact President Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, at cscott@cityofwebster.com. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Belinda Terrell**
City Secretary, Whiteface

The South Plains Chapter met on June 11 at Ruby Tequilas Restaurant in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc.

President Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa, called the meeting to order. Kirk Franklin introduced speaker Judge Les Hatch, who spoke on judges and their responsibilities holding district court in Lubbock County. He gave a lively, funny presentation on court scenarios using city secretaries as his subjects, and ended the presentation with real cases that subjects used as the reasons they had drugs in their systems.

President Hatchett welcomed members and guests, who included Kirk Franklin's daughter, Susan Franklin, and friend, Lama Shoukfeh.

Elena Quintanilla with SPAG reminded members about TML Region 3 meeting.

Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/city manager, Morton, was presented with a plaque for being selected as 2013 South Plains Clerk of the Year. Kim Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls, is the 2014 South Plains Clerk of the Year.



Sue Castle presented the South Plains Chapter with a \$1,500 scholarship donation from Xcel Energy.

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Sue Castle presented the South Plains Chapter with a \$1,500 scholarship donation from Xcel Energy.

Muleshoe City Secretary LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, chair of the chapter's scholarship committee, gave recommendations to the members on policies and procedures.

LeAnn Gallman addressed members on the chapter's seminar to be held July 18; the agenda would be different subjects that city secretaries use on a daily basis.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 17. ★

Members and guest attending were:

Selia Arellano, city secretary, Floydada
 Lillian Atkinson, city secretary, Dickens
 JoAnn Beard, TRMC, city secretary, Smyer
 Sue Castles, Xcel Energy
 Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton
 Amanda Cummings, city secretary, Shallowater
 Kathy Field, Slaton
 LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe
 Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock
 Marie Gonzales, Friona
 Debbie Gressett, TRMC, city secretary, Seminole
 Teresa Grimaldo, Lubbock
 Thomas Harris, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Lubbock
 Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa
 Lisa Hernandez, Lorenzo
 Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton
 Tali Jackson, Floydada
 Monica Lopez, city secretary, Lorenzo
 Cynthia Mason, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Post
 Rosa Mendez, municipal clerk, Friona
 Murvat Musa, TRMC, city admin./secretary, Ransom Canyon
 Veronica Olguin, deputy city secretary, Morton
 Elena Quintanilla, SPAG
 Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city mgr./city secretary, Morton
 Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal
 Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland
 Deana Watson, TRMC, city secretary, Post
 Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Services
 Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Sundown

Guest:

Susan Franklin, daughter of Kirk Franklin
 Lama Shoukfeh, friend of Kirk Franklin
 Jennifer Rempe, Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc.
 Judge Les Hatch, speaker

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Adriana Moreno**

Deputy City Secretary, Odessa

Pecos City Secretary Heather Ramirez hosted the West Texas Chapter for their second quarterly meeting of the year at the Alpine Lodge in Pecos. The chapter invited a special guest, LaPorte City Secretary Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, to present her wealth of expertise in records management. The program intended to provide an educational opportunity in the West Texas area for the city secretaries who have small offices with limited staff and cannot attend the TMCCP seminars. The chapter saw an increase of five attendees from the last meeting, which was a great turnout!

The chapter conducted business with a wonderful lunch buffet. Other guests included Gina Funderburg, utility clerk, Wink (who attended in place of Wink City Secretary Tonya Todd, TRMC), and Karina Gomez, intern for the City of Pecos.

For the presentation portion of the meeting, Ms. Fogarty shared wonderful insight regarding the importance of compliance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the designation of a records management officer, retention schedules, and preservation methods of records. She also provided meeting attendees with a number of



Back row: **Karla Mata**, deputy city secretary, Midland. *Middle row (from left to right):* guest **Gina Funderburg**, utility clerk, Wink; **Diana Franco**, city secretary, Kermit; **Elodia Gomez**, deputy clerk, McCamey; **Alma Acosta**, city secretary, McCamey; **Sara Copeland**, city secretary, Andrews; guest **Karina Gomez**, intern, Pecos; **Elpidia Valdez**, city secretary, Toyah; **Heather Ramirez**, city secretary, Pecos.

Front row (from left to right): **Adriana Moreno**, deputy city secretary, Odessa; **Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo**, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; guest **Patrice Fogarty**, TRMC, city secretary, LaPorte; **SueAnn Reyes**, deputy city secretary, Midland.

WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

ideas for other educational opportunities the chapter could provide at future meetings, and goodies from the City of LaPorte.

The West Texas Chapter looked forward to welcoming TMCA President Art Camacho who was scheduled to attend our next meeting on August 20 in Odessa. ★



Chapter Vice President **Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo**, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, and guest **Patrice Fogarty**, TRMC, city secretary, LaPorte.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Lori Saunders**

City Secretary, Waxahachie

The Yellow Rose Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting on June 5 at DeSoto City Hall. Twenty-five members were in attendance and enjoyed lunch catered by Outback Steakhouse.

President Lori Saunders welcomed guest speaker Sarah Zink, co-founder and chief operating officer of “Plaid for Women,” a women’s resource company. She is the author of two books: *Not Everyone with a Checkbook is Your Customer* and *20 Tips for Power Chicks*.

Ms. Zink engaged members in an exercise in “transforming stress into thriving.” Members evaluated their stress domains, chose a coping mechanism, and learned new coping habits.

For those wishing to join the Yellow Rose Chapter, please contact President Lori Saunders at lsaunders@waxahachie.com. Meetings are bi-monthly at 11:30 a.m.



YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

Chapter members present at the June meeting:

Secretary Dana Argumaniz, city secretary, Red Oak

Shirley Acy-King, TRMC, interim city secretary, Duncanville

Donna Batchler, TRMC, city secretary, Ennis

Cathy Bourg, deputy city secretary, Burleson

Vice President Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield

Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville

Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, city secretary, Grand Prairie

Lynn Hill TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Cedar Hill

Susan House, TRMC, assistant to city secretary, Mesquite

Belinda Huff, city secretary, Cedar Hill

Sonja Land TRMC, city secretary, Mesquite

Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson

Mary McDonald, assistant to city secretary, Midlothian

Terry Miller, assistant to city secretary, Glenn Heights

Kisha Morris, city secretary, DeSoto

Teri Murdock, TRMC, city secretary, Italy

Rhonda Quintana, city secretary, Oak Leaf

Bonnie Romero Espree, assistant to city secretary, Cedar Hill

President Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie

Alicia Thomas, assistant to city secretary, DeSoto

Tammy Varner, TRMC, city secretary, Midlothian

Amber Villarreal, assistant city secretary, Waxahachie

Keely Wells, executive secretary, Mesquite

Treasurer Pam Woodall, city secretary, Ovilla

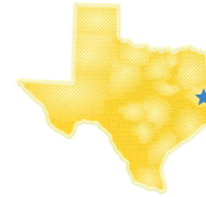
Destiny Wright, assistant city secretary, Ferris

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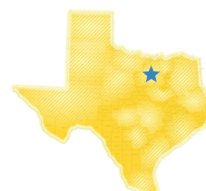
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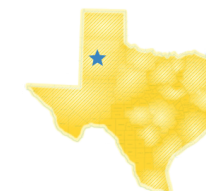
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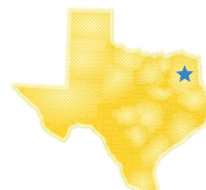
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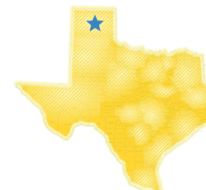
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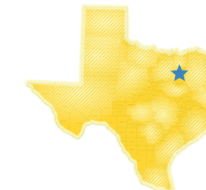
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Committees

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Mary Kayser, Fort Worth, Past President, Chair
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa, Immediate Past President
Art Camacho, Haltom City, President
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, President Elect
Shelley George, Allen, Certification Committee Chair
Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.*
Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCA Education Director*

Audit Committee
Jeana Bellinger, Brenham, Chair
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa
Alice Holloway, Pilot Point
Esmeralda Hudson, Waco
Kim Sutter, Euless, Board Liaison

Historian
Brenda Glenn Craig, Kerrville

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Kathy Wingo, Lucas, Chair
Comprised of Chapter Presidents
Marie Balthrop, Holliday, Board Liaison

*non-voting member

Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee
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Joy Hart, Buda
Laure Morgan, Hemphill
Jenny Page, Frisco
Angela Winkle, Crowley
Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights, Board Liaison

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Maria Gonzalez, Missouri City
Linda Rhodes, Lake Worth
Sherry Roberts, White Oak
Cheryl Salgado, Spearman, Board Liaison
Art Camacho, Haltom City, President
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, Pres. Elect

Open Records Steering Committee
Toni Chrestman, Slaton

Resolutions Committee
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Linda Byers, Vernon
Janelle Dolan, Burkburnett
Gretchen Mercer, Canyon
Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Board Liaison

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Rosena Becker-Ross, Mount Enterprise
Arcie Felix, Mercedes
Brenda Shaw, Morton
Kim Sutter, Euless, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee
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Susan House, Mesquite
Amy Turner, Midland
Christi Wynn, Brownwood
Scarlet Swoboda, Victoria, Board Liaison

Technology Committee
Patrice Fogarty, La Porte, Co-Chair
Melinda Welsh, Friendswood, Co-Chair

TML Booth Committee
Crystal Roan, Webster, Chair
Salt Grass Chapter Members

TML Representative
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, Pres. Elect

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