

TMCA NEWS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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TMCA President
Aimee Nemer, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

Survey Says...

Members and Friends,

Did you know that the TMCA, Inc., Executive Board and staff review all of the seminar surveys at the board meetings? We sure do! I personally read every single comment. And while I can't promise you we will never have chicken again, I can promise that we hear you and try to be responsive to your suggestions. One example is the change to the Election Law Seminar schedule: eliminating the Wednesday evening session. There were multiple survey comments on this subject in 2017, so we responded! We have also added/removed sessions and seminars or webinars based on your input.

Member feedback helps the board and staff to develop educational courses and programs to meet your needs. As in our profession, the board is always striving to improve—whether it be procedures, programs, or event locations and menus, we want to be responsive and make changes when necessary.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The seminar surveys are an important tool used to collect your opinions and experiences. We are pleased that 30-50% of attendees complete our surveys. (The average response rate on a survey tends to be 5-30%.) Even still, we want to hear from every attendee! TMCA staff send out the seminar survey to all registered attendees immediately following each seminar. Make sure you are receiving them and completing them!

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Survey Excerpts

TMCCP June 2021 Seminar: "Essential Life & Work Skills"

What was the most valuable part of the seminar?

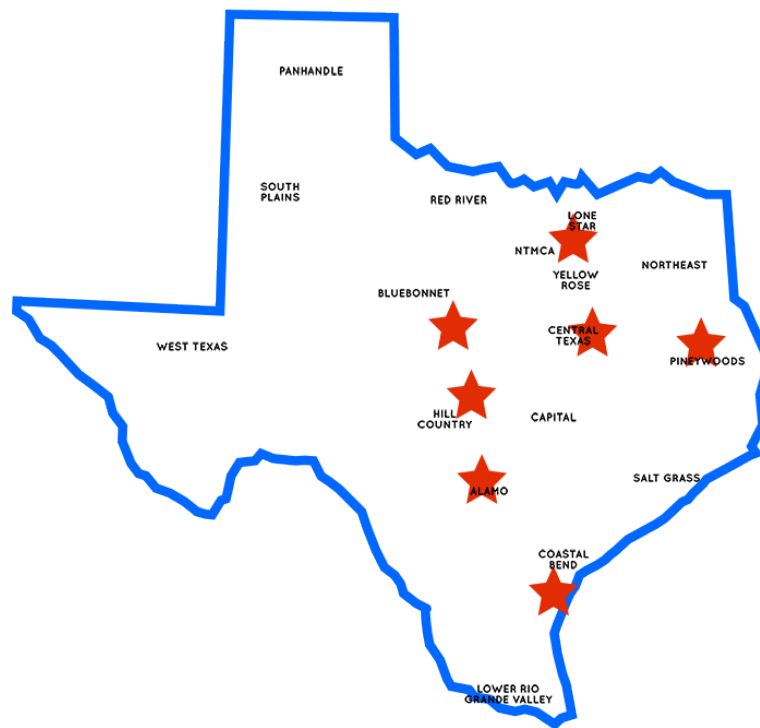
"The subject of the material was excellent—I appreciate the advanced educational subjects. I think he could have provided a little more interactive exercises. Additionally, although the subject was excellent, there was a lot of information packet into only 12 hours, which made it hard to have time for in-depth discussions and Q&A."

"Learning about stereotyping, racism, prejudice, ourselves, personality type, and overall purpose."

TMCCP 2017 Election Law Seminar

Are there any additional Election Law Seminar topics you would like to see covered?

"Candidate/Council orientation"



PRESIDENT'S TRAVELS

President Nemer has been visiting TMCA chapters across Texas—here are her travels to date! Be sure to follow our [Facebook page](#) for photos, news, and live video from her visits.

- Pineywoods Chapter—Jan. 20, Lufkin
- Coastal Bend Chapter—June 24, Corpus Christi
- Central Texas Chapter—June 30, Mexia
- NTMCA/Lone Star Chapters—Aug. 12, Richardson
- Hill Country Chapter—Aug. 13, Kingsland
- Alamo Chapter—Aug. 28, Leon Valley
- Bluebonnet Chapter—Sept. 8, Brownwood

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Survey Excerpts (continued)**TMCCP 2017 Election Law Seminar****Do you have any additional comments?**

“Please find a way to get rid of the Wednesday evening component! Let's start Thursday w/ Legislative Update! Or finish with it on Friday!”

“I liked the text question feature. Allowed questions to be asked without waiting for a microphone and allowed like questions to be consolidated.”

TMCCP April 2021 Seminar: “Municipal Budget Cycle”**Do you have any additional comments?**

“Great seminar. Would highly recommend TMCA continue with virtual or hybrid format for attending seminars.”

“This is one of the seminars that I need to attend live and in-person. If I'm sitting in front of a computer, it is too easy for me to become distracted by work and other things.”

TMCCP 2019 Advanced Institute Seminar**Do you have any additional comments?**

“NO MORE CHICKEN PLEASE”

And we don't just want to hear from you on the seminar surveys. Anytime you have comments or ideas, **reach out to me or any board/staff member**. Board members represent you—whether you are new to the profession, a seasoned clerk, an associate member, or a retired member—your ideas are valuable.

“The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas.”

—Linus Pauling, American Chemist and Nobel Peace Prize Winner

My Best,

Aimee Nemer, TMCA President

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June Newsletter Trivia Winner:

Erin Day
Administrative Assistant
City of Wylie

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President's Chapter Visits

JUNE 24, CORPUS CHRISTI: COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

JUNE 30, MEXIA: CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



TMCA President Aimee Nemer traveled to Corpus Christi on June 24 to visit the Coastal Bend Chapter. [View her great photos and commentary on this post!](#)

TMCA President Aimee Nemer traveled to Mexia to visit the Central Texas Chapter on June 30. [View her great photos, video, and commentary on this post!](#)

Continued on next page



President's Chapter Visits

AUG. 12, RICHARDSON: NORTH TEXAS & LONE STAR CHAPTERS

AUG. 13, KINGSLAND: HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER



President Nemer visited her "home" chapters, the Lone Star Chapter and the North Texas Chapter, in Richardson on August 12. **View the terrific slideshow presented at this event!**

President Nemer traveled to Kingsland to visit the Hill Country Chapter on August 13. **View this post for her great photos and commentary!**

Continued on next page



President's Chapter Visits

AUG. 28, LEON VALLEY: ALAMO CHAPTER



President Nemer traveled to Leon Valley to visit the Alamo Chapter on August 28. [View this post for her great photos and commentary!](#)



TMCA's MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



Watch for our announcement in your email in late September! TMCA's 2022-2023 **Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award** applications open Oct. 1 and close Dec. 31.

2021-2022 Awardees

City of Abilene, City of Angleton, City of Anna,
City of Azle, City of Brownsville, City of Buda,
City of Canadian, City of Carrollton, City of Coppell,
City of Corpus Christi, City of Duncanville,
City of Forest Hill, City of Garden Ridge,
City of Greenville, City of Haslet, City of Irving,
City of North Richland Hills, City of Quinlan,
City of Rockport, City of Schertz, City of Shady Shores,
City of Southlake, City of Victoria,
City of Weatherford, and City of Wylie



TMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

By President **Aimee Nemer, TRMC**

City Secretary, Richardson

The TMCA, Inc., Board met in Dallas on July 23. All board members attended except Trustee Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills, and Trustee Cara McPartland, Salado.

The Board received the Directors' Reports and TMCCP statistics reporting 1,026 graduates to date, and a record 1,066 members!

The Board reviewed the June seminar/webinar attendee surveys.

The Board reviewed the Retirement Committee Report and the list of retirees to be recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet.

The Board reviewed the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Report and recommendations for process improvements. The Board directed the Committee to review eligibility requirements and submit a recommendation to the Board for the October Board Meeting.

The Board reviewed the Awards Committee Report and recommendations for process improvements.

The Board reviewed proposed resolutions to be considered at the Annual Business Meeting in October.

The Board reviewed the Scholarship Committee report and recipients.

The Board approved the Nominating Committee report and the 2022 slate of officers and trustees for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting. The Board also approved a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to require ethics, diversity, and inclusion training for all board members. The Board determined to appoint an Ethics Review Committee to review the TMCA Ethics Policy.

The Board approved the following changes to the Certification and Recertification Requirements in Chapter 14 of the TMCA Policy Manual:

Certification Requirements

Of the eight required seminars, two may be attended virtually (effective January 2022)

Five of the required seminars must be attended in-

person. Three may be attended via distance learning through one series of six webinars and two virtual seminars.

Recertification Requirements

Of the six required seminars, two may be attended virtually (effective January 2022)

Three of the required seminars must be attended in-person. Three may be attended via distance learning through one series of six webinars and two virtual seminars.

The Board approved an amendment to the by-laws to require written notice of proposed bylaw changes to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be considered. The proposed bylaw amendment will be considered at the Annual Business Meeting in October.

The Board received various TMCA Committee and Chapter reports.

Continued on next page

EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE



Your TMCA Executive Board had a productive day-long board meeting July 23 in Dallas. The board also took a moment to celebrate TMCA's 35th anniversary of incorporation. We are proud of our many years of Texas city secretaries making this Association strong so that we can elevate, educate, and promote the city secretary profession!

Thank you to Gretchen Mercer for creating this beautiful cake.

Thank you to Dialogue Leader and 35th Anniversary Committee member ⁸ Mary Lynn Stratta for collecting so many wonderful quotes from attendees on why TMCA members love TMCA during her recent Athenian Dialogue!

"I love TMCA because I have been given the opportunity to expand my knowledge, confidence, and to meet great leaders who I am now able to call my friends." –*Irma Parker, Addison*

"I love TMCA because this is the organization that has made me the person I am today. TMCA has made me believe in myself more and has the best support system." –*Kim Perez, Ralls*

"I love TMCA because this group and these leaders encourage me to educate myself to be better at my job. They are always supportive and supply answers to my questions." –*Cynthia Sullivan, Rosenberg*

WHY I LOVE TMCA

"I love TMCA because they are so supportive of each other. I know I don't have to know all the answers. I just reach out to TMCA members and multiple people are always right there to help." –*Linda Ruth, Lakewood Village*

"I love TMCA because of the friendships and relationships I have made since joining. I have friends all over the state that I can turn to for help in my profession, and all of them are always so willing to help." –*Shawna Atkinson, Abilene*

"I love TMCA because you know you always have a support team with the list serv. Everyone wants to share to make us successful at our job!" –*Elanna Killian, Humble*

TMCCP ADVANCED INSTITUTE

October 28-29, Galveston



Register now for TMCCP's Advanced Institute Seminar (formerly called our "Graduate Institute" seminar) to be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel in **Galveston** on **October 28-29**. Kent Julian will speak about **"The DNA of Success—Cultivating Engagement and Life Balance."**

Topics will include:

Picture This!—Breaking the Code of the DNA of Success

Show Up and Shine—How to Get the Best Out of Yourself and Those Around You

Bust Your Signature Moves—Understanding Your Greatest Strengths (and the Strengths of Those Around You!)

Heroes Work Here—How to Be a True Hero and Why It's Likely Different (and Better) Than You Think

How to Deliver an Unforgettable Presentation (In Just 5 Simple Steps)

This seminar also includes our TMCA Annual Business Meeting and TMCA Annual Awards Banquet (October 28, at 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. respectively). This year we will follow the banquet with a special poolside party celebrating TMCA's 35th anniversary of incorporation. Join us!

Trivia Question: What was the original name of our Association?
Email your answer to President Aimee Nemer: aimee.nemer@cor.gov



Why I Love
TMCA, INC.

"One of the reasons I love TMCA is that it has provided me with a network of like-minded professionals who push me to be better and support me as I do that!"

—Erica Berry, TRMC
City Mgr./City Secretary
City of Llano



Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston

2021 TMCA *Business Meeting*

Oct. 28, 11:15 a.m.

Members, take part in this important event in your Association, our annual Business Meeting!

This event includes the election of the 2022 TMCA Executive Board, the treasurer's report, and voting on 2021 resolutions.

Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston

2021 TMCA *Banquet*

Oct. 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our TMCA Annual Awards Banquet!

Includes presentation of awards including the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year, recognition of 2021 retirees, presentation of scholarship awards, and the 2022 president's acceptance speech.

Don't miss our time capsule, the door prizes generously donated by our chapters, and our special 35th anniversary cake sponsored by Franklin Legal Publishing.

Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston

TMCA 35th Anniversary *Party*

Oct. 28, 8:00 p.m.

We're looking forward to a terrific time at our poolside 1980s-themed 35th anniversary party!

This event includes a DJ, a cash bar sponsored by Municode and MCCi, snacks, and door prizes generously donated by our chapters.

1980s dress is encouraged but not required!

TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

MENTORING AS A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP



TMCCP Education
Director
Dr. Amy Holt

Do you want to help your peers take steps forward in their career? Mentoring is a great way to do that. Both as a “mentor” and as a “mentee,” you can be an effective force to help someone progress in their chosen career path. Whether that be a promotion, taking on a new assignment, or becoming a supervisor, a mentoring relationship can help both parties develop skills and attributes that allow for forward progress towards their professional goals. Mentoring can be defined as a more experienced team member guiding and developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of a peer. The “mentor” is usually viewed as the more experienced team member, but this is not always the case. Sometimes the “mentor” is less seasoned in the profession, but is very advanced in a particular skill set or personal attribute that the more seasoned “mentee” needs to acquire to strengthen their professional development goals.

If you want to be in a mentoring relationship consider these eight points (from Dr. Todd Dewett of “Authentically Accelerated”) for a successful mentoring experience.

Continued on next page

Why I Love TMCA, INC.

“TMCA created a spark in my professional career, developing greater interest and pleasure for serving my community. That interest grew as I became more familiar with the complexity and necessity for the work I am asked to perform on a daily basis.

“After becoming a member, there were multiple reasons I continued to be *curious and excited* about the opportunity become a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk:

The Business Side

1. TMCA epitomized professional authority, validity and legitimacy associated with the role of City Secretary.
2. TMCA provided the avenue for a successful path to becoming a respected Clerk and more valuable employee to my City.
3. TMCA has an established brand for excellence in municipal government.

The Soft Side

4. Members were friendly and more than helpful; I could call anyone and they were as warm as someone I worked with on a daily basis.
5. Members bolstered my confidence to move through daily challenges with less stress and apprehension.
6. Life-long relationships have been made and the support I have received in personal situations is invaluable!”

—René Dowl, TRMC
City Secretary
City of Garland



MENTORING

Agree on a process with the other person

- When will you connect
- How frequently will you connect
- What are the topics you will address
- What communication channels will you use

Articulate the specific goals and skills to be attained

- What are the two to three specific goals to attain
- What milestones and skills will be needed to reach those goals
- What resources are needed to reach these goals

Be proactive to break down any status-related friction due to differences in knowledge or position

As the mentor, do anything you can to break down any “weird” feelings the less seasoned person may have due to perceived or real status differences

- Write the mentee a quick note to let them know you are thinking of them
- Go out of your way to say “hello” either in person or virtually whenever you can
- Tell them you are excited about the progress they are making

Probe with questions

- Don’t just give out advice
- Listen with probing questions so you can evaluate what they already know and what their limits are
- Example questions:
 - *What do you think about that?*
 - *What do you think the options are?*
 - *What would be some implications if you went a certain way with your decisions?*

Making connections

- Expand the mentee’s world by connecting them with people that might enhance their development

Why I Love TMCA, INC.

“I love TMCA for the opportunities it provides.

“First is the opportunity to step outside of your comfort zone, like I did when I accepted the opportunity to stand in front of a group and speak at a conference—I am terrified of public speaking—but I decided to embrace the opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone.

“I love the opportunities to learn—not only at conferences, but from others through the email group. When someone reaches out with a question or new situation, there is always someone there who has gone through something similar and can lend a helping hand.

“I love the opportunities to grow professionally and personally through education and networking.

“I love the opportunities to connect with those that truly understand what it is like to be a city secretary and create friendships and mentorships that would not be possible without the TMCA.”

—Stacy L. King, TRMC
City Secretary, City of Stephenville



MENTORING

- Until they have proven themselves (that they are worth the risk of giving them your stamp of approval as a professional) connect them with groups where they can continue to learn
- Once they have proven that they are a “rock star” you can introduce them to a specific individual in your network who they may benefit from chatting with

Providing feedback

- Being a mentor is partially about being a cheerleader, but it’s also about giving critical, difficult feedback
- Consider how the mentee best “hears” feedback. Is it in written form? In person?
- Provide examples of what they are doing well and where they can improve.
- When you are suggesting improvements make sure to include some concrete steps they can make as they concentrate on forward progress towards their goals.

Be authentic

- When you are the mentor, the mentee knows how great you are. Otherwise they wouldn’t want you as a mentor. You want to continue to be the well-respected professional they see you as.
- Show them the real, whole person that you are:
 - *Tell them a little about your family*
 - *Tell them about a great learning moment you had*
 - *Tell them about your failures*

- If you do this, it is another way to break down the status differences in your relationship so they can relax and listen more deeply to you

Checking up

- Are we doing more than having great conversations in this mentoring relationship?
To do this, ask questions such as:
 - *Is the mentee doing something with my advice*
 - *Do you see evidence that they are moving forward*
 - *Are you still the right mentor for this person*

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association is an organization where mentoring “just happens.” We have a great group of individuals who are willing and able to mentor. **If you are interested in mentoring city clerks/secretaries and those who work in the municipal clerk’s office, please send me (amy.holt@unt.edu) your name and contact information.** Include a list of the skills, expertise, and attributes that you feel capable of sharing with another person in the profession. **If you would like to be mentored, you can also send me your contact information.** If you have a specific area that you feel like you could benefit from having a mentor, please let me know that too.

Why I Love TMCA, INC.

“My name is Kimberly Sloat, and I have been a member of TMCA since 2011, when I started working for the City of Canadian. This organization has been such a blessing in this career, and I cannot imagine ever having this job without TMCA and my Panhandle Chapter.

“I would say the biggest bonus for me is the people. The TMCA staff is nothing short of amazing and always extremely helpful and insightful. Staff is always looking out for our best interest and trying to find news learning opportunities or ways we can learn. However, my peers, you guys, the ones reading this newsletter are the best part of this organization. Without all of us, there wouldn’t be a TMCA.

“This has been one of the most rewarding and stressful positions in my life, and I absolutely love it. I love that I can call someone after a frustrating day and feel completely understood, and I love that I can ask for help and someone has the answer or knows where I can find it. I love all of the support we receive from near and far. We understand what this job takes to be successful, and we want to see each other succeed. So, thank you to all the people. We are part of something really great which is why I love TMCA.”

— Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, City Secretary, Canadian



VOLUNTEER NOW!

TMCA BOOTH AT THE TML CONFERENCE

By TML Booth Committee Chair **Dixie Roberts, TRMC**

City Secretary, Alvin



Dixie Roberts, TRMC

October 6-8, Houston

TMCA and its Salt Grass Chapter are in search of volunteers to showcase our profession at the TML Annual Conference to be held October 6-8 in Houston. If you plan to attend and would like to spread the word about the TMCA and the Certification Program, please consider volunteering your time to work a few hours at our TMCA booth. If you are interested, please contact me at droberts@cityofalvin.com.

The Salt Grass Chapter and I look forward to seeing you in Houston!



Why I Love TMCA, INC.

“So I’ve not been a member for very long and most of my experience with TMCA has been virtual, but what I love about TMCA is how welcoming all the members and staff are. Every person I’ve spoken with has been friendly and anytime someone asks for help, there’s at least one person willing to step in (but very often more than that). Members will freely offer up stories and anecdotes about what’s worked for them or direct them to someone they know can help. As someone fairly new to working in a city clerk’s office, the help given is invaluable and I really appreciate it.”

—Theodore Stoll
*Deputy City Clerk
City of Wichita Falls*



Some of our TMCA booth volunteers in the past several years.

PROFILE

2021 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 2021.

Certification Committee Chair Irma Parker, TRMC, has served as Addison city secretary since 2018. She previously served as city secretary for the City of Port Aransas from 2013 to 2018, and as city secretary for the City of Rockport from 1998 to 2013.

Irma earned her TRMC Certification in 2008 (No. 536), has recertified twice, and is currently enrolled in her third recertification.

Irma is active in TMCA, where she has served on the Advisory Management, Membership, Resolutions, Scholarship, and Nominating Committees; this is her seventh year serving on the Certification Committee, the last two years serving as chairman. She is a speaker for the TMCCP Election Law

Seminar, and has also convened at TMCCP Election Law Seminars. Irma has served as president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary of the TMCA Coastal Bend Chapter. She is currently a member of the TMCA Lone Star and North Texas Chapters. Irma was an active member of the Coastal Bend Chapter committees and is excited to serve her new chapters as a committee member. She was honored as the Coastal Bend Chapter's Clerk of the Year and nominee for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Irma holds membership in IIMC and currently is serving this year on the Education Committee. As a Coastal Bend native she was an active member of Region 11 of the Texas Municipal League, and served as

Region 11 Secretary four times. In addition, she was selected as a member of the TML 100th Birthday Committee. Irma was active in community organizations including the Rotary International, Port Aransas Art Center, Rockport Little Theatre, and Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce where she is a graduate of Leadership Aransas County Class VIII, served as the Government Class Facilitator and was selected Bay Blazer of the Year in 2007. Since moving to the DFW Area, Irma continues to volunteer in community service organizations at Metrocrest Services in the Market, Food Pantry and Re-sale Shop. An avid camper, Irma holds membership in several national and state camping organizations.

2021 CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Irma says: "It has been an honor of a lifetime to be of service to my fellow clerks as a member of the Certification Committee. Our Committee continued its pro-active approach to expand our high quality educational programs and opportunities with online learning in the wake of COVID-19. I look forward to continued service to our organization as we expand our knowledge and contributions to our families and communities."

Thomas Harris III, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of the City of Sugar Land since June 2019. His previous municipal experience includes: deputy city secretary, City of Lubbock (2008-2016), and deputy city secretary, City of Sugar Land (2016-2019).

Thomas earned his Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification in 2012 (No. 650), has recertified, and recently completed all required credits for his second recertification.

Thomas is a longtime member of TMCA. In addition to the Certification Committee he has also served on the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee. Thomas is also a speaker

at TMCCP seminars. He is a member of the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter and has previously held membership in the South Plains Chapter Member. Thomas holds membership in IIMC.

Thomas says: "Tremendously enjoying serving on this committee. It's rewarding to know you're directly helping other TMCA members in their quest for certification and continuing education. Also, the service is made easy by having such an AWESOME chair! Thanks, Irma, for all you do!"

Lisa Henderson, TRMC, serves as the city secretary of the City of Plano. She has served as Plano city secretary for the past seven years, was previously deputy city secretary in The Colony for four years, and served eight years in Pilot Point (five years as city secretary).

Lisa earned her TRMC certification in 2012 (No. 651) and has recertified twice.

Lisa has served on several TMCA committees during her longtime membership in the Association: Membership, Nominating,

Scholarship, and Retirement. She is also a speaker at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar.

Lisa is a member of the TMCA Lone Star Chapter, where she has served on several committees: Budget (member and chair), Audit (chair twice and member), Scholarship (chair and member), Policy Ad Hoc, and Membership. She was the chapter's Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee in 2019.

She is a member of IIMC and holds the CMC designation. Lisa is also a Certified Public Manager.

When asked about her service on the Certification Committee, Lisa quoted Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Ellie Monteaux, TRMC, was appointed city secretary of the City of Livingston in 2007, and since October 2017 she has had the dual role of city secretary and assistant city manager. She began her service with the City of Livingston in July 2000 as accounts payable/

2021 CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

purchasing clerk and transitioned into human resources/payroll clerk.

She earned her TRMC in 2013 (No. 684) and is currently enrolled in her second recertification. Ellie has received Certified Municipal Clerk and Master Municipal Clerk designations from IIMC.

Ellie is active in TMCA and has served on the Membership, Retirement, Resolutions, and Strategic Planning Committees. This is her fourth year serving on the Certification Committee.

Ellie is also co-author of Chapter 6 of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*, 11th edition. Ellie is honored to be the Pineywoods Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee for 2020. She is a full member of IIMC. She served as a member of the 2018/2019 IIMC Policy Review Committee. Having met all of the requirements, Ellie was accepted as a Fellow in the IIMC Athenian Leadership Society as of August 1, 2018. She was recognized at the 2019 IIMC Annual Conference in

Birmingham, Alabama, during the opening ceremony.

Ellie is a member of the Texas City Management Association, the International City Management Association and the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas.

Ellie says: "As a member of the Certification Committee, I am excited to see fellow clerks benefit from tuition scholarship and travel stipends. It is encouraging to know that our predecessors in TMCA were thoughtful and diligent to put this assistance in place. This commitment to future generations of municipal clerks is a vital part of my role on the Certification Committee."

Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, has served as city secretary of the City of Canadian since May 2013. She was hired by the City of Canadian in April of 2011 with the intention that she would take the city secretary position when the current city secretary retired.

Kimberly earned her TRMC certification in 2014 (No. 728). She recertified in 2019 and is

enrolled in her second recertification.

Kimberly is active in TMCA and has served on the Certification, Audit, Municipal Clerk of the Year, and Strategic Planning Committees. She is a member of the TMCA Panhandle Chapter, where she has served as treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president. She is currently the chapter historian. In the Panhandle Chapter she has served on the Nominating Committee, By-laws Committee, Seminar Host Committee, and Scholarship Committee.

Kimberly says: "There is a lot of necessary work that goes into the Certification Committee. The chair of this committee really has a great responsibility, and Irma Parker does a fabulous job! However, my favorite part is getting to be part of the graduation ceremony. It is such a huge accomplishment to get certified and recertified, and I truly LOVE getting to celebrate that with our membership."

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

Tammy Barton, Jarrell
Misty Cryer, Robinson
Kimberly Dickey, Waller
Karen Evans, Richland Hills
Mason Florus, Schulenburg
Karen Frost, Georgetown
Renee Kross, Pearland
Lisandra Leal, North Richland Hills
Margie Poole, Burkburnett
Bethany Prewitt, Ennis
Amber Rowe, Briarcliff
Jessica Sherman, Seagoville
Denise Taylor, Springtown
Cindy Woodard, Memphis

Course 2

Holly Alexander, Port Neches
Kimberly Allison, Seguin
Tracy Allmendinger, Garland
Kelly Belmore, Roman Forest
Andrea Corley, Levelland
Misty Cryer, Robinson
Kimberly Dickey, Waller
Karen Evans, Richland Hills
Mason Florus, Schulenburg
Karen Frost, Georgetown
Belinda Gaytan, Jonestown
Isaura Gaytan, Live Oak
Diane Helms, Kenne
Franchesca Jimenez, Hereford
Renee Kross, Pearland
Rhomari Leigh, Texas City
Sasha Luna, Tomball
Kaitlin Richardson, Abilene

Course 3

Chloe Sawatzky, Carrollton
Kimberly Wagner, Llano

Course 4

Tracy Allmendinger, Garland
Karen Evans, Richland Hills
Jennifer Reyna, Navasota
Jessica Sherman, Seagoville
Joshua Stevenson, McKinney
Christine Wallentine, Denison



Why I Love
TMCA, INC.



Shelley Goodwin
with her own
little superhero,
her grandson.

"I love Texas Municipal Clerks Association for so many reasons, and most have already been mentioned. But I love the opportunity the association gives me to enhance my knowledge, continue to develop skills, and numerous opportunities to meet others in the same profession, who many have become my friends and mentors. To me, Municipal Clerks are **Silent Super Heroes** that continually do "good" for the city and its residents. We work behind the scenes and to make others look good. What other organization provides **Silent Super Heroes** with a variety of training to help us perform our jobs at the highest level and not to mention the cool codes we are taught, like TMCA, TRMC, EV, ED, ORR, PIA, CC, P&Z, and many more. Thank you, TMCA, for all you do for us, and Happy 35th!"

—*Shelley Goodwin, TRMC*
City Secretary
City of Fredericksburg

“I love TMCA because of the incredible support everyone provides. Positive networking and you can share your experiences without judgment.”

–Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights

“I love TMCA because it is the most down-to-earth and selfless group I have ever encountered in my career. They have a passion for what they do and really want city secretaries to succeed.”

–Maria E. Rodriguez, Webster

“I love TMCA because in this profession everyone is so helpful and wants to see you succeed.”

–Deborah Sorenson, Royse City

“I love TMCA because they helped me make sense when everything was a huge blur and so very intimidating. I clung to some of the secretaries and learned so much from them. Thank you for having my back, TMCA!”

–Blanca Garcia, McKinney

WHY I LOVE TMCA, INC.

Thank you to Athenian Dialogue Leader and TMCA 35th Anniversary Committee member Mary Lynne Stratta for collecting so many wonderful quotes from attendees of her recent Athenian Dialogue on why TMCA members love TMCA!

“I love TMCA because it has provided me the applicable tools and education to support me and my career growth.”

–Frances Aguilar, Angleton

“I love TMCA because they care and everyone is seen as equal. They are a very supportive association and will always have an answer even to your dumbest questions.”

–Lluvia T. Almaraz, Manor

“I love TMCA because it is family. They have or give me the resources and information to be able to excel in my job and responsibilities.”

–Cinda Etheridge, Rusk

“I love TMCA because they provide a wonderful opportunity to meet and make work connections and friends—while learning and staying current with your work. TMCA staff are all so helpful and professional.”

–Ingrid Rex, Highland Village

“I love TMCA because it has been extremely valuable in resources like the list serv, education, and peer support. Makes you feel supported and not so alone.”

–Christy Cavness Bradshaw, Granger

IN MEMORIAM

SANDI K. WATKINS

We are heartbroken that our dear friend Sandi Watkins passed away August 27. Sandi is survived by her husband of 48 years, Ronnie Watkins, daughter Latisha Peltier and husband Aaron, daughter-in-law Crystal Watkins, and grandchildren Jonathan and Abigail Peltier, and Megan Watkins, her mother Maxine Young, sister Gay Catt and brothers Randy and Scot Young, many aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews and numerous kids who knew her as Mama Sandi. (*Read her obituary [here](#), and share a memory in the comments.*)

Sandi was a terrific advocate for and educator to those in the Texas City Secretary profession, and she was a wonderful friend and mentor. She began her 32-year career with the City of Deer Park in 1985 as Deputy City Secretary and was promoted to City Secretary seven years later. Sandi retired as City Secretary of the City of Deer Park in 2017.

Her membership in TMCA began in 1992, and in her time with the Association she volunteered on many TMCA committees

Continued on next page



(including several years on the Certification Committee), taught at TMCCP seminars, was a co-author of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*, and served on the TMCA executive board from 2011-2016, with three years as trustee, then treasurer, secretary, and vice president. In 2015 Sandi was honored as the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Sandi was also an invaluable member of the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter, where she had served on all committees and held all chapter offices including president. She also taught at Salt Grass Chapter workshops. She was celebrated as the Salt Grass Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2000 and 2009.

The Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship was established in October 2017 in honor of Sandra's long time passion, service, and commitment to educating municipal clerks through the TMCCP Election Law seminars, where she served as co-presenter for seven years on the "Early Voting" process for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. The scholarship assists TMCA members from a small city/town with a population of fewer than 5,000. At the time Sandi said, "Not every city can provide support to their municipal clerk because of financial issues. I feel every municipal clerk should have the opportunity to attend seminars that would benefit them in their endeavor to be their best for their city, especially the Election Law Seminar, because that is one process every municipality conducts."

We are going to dearly miss our beautiful friend. She was a great leader, teacher, mentor, and advocate for Texas city secretaries and an invaluable member of our Association.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

ALAMO CHAPTER

By Chapter Vice President **Amanda Valdez, TRMC**

Deputy City Secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch

The City of San Antonio hosted the regularly scheduled meeting of the Alamo Chapter on June 23 during “Fiesta San Antonio,” an annual festival that celebrates the culture and history of the San Antonio area. Alamo Chapter members arrived at a meeting area that exceeded any expectations we had for the themed meeting. City Clerk Tina Flores and her staff went above and beyond to create a beautiful space and provide a delicious catered lunch.

Although we were expecting a total membership of 35 persons this year, Chapter Treasurer Christina Picioccio informed that we blasted past that goal to a total of 44 members. At this meeting alone we welcomed five new members attending their first meeting.

A representative from the chapter’s Clerk of the Year Nominating Committee announced their recommendation, after which the members all voted in favor of Peggy Cimics of Cibolo being the 2021 Alamo Chapter Nominee for Clerk of the Year. Congratulations, Peggy, and thank you for over 16 years of membership and service to the Texas Municipal Clerk’s Association at both the local and state level.



The Alamo Chapter at their June meeting.



Nominating Committee members with the 2021 Alamo Chapter Nominee. *Left to right:* Donna Lowder, Live Oak; Amanda Valdez, Fair Oaks Ranch; Alamo Chapter Nominee Peggy Cimics, Cibolo; President Brenda Dennis, Schertz; Kristin Mueller, Universal City.

ALAMO CHAPTER

Norma S. Rodriguez, former San Antonio City Clerk from 1979-2002, has once again provided a donation to the chapter for scholarships to the Alamo Chapter membership. Ms. Rodriguez continues to support our organization in her retirement and her generosity makes it possible for the chapter to assist members through the process of certification and recertification.

Thank you to the City of San Antonio for also securing a speaker for our group. Kevin Barthold, City Auditor for San Antonio, provided an informative presentation titled “Internal Auditors: We Really Are Your Friends.” Mr. Barthold spoke of the procedures and led a great discussion about how best to prepare for an audit.



TMCA Alamo Chapter attendees at the June TMCCP seminar in Grandbury: Donna Lowder, Live Oak; Megan Rodriguez, Hondo; Christina Picioccio, Fair Oaks Ranch; Robert Cardenas, Selma; Isaura Gaytan, Live Oak; Brittani Porter, La Vernia; Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights.



San Antonio City Auditor Kevin Barthold presenting to the chapter.

ALAMO CHAPTER

As a fundraiser for the chapter's annual holiday banquet, President Brenda Dennis brought back a piggy bank she introduced in April where members donated to shout out an accomplishment, give a special announcement, or just provide a positive message. The members have embraced this enthusiastically. Some of the highlights were Donna Lowder from Live Oak proudly announcing her new grandbaby, Saundra Passailaigue of Leon Valley announcing her son is now a firefighter in Kerrville, Miguel Cantu of Grey Forest welcoming his new employee Nichole Heinrich, and Brenda Dennis congratulating the cities of Hondo and San Antonio for being designated with the Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award in 2020 and the cities of Garden Ridge and Schertz receiving that distinction in 2021. The meeting was ended on an especially generous note as there were an unprecedented 12 door prizes donated and raffled off.

The next meeting of the Alamo Chapter was scheduled for August 25 in Leon Valley. We looked forward to our speaker, Tobin Maples, AICP, City Manager from Fair Oaks Ranch, and to welcoming TMCA President Aimee Nemer, TRMC, as a special guest.

June Meeting Attendees:

President, Brenda Dennis, City of Schertz
 Vice President, Amanda Valdez, City of Fair Oaks Ranch
 Treasurer, Christina Picioccio, City of Fair Oaks Ranch
 Secretary, Debbie Molina, City of Jourdanton
 Historian, Miguel Cantu, City of Grey Forest
 Ana Federico, City of Leon Valley
 Aurora Perkins, City of San Antonio
 Debra Howe, City of Castroville
 Donna Lowder, City of Live Oak
 Jocelyn Schneider, City of Live Oak
 Kerry McCullough, City of Poteet
 Kristin Mueller, City of Universal City
 Lisa Hernandez, City of Converse
 Maria Hernandez, City of Marion
 Marisa Spencer, City of Garden Ridge
 Monica Treviño-Ortega, San Antonio River Authority
 Nichole Heinrich, City of Grey Forest
 Peggy Cimics, City of Cibolo
 Saundra Passailaigue, City of Leon Valley
 Sheila Edmondson, City of Cibolo
 Tina Flores, City of San Antonio
 Trish Nichols, City of Shavano Park
 Valerie Chapman, City of Cibolo
 Yolanda Benitez, Retiree

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

By **Shawna Atkinson, TRMC**

City Secretary, Abilene

The Bluebonnet Chapter met on June 9, at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. Staci King, City Secretary of Stephenville, and Mayor Doug Svien, welcomed everyone to Stephenville and Tarleton University. Mayor Svien led the invocation and then gave a brief speech about Stephenville, including some things that everyone should check out while in town.

The president of the Bluebonnet Chapter recently left her position, so Vice President Diane Latham presided over the meeting. Minutes were approved and the treasurer's report was read, and Vice President Latham stated she'd like to see some funds moved around at the next meeting to accommodate for more scholarships this year. That will be put on the next agenda. The president's vacancy was discussed at length. Since new board members will be sworn in at the December meeting, it was decided to let Vice President Latham continue to preside until that time. Upcoming meeting locations were decided and the silent auction results were read—\$115 for the Bluebonnet scholarship fund was raised.



Front row, left to right: Staci King, TRMC, Stephenville; Misty Boatwright, Hamilton; Diane Latham, Breckenridge; Shawna Atkinson, TRMC, Abilene; Kim Bryant, Stamford.

Back row, from left to right: Melissa Minor, Dublin; Roma Holley, Eastland; Brenda Kilgo, Early; Tonya Slate, Bangs; LeeAnn Blankenship, TRMC, Anson; Christi Wynn, TRMC, Brownwood; Linda Knight, retired; Aly Oliver, Stephenville.

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

Since the speaker that was lined up for the meeting cancelled at the last minute, the ladies from Stephenville arranged some fun team building exercises for everyone — Minute to Win It Games! There was a relay race to get an Oreo from your forehead to your mouth, the clothespin challenge, and trying to get as many M&Ms into a cup with a straw, using only your mouth (a tie at 37!). It was a hilarious time and a lot of fun!

The Bluebonnet Chapter meets quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The next meetings will be held on September 8 in the City of Brownwood and December 10 again in Stephenville. Everyone is welcome to join for lunch and fellowship!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

CAPITAL CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Myrna Rios, TRMC**

Deputy City Clerk, Austin

The Capital Chapter last met for our regular virtual meeting on July 14. Business discussed was short, but we had so much to celebrate! The Capital Chapter announced the newly created PayPal account to make business transactions simple—like for Athenian Dialogues being hosted by the Capital Chapter! Discussion was had regarding the TMCA's 35th anniversary outreach to retired city secretaries/clerks and past TMCA and Capital Chapter members to make them aware of the October seminar.

Congratulations are in order! At this meeting, Capital Chapter Vice President and City Secretary Tanya Smith, City of College Station, was presented with the Capital Chapter of Texas TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Nomination. Tanya has served as the City Secretary of College Station for four years and staff shared that she has endeavored to promote the City Secretary's Office team's success through understanding their challenges, seeking the



Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee Tanya Smith

CAPITAL CHAPTER

advice of staff, and engaging in supportive action to make solutions a reality. Congratulations, Tanya.

Please join us in congratulating Capital Chapter Secretary and newly appointed City Secretary, Trista Evans, City of Pflugerville. Trista will serve as the Elections Administrator, Records Management Officer, Agent of the Office of Public Records, and other duties as assigned. Congratulations and best of luck, Trista.



The next scheduled meeting is a virtual meeting to take place in September. Please contact Chapter President Myrna Rios, Deputy City Clerk, Austin, at myrna.rios@austintexas.gov with questions or if you would like to virtually join us!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC**
City Secretary, Waco



The Central Texas Chapter at their June 30 meeting. *Front row:* Michele Hicks, City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Renee Flores, City Secretary, Crawford; Michelle Fogle, Executive Admin, Belton. *Back row:* Lydia Lopez, City Secretary, Hewitt; Roshuna Wiley, Deputy City Secretary, Mexia; Christi Shivers, City Secretary, Mexia; TMCA President Aimee Nemer, City Secretary, Richardson; Holly Owens, City Secretary, Bellmead; Jana Lewellen, City Secretary, Temple; Misty Richardson, City Secretary, Fairfield; Amy Casey, City Secretary, Belton; and Esmeralda Hudson, City Secretary, Waco.

Watch a brief Facebook Live of President Nemer's visit to the chapter!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

By Chapter Secretary **April Hilbrich, TRMC**

City Secretary, Victoria

Greetings from the Coastal Bend Chapter! This quarter, our chapter held our first in-person meeting in more than a year, at the Executive Surf Club in Corpus Christi. Those in attendance were Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary, City of Kingsville; Gabriela Hernandez, City Secretary, City of Beeville; Kimberly Henry, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Rockport; Ruby Beaven, City Secretary, City of Kenedy; Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary, City of Fulton; Becky Veit, City Secretary, City of Odem; Hilda Gonzalez, Bookkeeper, City of Odem; Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, City of Corpus Christi; Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton; TMCA President Aimee Nemer, City Secretary, City of Richardson; and April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria.

Attendees participated in a breathing and meditation practice led by Keren Costanzo, City of Corpus Christi Senior City Planner and yoga teacher. Members learned how to relax using breathing methods and everyone enjoyed the exercise.

During the meeting, TMCA President Aimee Nemer went live on Facebook to host a trivia game in celebration of TMCA's



Members at the June chapter meeting. *Back row:* Gabriela Hernandez, City Secretary, City of Beeville; April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria; Kimberley Henry, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Rockport; TMCA President Aimee Nemer, City Secretary, City of Richardson; Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary, City of Kingsville.

Front row: Norma Duran, Management Assistant, City of Corpus Christi; Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton; Ruby Beaven, City Secretary, City of Kenedy; Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, City of Corpus Christi; Hilda Gonzalez, Bookkeeper, City of Odem; Becky Veit, City Secretary, City of Odem

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

35th anniversary. The trivia game was fun and couple of our members won a prize.

While at the meeting, TMCA President Nemer also recognized the City of Rockport, the City of Corpus Christi, and the City of Victoria for achieving the TMCA Achievement of Excellence Award.

The Coastal Bend Chapter’s virtual Athenian Dialogue on August 26 sold out, and we looked forward to this great educational opportunity.

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

TMCA President Aimee Nemer recognizes TMCA Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award. At right from top to bottom:

Norma Duran, Management Assistant, City of Corpus Christi; Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, City of Corpus Christi; and President Aimee Nemer, City Secretary, City of Richardson

April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria and President Aimee Nemer, City Secretary, City of Richardson

Ruby Beaven, former Assistant City Secretary, City of Rockport, and President Aimee Nemer, City Secretary, City of Richardson



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Shelley Goodwin, TRMC**

City Secretary, Fredericksburg

The Hill Country Chapter met on June 10 at the LBJ Golf Course in Fredericksburg. Ten members attended in-person and seven

members attended via Zoom. The Chapter welcomed two new members, Sherry Mashburn and Kathern Rayner, both retired City Secretaries. The business items included the approval of minutes and the financial report; as well as reports were received from the Bylaws Committee, Facebook/Communication Committee, Education Sessions, and Fundraising Committee.

Erica Berry, City of Llano, received a kudo for her appointment as City Manager. Kerri Craig, City of Horseshoe Bay, received a kudo for being featured in the newspaper for her participation in the TMCA webinar. The Chapter proudly voted Kerri Craig, City of Horseshoe Bay, as the Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year, and Laura Calcote, City of Wimberly, as the Chapter 2021 Emerging Leader Award.



The Hill Country Chapter at their August meeting with TMCA President Aimee Nemer (*seated third from left*).

Inset: New chapter members Sherry Mashburn and Kathern Rayner, retired city secretaries.

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Shelley Goodwin provided the following reminders:

- There is no longer TMCA Yahoo Group, it has been switched to TMCA Google Group.
- The TMCA committee deadlines and where to locate a form.
- Upcoming budget and election deadlines.
- Upcoming TMCA education opportunities.

The Chapter decided the next meeting will be August 13 at the Antler Inn in Kingsland. This meeting will be half-a-day of training. Each member was requested to submit their top 3 or 4 topics that they feel would be beneficial to them.

The Education Session of the meeting was presented by the awesome Sherry Mashburn. Sherry talked to us about the “Importance of a Good Working Relationship with City Council, Co-Workers, and Bosses.” The Hill Country Chapter has so many jewels and Sherry’s wisdom in this area shows why she is such a loved shiny jewel.

The meeting ended with wishing happy birthdays and congratulations to those in the chapter with June and July birthdays and a work anniversary.



At right: The Hill Country Chapter at their August meeting in Kingsland. *Inset:* Visiting TMCA President Aimee Nemer with a gift basket from the chapter.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

LONE STAR CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Deborah Sorensen, TRMC**

City Secretary, Royse City

The Lone Star Chapter is meeting in-person now, and met in June and July. On June 9 the City of Greenville and the City of Quinlan hosted the first in-person chapter meeting since the pandemic. It was held at the Greenville Club Lake Clubhouse, which was a beautiful venue. Our program featured Kevin Banks, with the City of Greenville, speaking about “Tips on Customer Service the Disney Way.” Also at this meeting Julie Davidson, City of Frisco, was presented with the Member of the Year Award, and Kristi Morrow, City of Frisco, was presented with the chapter’s Clerk of the Year Award. We are excited to have Kristi represent our chapter on the state level. We also congratulated the cities of Greenville, Quinlan, and Wylie on their TMCA Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Awards.

On July 8 the City of Plano hosted the chapter meeting. We met in person and virtually. Our program featured Tana Travis, the Regional Licensing Supervisor of the Arlington Licensing Division with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), educating the chapter on the TABC changes, effective September 1. We appreciate Tana Travis’ expertise on TABC matters. The chapter also discussed updates to the Policy and Procedures Manual.



LONE STAR CHAPTER

Our chapter will host a Records Management Workshop to be held on Wednesday, September 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Atrium Granville Arts Center in Garland. For more information go to www.aplos.com/aws/events/records_management_workshop.

Please join us as a member or guest at our upcoming chapter meeting on September 9 in Murphy. Visit tmcalonestarchapter.com to learn more about the Lone Star Chapter or contact Chapter President Deborah Sorensen (Royse City) at dsorensen@roysecity.com.



The chapter congratulated the cities of Greenville, Quinlan, and Wylie on their TMCA Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Awards.



Kristi Morrow, City of Frisco, was presented with the chapter's Clerk of the Year Award and nomination for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year, and Julie Davidson, City of Frisco, was presented with the Member of the Year Award.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC**

Deputy City Secretary, McAllen

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter has resumed in person meetings and met on June 24 at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen in the City of Pharr. The meeting was in recognition of the retirement of Hilda Pedraza, City Secretary, Pharr, in which the chapter unanimously voted to nominate Hilda Pedraza for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CITIES:

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, Town of Rancho Viejo, San Benito, San Juan, South Padre, Sullivan City, Weslaco

Top right: The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter at their June meeting in Pharr.

Near right: Pharr City Secretary Hilda Pedraza is recognized by the chapter with a retirement plaque and a TMCA retirement gift.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER



For those wishing to join the LRGV Chapter please contact President Yesenia Rodriguez at yrodriguez@mcallen.net. 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.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Traci Henderson, TRMC**

Assistant City Secretary, North Richland Hills

Greetings TMCA Members! Hello from North Texas! I hope everyone's May elections went well and the summer has brought a much needed break with no run-off elections.

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) had our first in person meeting for our June Banquet. We awarded our NTMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year, Kim Sutter City of Euless who also is our chapter's nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year. Congratulations, Kim!



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Along with the Clerk of the Year awards we recognized our committees, retirees, and celebrated Miriam Sheehan's promotion as Administrative Director.

NTMCA celebrated many members continuing their education by completing certifying and recertifying requirements:

Certifying Class of 2021: Brandy Barrett, Westworth Village; Andrea Gardner, Watauga; Ashley Owens, Coppell. Recertifying Class of 2021: First Recertification—Holly Fimbres, Grapevine; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCA; Amanda Jacobs, Bedford; Jennifer Phillips, Irving; Shelley Scazzero, Hudson Oaks; Alicia Smith, Willow Park; Tina Stewart, The Colony. Second Recertification—Christel Pettinos, Coppell; Traci Henderson, North Richland Hills. Sixth Recertification—Leticia Vacek, Trophy Club. Seventh Recertification—Jean Dwinnell, retired.

NTMCA had great representation with several recipients of The Texas Municipal



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Clerks Office Award of Excellence. Congratulations to the cities of Azle, Carrollton, Coppell, Haslet, Irving, North Richland Hills, Southlake, Weatherford.

In July NTMCA had our professional seminar “Are you on Brand.” Lacey and Kristen talked about “branding resources” and how the various social media platforms are used to provide information to the public as well as reinforce the city’s “brand.” The presenters shared that it is important to provide good customer service on social media in the same way that you would if a resident called, e-mailed, or visited City Hall in person. The goal for good customer service on social media is 5-1-24: respond



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

to a comment within five minutes, maximum time one hour, and completely resolve the comment/request within 24 hours. The presenters discussed ways to handle “keyboard warriors,” the social media commenters who post negative or snarky comments to the City’s account. They talked about using judgment to distinguish between the keyboard warriors and the tough, but genuine questions and to engage publicly with the commenter at least twice before taking the discussion to a private message format.

The group also talked about centralization and branding. It’s important to have all City departments using the City’s brand in their graphics designs, business cards, etc.. to emphasize that it is one organization working together. Thank you, Kristen and Lacy!

Thank you to our Professional Seminar sponsors as well: Tyler Technologies, City Hall Essentials, City of Willow Park, City of Hudson Oaks, Franklin Legal Publishing, and Municode! We couldn’t do it without you!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Sereca Huggins, TRMC**

City Secretary, Van

Greetings from the Northeast Texas Chapter! We have had many things transpire over the last year as many have, and we are hoping to get things rolling back to some kind of “normal.”

Continued on next page

Seated, from left to right: Michelle Wiese, Ronda Cockerham and Doris Crockett. Standing (first row), from left to right: Cassandra Brager, Bonnie Hambrick, Noemi Lopez, Sereca Huggins, Debra Johnson, Leah Brooks and Sherry Roberts. Standing (back row), from left to right: Leann Holley, Dana Clair and Judy Van Houten.



NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Dana Clair, City Secretary for Grand Saline graciously hosted our June chapter meeting in the wonderful “Salt” town of Grand Saline. The chapter had a few officer changes so please let me introduce Sereca Huggins as President, Cassandra Brager as Vice President and Bonnie Hambrick as Secretary/Treasurer.

During our June meeting we had an email presentation from CivicPlus which led to a round table discussion about agendas & minutes. Also, Sherry Roberts, who has transitioned over to Traylor & Associates, Inc., provided information regarding the Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

We would also like to congratulate Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary for the City of Athens, for the nomination of Clerk of the Year by the Northeast Texas Chapter. I would like to thank everyone for their time and attendance and look forward to many more.

Our next chapter meeting will be hosted by Debra Johnson, in the City of Canton home of First Monday on October 1.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

PANHANDLE CHAPTER

By Chapter Secretary **Kim Fowler, TRMC**

City Secretary, Perryton

Hello from the Panhandle Chapter! This quarter our chapter held a meeting on June 24 at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo. As always, we enjoyed a delicious meal and had a great time of fellowship and catching up.

During our business meeting, a very informative presentation was given by Michael Vaught, Kevin Wallace, and Julie Heinrich of CTSI, Computer Transition

At front: Charlene Gardner; back row: Cindy Woodard, DeShayne Hall, Gretchen Mercer, Stella Sauls, Karen Price, Kim Fowler, and Machiel Covey.



PANHANDLE CHAPTER

Services, Inc. CTSI is located in Amarillo & Lubbock and has been serving the panhandle since 1985. Michael Vaught, Senior Vice President of CTSI, explained some of the several different IT solutions for cybersecurity needs and what CTSI offers. The presentation was so good that I'm sure some of us were updating our passwords that evening.

In chapter business, Treasurer Charlene Gardner, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary of Pampa, announced that this would be her last meeting as she would be retiring soon. Charlene has been a friend to all and it's difficult to put into words how much she will be missed. We wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life. With her announcement of retirement, she also nominated Cindy Woodard, City Secretary of Memphis, as Chapter Treasurer. A motion was made, seconded, and all voted in favor. Cindy was eager to step into the new role and also announced to the chapter that she passed her TMCA exam. Congratulations to Cindy on her great news and new role in the Panhandle Chapter.

Once again, it was great to see everyone. We looked forward to our next chapter meeting on August 26 at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo.

Anyone interested in joining the Panhandle Chapter please contact: Chapter Secretary Kim Fowler, City Secretary, Perryton, at (806)-435-4014 or city-secretary@perryton.com.

Members in attendance for June Meeting:

Machiel Covey, TRMC, City Secretary, Clarendon – President

Kim Fowler, City Secretary, Perryton - Secretary

Charlene Gardner, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Pampa - Treasurer

LeAnn Gallman, Interim City Secretary, Amarillo

DeShayne Hall, Executive Assistant, PRPC

Mandy Hodge, City Secretary, Gruver – Vice President

Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, City Secretary, Canyon

Karen Price, TRMC, City Secretary, Pampa

Stella Sauls, TRMC, City Secretary, Borger

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Kara Andrepont, TRMC**

City Secretary, Lufkin

Hello from the Pineywoods Chapter!

Our chapter has had several great meetings this year! Beginning in January with our visit from TMCA President Aimee Nemer (*pictured at right*). We all enjoyed lunch at our favorite meeting spot—Ralph N Kaco’s Seafood along with great fellowship and discussion. We are so proud to have Aimee as our president and loved sharing her visions for the new year. Also congratulations to member Johna Childers on being presented our Chapter’s annual scholarship award (*pictured at right*).

We postponed our April meeting until May due to the business of the election cycle. Our May meeting was great roundtable discussion among our members regarding our elections and other issues that affect us in our daily duties.

City Secretary Lee Woodward planned to join us in July for a presentation on parliamentary procedure; however, an emergency incident in her city took precedence. We all understand those days and are thankful that all turned out well! Plans are for her to join us for our October meeting. Our group still



PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

enjoyed a great meal and conversation about various topics. Our chapter has several new members and we are excited about our future growth. For a bit of foodie fun—Secretary Julie Davis shared this great fruit dip with our chapter so we thought we'd pass it along!

Yummy Fruit Dip

8 oz. softened cream cheese

1 teaspoon vanilla

¼ cup brown sugar

⅛ cup granulated sugar

4 oz. Heath English toffee bits

Mix first 5 ingredients with mixer. Stir in toffee bits until well combined. Absolutely divine served with green apple slices!



The Pineywoods Chapter at their May meeting.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

RED RIVER CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**
 City Clerk, Wichita Falls

The Red River Chapter hosted a Virtual Athenian Dialogue on June 25 on *Girl Wash Your Face* by author Rachel Hollis, and facilitated by Jannette Goodall, City Clerk, Austin. Thirty-two clerks from across the United States participated in the dialogue. Shout out to Jannette for a wonderful dialogue experience and for always being willing to take time out of her busy schedule to serve others.

Our last chapter meeting was held on June 30 at Red Lobster in Wichita Falls. Anndrea Harris, Social Media and Marketing Specialist for the City of Wichita Falls, gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on Social Media Best Practices. We appreciate Anndrea sharing her tips and tricks to create eye catching and informative social media posts. Thank you to Theodore Stoll, Deputy City Clerk, Wichita Falls, and Sharon McFadden, City Secretary, Graham, for their work on our chapter social media pages.

At top right: Margie Poole, City Clerk, Burkburnett, being presented a certificate for Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year for 2021.

At near right: Marie Balthrop, City Clerk, Wichita Falls, being presented a certificate for Red River Chapter TMCA Clerk of the Year nominee for 2021 (presented by Sharon McFadden, City Secretary, Graham).



RED RIVER CHAPTER

Margie Poole, City Secretary, Burkburnett, was awarded Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year, and Marie Balthrop, City Clerk, Wichita Falls, was nominated as the Red River Chapter nominee for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year. Certificates were presented to both. Our congratulations go out to both for their accomplishments and contributions to the chapter and association.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 22 and President Aimee Nemer will be our special guest. We invite everyone in our area to join us!

For more information about the Red River Chapter contact Chapter President Marie Balthrop (Wichita Falls) at marie.balthrop@wichitafallstx.gov.



Marie Balthrop, City Clerk, Wichita Falls, and Sandy Page, City Secretary, Bowie, celebrating TMCA's 35th Anniversary.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

By Chapter Historian **Angela Smith, TRMC**

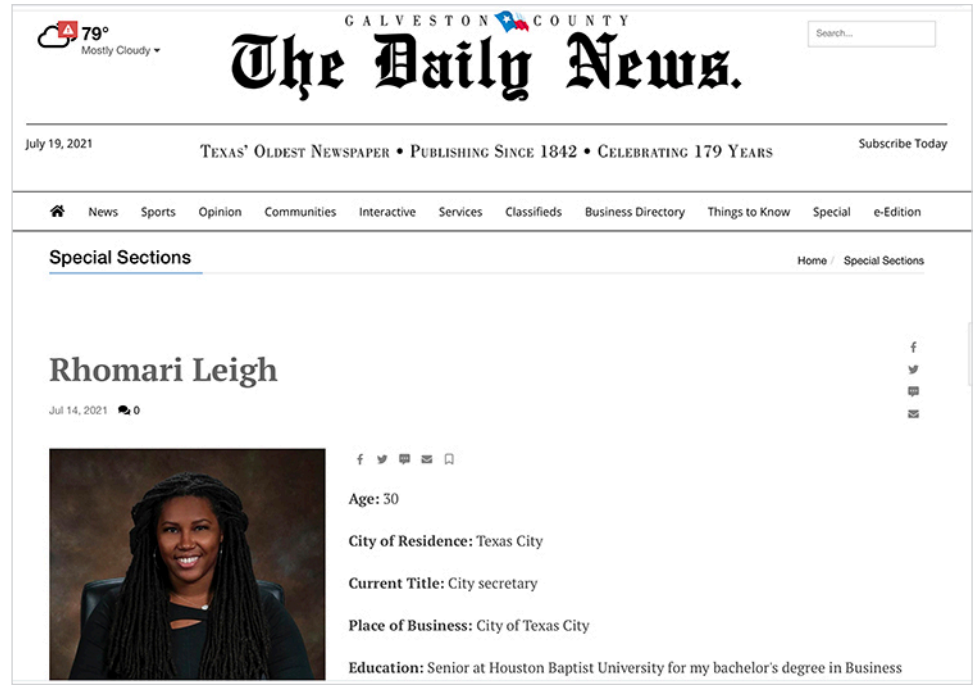
Dir. of Admin. Services/City Secretary, Cleveland

It’s that time again where we are in the middle of summer and the heat is on us making us wish for the coolness of “fall.” It is not quite hot enough that we want to endure the February freeze again but just hot enough to say stop the heat. During the summer months of May through July, the Salt Grass Chapter takes a break from monthly meetings. However that does not mean that our members take a break, we have had at least two of our members be spotlighted in local publications—Francis Aguilar from Angleton in the Spring/Summer edition Inside Angleton Publication in an article titled Women in Leadership and Rhomari Leigh from Galveston in the Galveston County’s The Daily News. Kudos to them.

Francis Aguilar also received her Master Municipal Clerk award from IIMC in June. Rhomari Leigh received a Workplace Certificate on Diversity & Inclusion in the Workplace. Lee Woodward from La Porte showed us how to be Wonder Women at the Election Law Seminar earlier this year.

Some members were travelers this year: Roxanne Benitez from Spring Valley and Francis Aguilar attended the IIMC Conference in May. Rhomari Leigh and her family got to visit Disneyland in June.

At top: Rhomari Leigh in the news. *Center near right:* Francis Aguilar, Angelnton, and Roxanne Benitez, Spring Valley, attended the IIMC Annual Conference. *Far right:* Rhomari and her family enjoying Disneyland in June. *Near right:* Lee Woodward showing us how to be Super Election Women at the 2021 Election Law Seminar.



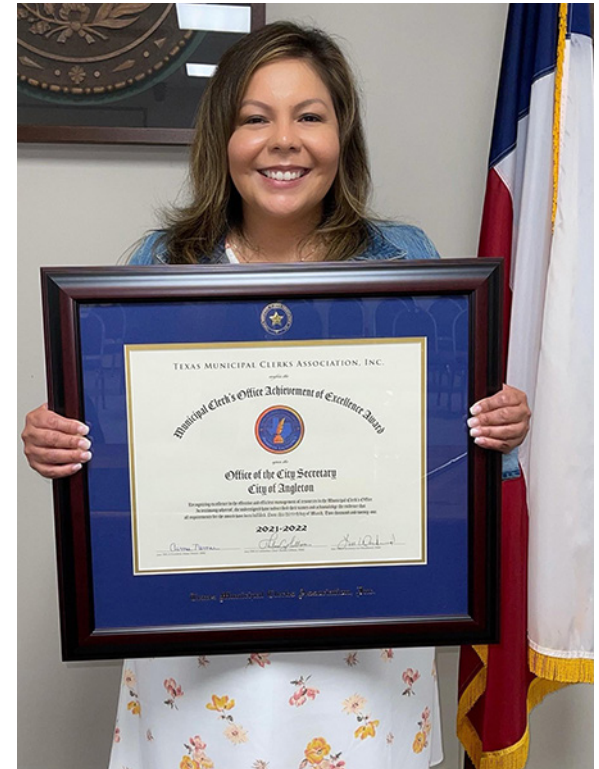
SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Trivia about Salt Grass Chapter. Did you know that our chapter runs from Huntsville to El Campo/Wharton to all the way down to Galveston and then all the way back up north to Cleveland and all points in between? Everything is bigger in Texas and that includes our Salt Grass Chapter. This year we started a new way to collect our annual fees, we offered our members the option to pay online or mail in a check. At our last count we have about 100 different cities in our chapter including at least two great municipal geared businesses that help us out every year. We have added several new cities so far in 2021 such as City of Prairie View and City of Plum Grove and we hope to keep adding more so that we can all be a help to one another. Remember we were all just starting out new as well, so those that are new to city secretary, use the Google Group—either TMCA's or the Salt Grass Chapter's—post a note on our Facebook page. Everyone learns from everyone.

We have lost some members this year due to retirement (of course, they are not truly lost they are just taking a break), positions changed in their city and those who have passed away. Those that have left will always have a place in our hearts.

Upcoming chapter events:

- September 8: Salt Grass Chapter's 20th Annual Public Information Act Seminar—held virtually this year. Registration fee is \$75.00 and limited to 100 registrations. The monthly meeting is held after the seminar's conclusion.
- October is a very busy month for Salt Grass Chapter. TML Conference is in Houston this year so our chapter handles the giveaway at the TML booth during the event. We also help keep the booth staffed. Toward the end of October is the event formerly known as Graduate Institute which is being held in Galveston. Salt Grass Chapter will be providing great tote bags with wonderful items from our chapter inside for the attendees.



The Office of the City Secretary of the City of Angleton was recognized with TMCA's Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award in June. Congratulations, City Secretary Frances Aguilar!

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

- November is when we hold our board elections at our monthly meeting.
- December is our board installation and holiday luncheon. Visit our Facebook page for great photos of our past holiday events.

Please follow or like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TMCASaltGrassChapter for upcoming meetings, events and even some job postings. Sometimes on #throwbackThursdays the historical (because we can't call them old or we date ourselves) photos from Salt Grass are posted.

Thanks for taking the time to read our chapter news. Have a great day and see you around.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

By Chapter Secretary **Veronica Olguin, TRMC**

City Manager/Secretary, Morton

The South Plains Chapter met on June 23 at the Triple J Chophouse in Lubbock for our quarterly meeting. The meeting was hosted by Amanda Cummings from the City of Shallowater.

Chapter President Kim Perez of Ralls called the meeting to order and introductions of members and guests took place. Amanda Cummings, City Secretary, City of Shallowater introduced our guest speaker, Beth Walls, SGR. Beth spoke to the members on the services that are provided by SGR. She is currently working with several cities to revamp their Employee Handbook/Personnel Policies. If she can get groups of 5, SGR is allowing her to charge \$2,000 which is substantial savings. She is also working on some job description projects and salary survey projects. SGR can also provide interim services to cities on an as needed basis.

President Perez made the following announcements: We had 4 members receive their TRMC certification: Susan Collazo, Post; Nikki Coronado, Shallowater; Patti Lowrance, Floydada; and Amy Wallace, Crosbyton. We had 3 members receive recertification: Kelly Burris, Brownfield; Jennifer Clements, Lubbock; and Rosa Mendez; Friona. Those who took TMCCP exams and passed included Cheyenne Flores, Crosbyton, and Andrea Corley, Levelland. The chapter also personally thanked Kirk Franklin for his continued support to the chapter.

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

President Perez administered oath of office to Courtney Paz-Rivera, City of Lubbock, for the position of Historian, and to Patricia Isaguirre, City of Hale Center for the position of Director.

Patricia Isaguirre, committee chairman, reported to the members that the committee was in the process of scheduling an Athenian Dialogue for our chapter seminar this year. Slips were handed out to members to choose dates that would be available and books that members would like to read. Janette Goodall with the City of Austin has agreed to be the presenter for the dialogue in a virtual setting. The committee will set the time, date, and book and let members know soon. Other committee members include Amanda Cummings and Nikki Coronado from Shallowater.

Our next meeting will be September 15. Pam King, City of Slaton, will host the meeting. If you would like to join us please contact Secretary Veronica Olguin at volguin@myrhinomail.com for information.

Members and guests in attendance at the June chapter meeting:

Ashley Carothers, City Clerk, Spur
 Zanea Carpenter, TRMC, City Secretary, Muleshoe
 Susan Collazo, Assistant City Secretary, Post
 Betty Conde, City Secretary, Lamesa
 Andrea Corley, City Secretary, Levelland
 Melissa Fields-Allgeyer, Human Resources, Levelland
 Nikki Coronado, Assistant City Secretary, Shallowater
 Amanda Cummings, City Secretary, Shallowater
 Becky Garza, City Secretary, Lubbock
 Debbie Gressett, City Secretary, Seminole
 Lisa Hernandez, City Secretary, Lorenzo
 Patricia Isaguirre, City Secretary, Hale Center
 Jimmy Maynard, Mgmt Asst to City Secretary, Lubbock
 Rosa Mendez, City Secretary, Friona
 Brittany Moore, City Secretary, New Deal
 Meg Nelson, City Secretary, Post
 Courtney Paz-Rivera, Deputy City Secretary, Lubbock
 Kim Perez, City Administrator, Ralls
 Laurie Odom, Utility Clerk, Post
 Amy Wallace, City Administrator, Crosbyton
 Brandi Grant, City Secretary, O'Donnell
 Kayla Baker, City Secretary, Wellman
 Isabel Martinez, Utility/Court Clerk, Lorenzo
 Leslie Randolph, Town of Ransom Canyon
 Lisa Forman, Spur
 Nathan Delong, Wellman
 Matthew Perez, Ralls
 DeAnna Richardson, Morton
 Cheyenne Flores, Crosbyton
 Brenda Shaw, Retired City Manager/Secretary, Morton
 Beth Walls, Retired City Secretary, Levelland

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Amber Villarreal, TRMC**

Assistant City Secretary, Waxahachie

Summer months for cities mean budget, budget, budget but I hope you are finding some time to relax a bit! The Yellow Rose Chapter had a great June meeting and were happy to finally see each other in person! This was our first hybrid meeting and we want to thank Susana Marin, Keera Seiger, and the City of Mansfield for hosting.

During our June 5 meeting, Amanda Campos, City Secretary of Burleson, was recognized as our TMCA Clerk of the Year nominee and Yellow Rose Chapter Clerk of the Year. Amanda is a great representation of our chapter and our profession! Amanda is known for her leadership, wisdom, and desire to serve and we are so very proud of her accomplishments in our organization.

Our chapter would like to welcome new member Jami Bonner, Assistant City Secretary, City of Waxahachie.

The Yellow Rose Chapter met most recently in-person and virtually on August 5 in Burleson.

If you are interested in joining our chapter please reach out to myself, avillarreal@waxahachie.com or Membership Committee Chair, Cynthia Olguin colguin@cityofhutchins.org. Visit the chapter's website: yellowrosetmca.com.

Continued on next page



Yellow Rose Chapter members in personal attendance at the June 5 meeting.



Chapter President Amber Villarreal and Clerk of the Year Committee Member Kathryn Roberson present Amanda Campos with yellow roses and recognized her as our chapter's nominee for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

IN MEMORIAM



Lori Cartwright passed away August 1. She retired from the City of Waxahachie after more than 22 years in public service, with the last 14 spent as City Secretary. Lori was an active and founding member of the Yellow Rose Chapter. She served on numerous committees and also served as Chapter President.



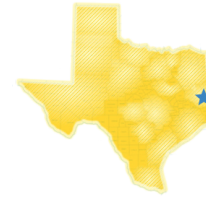
The City of Waxahachie and the Yellow Rose Chapter recognized retiree Lori Cartwright on June 9 at her retirement celebration.

TMCA Chapters



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PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

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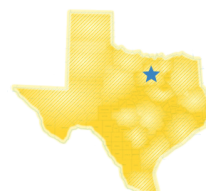
SALT GRASS CHAPTER

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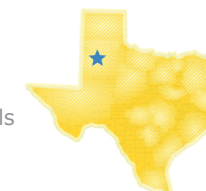
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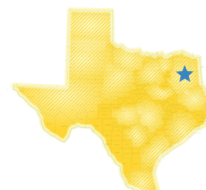
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Sereca Huff-Huggins, President
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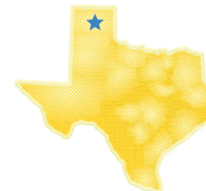
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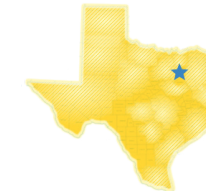
COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

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PANHANDLE CHAPTER

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2021 TMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Aimee Nemer

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President-elect/Vice President Amanda Campos

City Secretary, Burleson
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Treasurer Jannette Goodall

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Secretary Lee Woodward

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Immediate Past Pres. Shelley George

City Secretary, Allen
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Trustee Jeana Bellinger

City Secretary, Brenham
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Trustee Michelle Hicks

City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview
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Trustee Cara McPartland

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Trustee Gretchen Mercer

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Trustee Alicia Richardson

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Trustee Teresa Valdez

City Secretary, Rockport
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Trustee Christi Wynn

City Secretary, Brownwood
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Management Committee*

Chair Kim Sutter, City Secretary, Euless; Miriam Sheehan, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director; Dr. Amy C. Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director

2021 TMCA COMMITTEES

Certification Committee

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

35th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Chair

Amanda Campos, Burleson

Jannette Goodall, Austin

Esmeralda Hudson, Waco

Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan

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Tanya Smith, College Station

Shawna Atkinson, Abilene

Laurie Wilson, Carrollton

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Crystal Roan, Pearland

Zanea Carpenter, Muleshoe

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LeAnn Gallman, Retired Member, Past President

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Cathy Duhart, Sinton

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Jessie Hanks, Kaufman

Laura Kennemer, Quinlan

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Mary Valenzuela, Kingsville

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Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights

Deborah Sorensen, Roysse City

Lee Woodward, La Porte, Trustee

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Ann Franklin, Bastrop

Gladis Sanchez, La Porte

Jannette Goodall, Austin, Board Liaison

TML Booth Committee

Dixie Roberts, Alvin

Salt Grass Chapter members

Lee Woodward, La Porte, Board Liaison

TML Representative

Amanda Campos, Burleson

TML Session Committee

Gretchen Mercer, Canyon, Trustee, Chair

Jannette Goodall, Austin, Treasurer

Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview, Trustee

**non-voting member*