



TMCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

From the President's Corner

The following is my final newsletter article this year, and I hope you have enjoyed our look at customer service. This article focuses on two other aspects of customer service—flexibility and common sense.

How many times have you heard this response when you are trying to work through a problem with a company—"I'm sorry, but that is our policy; and I don't have the ability to alter it." Standard policies and procedures are important and, if administered properly, can improve the quality of service. The problem occurs when the employee enforcing the policy does not apply common sense to the particular situation. That calls for flexibility—a key to great customer service!

Take for example the simple task of ordering a pizza. You are with your young son and teenaged daughter. Your son only likes cheese pizza, but you and your daughter want pepperoni pizza. So, when placing your order, you ask for a couple of slices to be left as "plain cheese," and the rest of the pizza to be pepperoni. The cashier states they cannot do that; they have a policy of only making pizza different in halves – half cheese and half pepperoni, for instance. So, you smile, and patiently explain it a different way: you want a pepperoni pizza, just don't put any pepperoni on the pizza in a certain area. You think you've conquered it, right? No. The cashier again says that's against policy. How can leaving off several pepperoni slices be against a policy? The company gets to keep those pepperoni slices to sell to some other patron. So, you leave the pizza parlor unhappy and still hungry. You go down the street to another pizza parlor, and steel yourself for the outcome after explaining how you would like your pizza. However, this time, the cashier says, "No problem. One pizza coming right up!" You're happy, the kids are happy; and that pizza parlor made money!



President
Patrice Fogarty, TRMC

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Presidents Throughout This Issue!*

TMCA 20th Anniversary



My sincerest congratulations to TMCA on this the 20th anniversary of its incorporation. From its inception, TMCA has been in the forefront in terms of providing outstanding service to its members and has served as a model for other State Associations to emulate. I am proud to have been a part of and continue to be associated with this group of dedicated individuals working for the betterment of their respective communities.

Norma S. Rodriguez
1989 TMCA President
City Clerk Emeritus,
City of San Antonio

President's Message

What is the difference between these two experiences? Flexibility! Flexibility is bending when you can give the customer what they want. Organizations need standards, policies, and rules to operate efficiently; but it is critical that all employees utilize some basic common sense when dealing with citizens' requests. Your goal should be to satisfy 100 percent of the needs for each citizen, within reason. And don't let your computer system dictate what you can deliver to your customer. Learn to deal with exceptions.

Instead of having a "No substitutions, please" philosophy, how about having a philosophy of "Anything is possible. Please ask." Talk about great customer service! Employees should be trained to ask the question: "How can I satisfy this request?" instead of simply answering, "No, we do not do that." Many new ideas come from organizations that listen to their citizens and make every attempt to tailor their services to a specific need. Chances are there are other citizens who want the same thing but have been conditioned not to ask.

Flexibility! Giving your citizens exactly what they want will eliminate their frustration at "government red tape." Take a few minutes and review your systems and policies and ask yourself, "How would my employees deal with a request that is slightly different than what we are used to hearing?"

Create a culture of common sense and flexibility. Never allow an employee, including leadership, to use the phrase: "We have



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2007 TMCA President Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls, presents 2006 TMCA President Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, with a plaque of appreciation from the TMCA membership for her year of service.

always done it that way" when being questioned about a policy or procedure. A lot of waste and inefficiencies have been reduced or eliminated by applying common sense to everyday tasks. Citizens will appreciate your ability to adapt your service within reason to meet their needs.

★ ★ ★

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your 2006 President. I have been privileged to visit many chapters across our state, and there was one recurring theme—commitment to education. How exciting for our new members to have the opportunity to study and learn our profession, and how wonderful for them to do

so with such warm and welcoming colleagues.

This year TMCA, Inc., celebrated its 20th anniversary of incorporation! We gave pause, honor and praise this year for the deep and abiding commitment of those who began this work, and for all those who have given so unselfishly during these many years to maintain our TMCCP educational program as the greatest in the nation. It is a pleasure to extend this expression of my esteem and praise to the members and staff of this organization for the positive and successful programs and policies that have been initiated and supported during the last 20 years. Happy anniversary, TMCA!

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC
2006 TMCA, Inc., President

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TMCCP Election Law Seminar

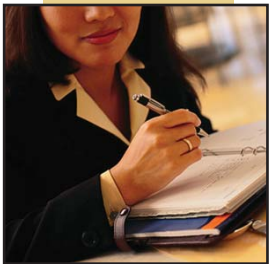
Wednesday, January 17–Friday, January 19, 2007
Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake, Austin, Texas

The special Step by Step pre-seminar session is held on Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Instructors Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave; Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood, and Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, have prepared the outstanding handbook for this session that includes comprehensive information, SOS forms, and sample documents that you may use when conducting your own elections. Registration includes the handbook and a box lunch.

The actual seminar begins Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. with an update from the Secretary of State's Office by Melinda Nickless. Be sure to watch for the sign-up sheet during this session to receive full credit for the session.

Concurrent sessions are held all day Thursday and until 11:30 a.m. on Friday. They include classes on the pertinent topics of **contracting for joint elections** and **complying with DRE regulations**; **training election judges** and **providing an efficient polling place**; and **conducting early voting**. Instructors for these valuable sessions include: Arthur Camacho, Jr., TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Rebecca Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center; Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; and Bruce Sherbet, elections administrator, Dallas County. ★



Anyone may attend this outstanding Election Law Seminar!

Visit our website for seminar registration forms & hotel information

Seminar home page

Check for overflow hotel information

Download a registration brochure if you did not get your copy in the mail

Richard Escalante, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services at the University of North Texas, will deliver the special address during the Thursday luncheon to honor all the members who are receiving their Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification or who have met the requirements for recertification. Mr. Escalante served in municipal government for nearly twenty years. He was city manager of the City of Farmer's Branch for 16 years and during his tenure he fostered many innovative programs and proactive developments for the city. Mr. Escalante is a proven administrative leader who knows the value of the TRMC and lifelong learning for Texas municipal clerks.

TMCA 20th Anniversary

In its 20th year of incorporation, TMCA, Inc.—now 900 members strong—remains the premier professional organization for municipal clerks of Texas. Its rich legacy is borne of the dreams, the courage and the diligent efforts of those early members who raised the bar for public service in the municipal clerk's office and pushed for excellence and life long learning for all who would follow.

Our Education/Certification Program eclipses that of professional education of municipal clerks in every other state, and its recertification requirements keep members on the cutting edge of knowledge which drives exemplary service to our cities and towns. TMCA is the go-to organization for all clerks, and certainly for brand new clerks who require education and need the support and encouragement of seasoned clerk veterans. With great pleasure I congratulate every one who has made TMCA, Inc., the great organization it is today.



Ranette Larsen, TRMC
1991 TMCA President
City Secretary, City of Garland

TMCA 20th Anniversary




What a wonderful opportunity to say Happy 20th Anniversary to TMCA, Inc., an organization that, through its leaders and membership, has made a tremendous IMPACT by providing exemplary continuing education to city secretaries, city clerks and so many others. It is a privilege to be a part of this great organization. It just keeps getting better.

Martha Stanton, TRMC
1992 TMCA President
City Administrator,
City of Groesbeck


Municipal Clerk of the Year

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER




LINDA KNIGHT, TRMC
City Secretary
Breckenridge

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER




CARRIE EDWARDS
City Sec., Colmesneil
Chapter Clerk of the Year




TERRE NOBLE, TRMC
City Secretary, Center
TMCA Clerk of Year Nominee

CAPITAL CHAPTER



SHIRLEY GARVEL
City Secretary, Elgin
Chapter Clerk of the Year




SHERRY MASHBURN, TRMC
City Secretary, Bee Cave
TMCA Clerk of Year Nominee

RED RIVER CHAPTER



LYDIA OZUNA, TRMC
City Secretary
Wichita Falls
TMCA Clerk of the Year

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



CAROLYN MARTIN, TRMC
City Secretary
Mexia

SALT GRASS CHAPTER




DEBORAH LOESCH, TRMC
City Secretary
Hunters Creek Village

LONE STAR CHAPTER




NAN PARKER, TRMC
City Secretary
Frisco

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER




KAREN LAWSON, TRMC
City Secretary, Floydada
Chapter Clerk of the Year




LeANN GALLMAN, TRMC
City Secretary, Muleshoe
TMCA Clerk of Year Nominee

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER



MARTY HENDRIX, TRMC
City Secretary
Fort Worth

Independent TMCA Clerk of the Year nominee



PAULINE SMALL, TRMC
City Secretary
Webster

Salt Grass Chapter member

Scholarships Awarded at TMCA Awards Banquet

Photos © Paul Traves, f16 Photo



Four outstanding TMCA members received a \$500 Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship for continued professional development and education during 2007. The winners are (left to right): **Nina Browning**, TRMC, city secretary, Winnsboro; **Linda Rhodes**, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth, with Certification Committee member and presenter **Susie Quinn**, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; and **Stacy Corley**, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches. *Not pictured:* Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville.



At far left: **Kirk Franklin**, Franklin Legal, presents a \$500 scholarship he sponsored to **Codi Delcambre**, TRMC, city secretary, Argyle, at the TMCA Awards event held in South Padre in November.

At left: **Doris Speer**, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball, received the Lila Fern Martin Scholarship for her pursuit of a bachelor's degree in business administration.

TMCA 20th Anniversary

I want to congratulate the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., upon its twenty years of incorporation. I shall always appreciate being involved with such a professional organization. I owe a great deal to TMCA, Inc., and TMCCP for the professional success I enjoyed during the course of my career. My best wishes to TMCA, Inc., and its current and future leadership for many more years of success.

Jean Crawley,
TRMC
1993 TMCA
President
Exec. Director of
Admin. Services
(retired),
City of Burleson



TMCA 20th Anniversary



Congratulations, TMCA, on 20 years of exceptional contributions to the education of city secretaries, city clerks and others in municipal government across Texas. TMCA is highly recognized around the world for providing the highest level of educational benefits in the State of Texas. TMCA is a professional organization leading professionals. What an honor it has been to have been a part of this great organization.

Deloris McKenzie, TRMC
1994 TMCA President
City Secretary,
City of Friendswood

TMCA Clerk of the Year Lydia Ozuna, TRMC



© Paul Traves, T16 Photo

Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls, was selected as the 2006 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year. The award was presented by Committee Chair Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman, during the Annual TMCA Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute.

Lydia has served as city clerk of Wichita Falls since 1993. She earned the prestigious Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification in 1999 and completed the requirements for recertification in 2003. She is currently enrolled in the second level of recertification. Lydia received her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 1998. In 2003 Ms. Ozuna was accepted as a member in IIMC's Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program. As TMCA Vice President, Ms. Ozuna served on the board of directors of Texas Municipal League for two years.

City Clerk Ozuna will serve as the 2007 president of TMCA. She also serves on TMCA's Ad-

visory Management Committee. As an active professional, Lydia has served on all the TMCA committees of the statewide organization and has made outstanding contributions to development of the professional education of municipal clerks throughout Texas. She served as a chapter co-author for the sixth, seventh, and eighth editions of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

Ms. Ozuna served as president of the local Red River Chapter of municipal clerks for three terms and as the chapter's secretary/treasurer for two terms. She has also served on the local chapter's committees and as an instructor for pertinent topics for the chapter.

On behalf of the Red River Chapter members, Trish Holley, TRMC, city secretary, Burkburnet, said: "Lydia Ozuna is respected for her leadership and dedication to the chapter as well as to TMCA, Inc. She is committed to performing her job to the highest standards and provides an encouraging example to her peers." ★

2007 TMCA President's Acceptance Speech

2007 TMCA President Lydia Ozuna delivered the following speech at the TMCA Awards Banquet in South Padre Island on November 9.



© Paul Traves, T16 Photo

Good evening Madam President, Board Members, Staff, and distinguished guests.

Citizen Q climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replied, "A minute."

Smith asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

Smith asks, "Can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."

Everything is relative. I promise that this speech is going to take less than a minute!

Speaking of relatives, I would like to introduce my special guests, some are relatives and the others might as well be since we spend a great deal of time together!

Acceptance Speech

My City Manager, Mr. Darron Leiker; my Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Ray Gonzalez; and my Councilman at Large, Mr. Jim Ginnings. My deputy, Ramona Coln; my sister and her husband, Nel, and John Enriquez, Jr. Thank you all for making this an even more special occasion by being here tonight.

Our past and present can prepare us for our future. There are positive experiences in the past that we can learn from, and there are current events that we can utilize to make our future what we want it to be.

The past has brought growth to TMCA, Inc.; it has opened avenues for us to move forward with our certification program and to continue the first rate education provided only through our TMCCP.

The present has brought about many positive changes in our association like the awesome increase in membership—912!! Our seminars are surpassing the expectations of the membership, and your participation serving as conveners; panelists; chairing and serving on TMCA committees, is incredible. Wow! What an awesome group you are; I am so glad that you have taken to heart that this is your organization, our organization, by working hard to keep it the best it can be!

The future will bring more changes because our work is continuing; we are working to improve our certification program and our association. Sometimes we don't like change because it puts us out of our comfort zone, but change brings about improvement and development. We don't want to be drinking milk all the time; we want chocolate cake with that milk!

Most of you have already taken the plunge and have begun to prepare for your future and your city's future. This, as Judge Ron Clark said, "is where the rubber meets the road," and we need to be prepared to meet the challenges that will face us in 2007. Currently, you are working on your certification or recertification. You have volunteered and committed to serve in our association.

You have made an important decision to take the road of advancement by capturing and utilizing the resources that have been made available to you through our Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Our councils and city managers have come on board as well, recognizing the need and benefits of having their city clerks certified. They have realized the advantage of having a certified municipal clerk handling their everyday dealings with the public and with their staffs. As municipal clerks we have the responsibility of always being before the public, whether in council meetings,

in person at our offices, or on the phone answering questions regarding municipal regulations, requirements or just questions in general—such as what permits are required for building expansion, does the city have an ordinance that addresses loud noise or smoking in restaurants, or where do I pay my taxes! I have even had questions asked about pot belly pigs and male strippers, not that one had anything to do with the other!

As city officials we are responsible for setting standards and being professional in all our transactions, in all places at all times because we are always representing our cities, and we want to project a positive and professional image. Our seminars address this and so much more in preparing us for any situation that may arise in our cities.

In our position as city officials, we are asked for opinions and recommendations, and because we deal with a variety of areas in our municipalities, we receive the bulk of citizen and staff inquiries. We must be prepared. We are versatile in the sense of being multitalented and resourceful, and it is not uncommon to hear staff as well as citizens alike say, "Call the City Clerk, she knows everything." It is not a far fetched statement because we are knowledgeable and up to date in the events and transactions of our cities. We are able to respond to many inquiries because an important part of our job responsibility is to be informed and aware of new policies, regulations, and actions taken by our councils. We record and maintain all the official records and that helps keep us



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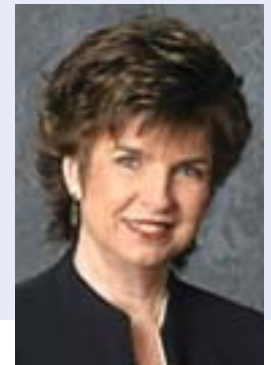
2007 TMCA President Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, was selected as 2006 TMCA Clerk of the Year. Pictured with her (from left to right): Councilor Jim Ginnings, City Manager Darron Leiker, and Mayor Pro Tem Ray Gonzalez.

TMCA 20th Anniversary

It is wonderful and amazing to be celebrating 20 years of our incorporation of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. It seems just yesterday, as I served as the 1996 TMCA President, we were celebrating our first 10 years with a party at our annual business meeting held during the Texas Municipal League Conference in Corpus Christi.

I have been a member of this great organization since the early days when we decided to incorporate. Over the years, it has been gratifying to see how the membership has grown and evolved into an association of professional public servants that support each other through networking, mentoring and education. We have also become an organization that is held in high esteem and recognized by other professional organizations, state agencies, and the Texas Legislature. My wish for the association for the next 10 years is that we continue to thrive and someday realize a membership of all of the municipal clerks and city secretaries in Texas.

Marty Hendrix,
TRMC
1996 TMCA
President
City Secretary,
City of
Fort Worth



TMCA 20th Anniversary



Congratulations on a wonderful 20 years! Those of us who are from small cities fully realize the importance of TMCA, Inc. The job of city secretary in a small city is much more diverse than in the large cities - and because of this, the certification program is particularly important. Thank goodness for TMCA, Inc. and its members. I was proud to be a member of TMCA, Inc. and I miss the camaraderie of the wonderful people I was associated with through the years. I believe that TMCA, Inc. gets stronger each year and know that trend will continue.

Mary Hicks, TRMC
1997 TMCA President
City Secretary (retired),
City of Muleshoe

Acceptance Speech

informed of inner-city workings. Our experience, dedication, and knowledge of city governance make us invaluable to our municipalities. Some of you are even more versatile because you wear the hats of city administrators, finance officers, human resources directors, billing clerks, and clerks. How can we not know what is happening in our cities?

We are proud of our cities and we want to do everything possible to maintain a high level of education, knowledge, and professionalism. We can all attest to the fact that this is being accomplished through our certification program. Experience says a lot, but times change and we need to be ready to know how to deal with those changes—our certification program and the seminars we attend provide us with the tools and expertise to prepare for change. It is apparent that Texas municipalities and their councils have had a great educational awakening, and clerks are being encouraged and required to become certified. I congratulate those councils and managers for raising the bar and the municipal clerks who are responding to the challenge.

As individuals, we want to know how to prepare for our future by knowing what it holds; however, there are no crystal balls or fortune tellers to tell us what our future holds. Fortunately, we have the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and qualified mentors and role models that can help lead us into the future. We have the resources to make our futures what we want as municipal clerks and as administrators.

President Fogarty recapped what has been accomplished this past year and we have accomplished quite a bit. We must continue that momentum to make 2007 another stellar year!

We will face challenges and obstacles but we will also celebrate accomplishments and together we will move into the future with progress and success.

Our organization stands out from all the rest and that is because of you, the members who have worked hard and committed countless hours on your certification/recertification as well as serving on the numerous committees. These committees require time and preparation that each of

you has given over the years and that is why we have grown. The membership committee has done outstanding job and you need only to look at the 912 members we currently have! Wow, what awesome work! The Certification Committee has done an excellent job in dealing with the numerous requests. The Scholarship Committee has worked arduously to make sure that the scholarships we now have are used by our membership. Kudos to those of you who have contacted vendors to donate new scholarships, like American Legal, Laserfische, Linebarger, and Questys; and we so appreciate the other vendors who so graciously provide scholarships, longtime donors Municipal Code Corporation and Franklin Legal Publishing.

We want to be prepared to do the best job possible for our municipalities, therefore we seek

the resources to accomplish that. Our TMCCP has led us to that level and continues to improve our positions of service in our communities.

We have the tools at our fingertips to become a commodity that is in great demand! If you are not taking advantage of these opportunities—what are you waiting for? *Arriba y adelante!* Onward and Upward!

I thank God that He has been my Guide through the years, and for the opportunities He has provided me, and I thank Him for each one of you.

It is with honor and pride that I commit to serve as your 2007 President to the best of my ability and to lead you into a spectacular year as we serve our cities with honor, integrity, and professionalism. THANK YOU. ★



TMCA 2007 Executive Board: (Standing, left to right) Trustee Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Trustee LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Trustee Norma Aguilar, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Trustee Arthur Camacho, Jr., TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Trustee Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown; Immediate Past President Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; and Trustee Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster.

(Seated, left to right) Secretary Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; President Elect Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; President Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls; Vice President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, and Treasurer Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland.



TMCA Scholarships Awarded at Conference

Thelma Lenz, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Missouri City, was awarded the \$500 scholarship sponsored by Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, L.L.P. *Top left: Mr. Doug Calame*, marketing representative; **Missouri City Councilwoman Eunice Reiter, District A**; and **Mr. Richard Hill**, attorney, display the scholarship plaque awarded to Ms. Lenz during the TMCA professional session held at the TML Conference in Austin in October.



Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park, was awarded the \$500 scholarship sponsored by Laserfiche for 2007. *Pictured at second from top left: Cairy Meller*, regional manager, Laserfiche, presents Ms. Watkins' scholarship plaque to **Martha Gillett, TRMC**, city secretary, LaPorte, during the TMCA professional session held at TML in Austin.



Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, City of Center, won the \$500 scholarship sponsored by Questys Solutions. *Pictured at left: On behalf of City Secretary Noble, Dr. Joyce Snay*, TRMC, accepts the award plaque from **Vice President Charlene Webber**, government sales, Questys Solutions, during the TMCA professional session held at TML in Austin.



Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil, won the \$500 scholarship awarded by American Legal Publishing Corporation. *Pictured at left: American Legal's Richard Frommeyer*, and **Michele Girard**, Texas Client Services Representative, display the scholarship plaque that was presented to Ms. Edwards during the TMCA professional session held at TML in Austin.

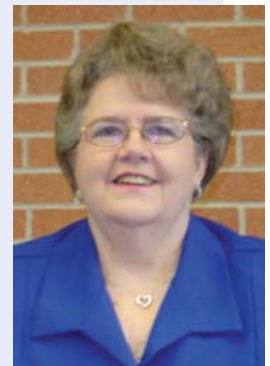
TMCA 20th Anniversary

Congratulations to TMCA on its 20th Anniversary!!! I am so proud to have been a part of TMCA during this time. When TMCA was incorporated I was very young in the association (not in years). I had been a member for about two years and I was so very proud when the announcement came that TMCA had incorporated. I had to share it with everyone at City Hall. I was very proud of our Association and the progress we were making. And we have certainly made a lot of progress over the past twenty years. I also know how and why we have made so much progress. It is because we have all worked together to get where we are today. We are the stars of Texas because we all worked together with outstanding team work. We have to always remember together everyone achieves more (TEAM).

We are a great professional group with professional ideas and we share those ideas with each other everyday through our wonderful email network. A new city secretary has a lot of avenues out there today to pursue for information and help with almost any problem. That is teamwork!

Congratulations TMCA members!

Ruby L. White, TRMC
1999 TMCA
President
City Secretary
(retired),
City of Luling



TMCA 20th Anniversary



Knowledge is a key component of leadership along with professional and management skills. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the incorporation of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, we recognize the role of TMCA in preparing members to face the leadership challenges of the future and to strive for education excellence. Today much is expected of the municipal clerk, and tomorrow those expectations will be even greater.

The hard work of so many have made the accomplishments of the past 20 years possible and exemplifies the professional ethics and standards that the members of Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., subscribe to and the principles that govern each municipal clerk.

Glenda Gundermann, TRMC
2000 TMCA President
City Secretary,
City of Sugar Land

Profile: New Executive Board Trustees

TMCA welcomes the newest members to its Executive Board, trustees Arthur Camacho Jr., TRMC, and Toni Wilson, TRMC

Arthur Camacho Jr., TRMC, was appointed Azle's city secretary in January 2005. He previously served as city secretary at the City of Ranger from 1999-2005.

He holds the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (No. 414). He is currently enrolled in his first recertification.



Camacho Jr.

Arthur is active in TMCA, and is currently a member of TMCA and the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter of TMCA. He served as president and vice president of the Bluebonnet Chapter, and the Bluebonnet Chapter chose Arthur as its Chapter Clerk of the Year in 2002. He served on the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter's Seminar Reception Committee and the Holiday Committee. Arthur served on the TMCA Certification Committee from 2003 until 2006.

In 2001, Arthur was a Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship winner. He received the Lila Fern Martin Scholarship in 2003 and 2005. He completed an associates degree in business administration.

Arthur was a speaker this year for Texas Municipal League on "Small Cities Potpourri: Best Practices on Communication with Citizens." He is a co-author of Chapter 6 in the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*, "Municipal Purchasing and Contracting." Arthur has served as a TMCCP Election Law Seminar convener

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Wilson

Toni Wilson, TRMC, CMC, has served with the City of Sundown since 1983. She was appointed Sundown's city secretary in 2000. Toni previously served as Sundown's deputy city secretary from 1991 until 2000; utility billing clerk from 1985 until 1991; and court and tax clerk from 1983 until 1985.

Toni earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2001 (No. 385). She also holds IIMC's Certified Municipal Clerk designation, and is a member of IIMC's Master Municipal Clerk Academy.

Toni is active in her professional affiliations. She served on the TMCA Certification Committee, as well as the TMCA Audit and Resolutions Committees. Toni has served as vice president, treasurer, reporter, and director of the South Plains Chapter of TMCA, as well as serving on their Municipal Clerk of the Year Selection Committee. She has also served on the Grant Application Review Committee through the South Plains Association of Governments. In addition to holding membership in TMCA, the South Plains Chapter, and IIMC, Toni is a member of the Board of Tax Professional Examiners and is a Registered Texas Collector.

She is married to Terry Wilson, and is mother to Michael (daughter-in-law, Julie) and Tricia

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ARTHUR CAMACHO JR., CONTINUED

and as an instructor for the “Early Voting” session of the Election Law Seminar.

In addition to his professional affiliations, Arthur is active in his community. He has been a member of the Azle Chamber of Commerce; and Youth Camp Recreation Director at Camp Lost Pines.

Arthur is married to Robbie Camacho, and is the father of two daughters: Toni (son-in-law, Paul), and Genesa. He is grandfather to Santino “Sonny” Lynn Camacho. Arthur’s hobbies include playing guitar, singing, and weightlifting.

When asked to comment upon his election to the TMCA Executive Board, Arthur stated, “I consider it an honor to be selected to serve as a trustee on the Executive Board of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. I never envisioned serving in this capacity when I joined, but I have always wanted to

contribute in some measure to the TMCA. There are former outstanding individuals who set high standards of excellence during their terms of service on this Board, and I desire to assist in the continuing progress of this great organization. I wish to extend my thanks to all the members of the TMCA for allowing me the opportunity to serve.” ★

TONI WILSON, CONTINUED

(son-in-law, Cody). Toni’s hobbies include bowling, fishing, and boating.

When asked to comment upon her election to the TMCA Executive Board, Toni stated, “I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as a trustee on this Board. The Texas Municipal Clerks Association instills honesty and high standards to provide quality education of municipal clerks across the state. Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve with this fine group of leaders.” ★

TMCA 20th Anniversary



Congratulations to our Texas Municipal Clerks Association on the 20th anniversary of its incorporation. It has been my honor to have been a part of this organization. TMCA has served not only as a benchmark of professionalism for its members, but also as a benchmark for other professional organizations across our state. TMCA continues to provide its excellent educational program, a professional network, and up-to-date information to its member city secretaries, which in turn allows them to better serve their communities. Congratulations, Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.!

Barbara B. Cabe, TRMC
2001 TMCA President
City Secretary (retired),
City of Tulia



Thank you

To those who generously volunteered their time to man the TMCA booth at the TML Conference!

Special thanks to TML Booth Committee Chair Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia, and Capital Chapter members, who comprised the TML Booth Committee.

Nina Browning, city secretary, Winnsboro; **Codi Delcambre, TRMC**, town secretary, Argyle; **Shelly Doty, TRMC**, city secretary, Cleburne; **Connie Hooks, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; **Linda Knight, TRMC**, city secretary, Breckenridge; **Carolyn Martin, TRMC**, city secretary, Mexia; **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, Bee Cave; **Denise Melde**, city secretary, Thorndale; **Toni Milam**, administrative assistant to the city administrator, Buda; **Ashley Mitchell, TRMC**, city secretary, Carrollton; **Yrene Morgan, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Mexia; **Ivy Peterson, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Cleburne; **Connie Ortiz, TRMC**, city secretary, Lockhart; **Karen Thompson, TRMC**, city secretary, Pflugerville; **Deana Watson, TRMC**, city secretary, Post; and **Rosemary Ybarra, TRMC**, administrative manager, Austin.

TMCA 20th Anniversary



Continuing education is so very important in today's world. And there is no better place to get that than from the certification program of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. For the last 20 years, municipal clerks and other city officials have been learning from the best. The networking with other municipal clerks has proven to be a cornerstone of our organization. I'm so proud to have been a part of TMCA, Inc., over the years, and value what I've learned from the membership, the seminars, and the resources offered by TMCA so very much.

Happy Anniversary, TMCA, Inc. You've come a long way baby!

Terri Johnson, TRMC
2002 TMCA President
City Manager/City Secretary,
City of Friona

© Paul Traves, f16 Photo



Top: Ruby White, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Luling, receives the TMCA retirement clock from Committee Chair Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas, at the TMCA Awards Event held in South Padre. The clock is awarded to any retiring member who serves more than 10 years as city secretary. Ruby worked for the City of Luling for 25 years and served as city secretary for 22 years. Congratulations, Ruby!

Above: Committee Chair Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas, presents an award plaque to Mary Munoz, city secretary, City of Pharr, to recognize Ms. Munoz' service and retirement. Mary worked for the City of Pharr for 29 years and served as city secretary for six years. Congratulations, Mary!

Congratulations to the following TMCA members retiring this year!

- Shirley Acy, TRMC, City of Dallas*
- Lyn Adolphus, TRMC, City of Rosenberg*
- Jean Dwinnell, TRMC, Town of Westlake*
- Virginia Herrington, City of Katy*
- Carolyn Jones, City of Fairview*
- Ranette Larsen, City of Garland*
- Nancy Meadows, TRMC, City of Watauga*
- Mary Munoz, City of Pharr*
- Ann Pesce, TRMC, City of Palestine*
- Ruby White, TRMC, City of Luling*
- Janis Womack, City of San Marcos*



2007 TMCCP Scholarships

The following honorees competed for and won our prestigious scholarships for 2007!

AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING SCHOLARSHIP	Carrie Edwards, city sec., City of Colmesneil
DOROTHY F. BYRD SCHOLARSHIP	Nina Browning, TRMC, city secretary, City of Winnsboro Stacy Corley, TRMC, dep. city secretary, City of Nacogdoches Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, City of Lake Worth Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, City of Pflugerville
FRANKLIN LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP	Codi Delcambre, TRMC, town secretary, Town of Argyle
LASERFICHE SCHOLARSHIP	Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, City of Deer Park
LILA FERN MARTIN SCHOLARSHIP	Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, City of Tomball
LINEBARGER SCHOLARSHIP	Thelma Lenz, TRMC, dep. city secretary, City of Missouri City
MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION SCHOLARSHIP	<i>Pending—deadline for application is Dec. 15</i>
QUESTYS SOLUTIONS SCHOLARSHIP	Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, City of Center

TMCA 20th Anniversary

Texas Municipal Clerks, the stars of Texas Government. I joined TMCA in 1985 and quickly found that I had become part of the best group of professionals in the state. There is no way that I, or any other city secretary/clerk could do their job to the best of his or her ability without the assistance and resources offered by the TMCA organization. The educational opportunities, the support from fellow clerks, and the myriad of information to be gained by just being part of this organization, is unsurpassed by any other group with which I have been associated.

We have seen the purpose and focus of TMCA evolve with the times. That will continue to happen. We all know technology has advanced greatly in the last 20 years and will only advance more in the next 20. TMCA will, no doubt, keep up with those changes and will continue to give the best in education, support and information.

One goal of TMCA has always been to make the membership aware of the need to be a professional. The past 20 years have seen great strides in that regard. The next 20 years should see the membership working toward that goal, while providing the absolute best to the citizens of our communities.

I expect the Stars of Texas Government to continue to shine brightly for the next 20 years and beyond.

Patti A. Hicks, TRMC
2003 TMCA President
City Secretary (retired),
City of The Colony



TMCA 20th Anniversary



Incorporated, united into a single whole, in 1986 we dedicated our association to serving the demands for excellence in Texas' local government, and for 20 years we have stayed true to that dedication. It was the individual commitment to public service that brought us together, and collectively we have experienced many successes. The future of TMCA, Inc., will be determined by each of us. As we continue in the noble role of public servant may we examine our hearts and be ever mindful of the words of Oliver Wendell

Holmes: "What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS, TMCA, INC.

Jo Moore, TRMC
2004 TMCA President
City Secretary, City of Abilene



It is a great honor for some of our past presidents to address us regarding our Association's 20th Anniversary of incorporation! I am so proud of this wealth of knowledge and leadership we have with us today, and I am ever grateful we can still reach out to these brilliant leaders through whom we received the foundation of our Association. It is remarkable that the highest standards of education and professionalism are continually

enhanced and maintained by our Association and that each one of you endeavors to carry us forward. With our full hearts, we say, "Thank you, TMCA presidents, for your inspired leadership and motivation every step of the way!"

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC
2006 TMCA President
City Secretary, City of Missouri City



Congratulations, TMCA, Inc., on your 20th anniversary! The traditional symbol of a 20th anniversary is china, which symbolizes delicacy and beauty. I believe the modern symbol of platinum for a 20th anniversary better represents TMCA, Inc. Platinum symbolizes strength and endurance. TMCA, Inc., and its members certainly have proven over the past 20 years that we are strong, resilient, and forward thinking. Our Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program is the most highly respected state certification program for municipal clerks in the United States. I have no doubt that TMCA, Inc., and our certification program will enjoy many more decades of tremendous success and growth. As a result, our Texas municipalities will reap the benefits of better local government and increased service to our citizens.

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC
2005 TMCA President
City Secretary, City of Bryan

TMCCP Certificates Earned

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| COURSE 1 | <i>(Course 2 cont. 'd)</i> |
| Stacy Corley,
Nacogdoches | Irma Parker, Rockport |
| Irma Parker, Rockport | Carrie Smith, Parker |
| Jennifer Reyna,
San Antonio | Danna Welter,
Huntsville |
| Carrie Smith, Parker | COURSE 3 |
| Chip Stanley,
Weatherford | Dorothy Brooks,
Rockwall |
| COURSE 2 | Deborah Jessup,
Balch Springs |
| Meredith Brant,
Seabrook | Danna Welter,
Huntsville |
| Diane Callahan,
Highland Village | COURSE 4 |
| Amanda Davenport,
Angleton | Bonnie Scaff, Bovina |
| Toni Milam, Buda | Danna Welter,
Huntsville |

IIMC News

LaDonna Floyd, TRMC, city clerk, Nederland, has been accepted into the First Level Membership of the IIMC Master Municipal Clerk Academy. LaDonna earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) in 1998 (No. 306), and recertified in 2003. She is currently enrolled in her second recertification.

Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth, has received the Master Municipal Clerk designation through the IIMC Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program. Marty earned her TRMC in 1986 (No. 119), and recertified in 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006, and is currently enrolled in her fifth recertification.

CHAPTER NEWS

ALAMO CHAPTER

By Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC

The Alamo Chapter quarterly meeting on March 21 was held in the new City Council Chambers in Schertz. The City of Schertz hosted the meeting.

President Patty Cox, TRMC, city secretary, Kirby, opened and presided at the meeting. Assistant city attorney for the City of San Antonio, Helen Valkavich, gave a presentation covering the provisions of HB 914, providing that members of a municipal governing body be required to file a conflict disclosure statement/questionnaire with the records administrator of the local government.

The quarterly meeting of June 20 was held at the New Braunfels Library. President Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio, called the meeting to order and presided at the meeting. The guest speaker was New Braunfels Councilwoman Kathleen Krueger, wife of former U.S. Ambassador and U.S. Senator Bob Krueger.

Approval was given to donate to the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship Fund in the memory of June Krause, former city secretary from the City of Schertz.

The quarterly meeting of September 19 was held at the Artisans' Alley/Apple Annie's Tea Room. The City of Hollywood Park hosted the meeting. President Leticia M. Vacek presided. Members approved changing the chapter quarterly meetings to bi-monthly. Also discussed was the "Christmas Holidays Get-Together," to be scheduled in December. The Alamo Chapter will actively recruit members from area municipalities to encourage and increase membership. We are pleased to report that we have already heard from a couple of cities interested in joining. ★



Above: Alamo Chapter members attending the September 19, 2006, quarterly meeting.

Right: Newly elected officers of the Alamo Chapter. (Left to right) Secretary Judy Tokar, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; President Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; and Treasurer A.I. (Penny) Hieronymous, city secretary, Converse, at the September quarterly meeting.



CHAPTER NEWS

CAPTIAL CHAPTER

By Melissa Brunner, TRMC

President Shirley Garvel hosted the meeting at the Stagecoach Inn in Salado on July 28. The following members were in attendance: Cynthia Archibeque, assistant to city secretary, Bryan; Betty Brown, TRMC, local government election specialist, Bickerstaff-Heath; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Vonn Casares, assistant city secretary, College Station; Jodi Chaney, records management officer, Bryan; Shirley Garvel, city secretary, Elgin; Shirley Gentry, city clerk, Austin; Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, Bee Cave; Toni Milam, administrative assistant, Buda; Brenda Page, city secretary, Smithville; Rose Sickel, deputy city secretary, Liberty Hill; Yvonne Spence, deputy city clerk, Austin; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; and Jennifer Zufelt, city secretary, Volente.

The Capital Chapter had a special guest: TMCA President Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, was able to be with us. The chapter approved the minutes of the March 15 and May 31 meetings and the financial report. Teresa Valdez, Chair of the By-Laws Committee, discussed some of the changes that they were proposing. No vote was taken at this time because the amended by-laws will need to be mailed out to all members before they will be voted on.

President Garvel appointed Mary Lynne Stratta, Melissa Brunner and Betty Brown to serve on the nominating committee. Mary Lynne Stratta will serve as Chair. The chapter voted to provide a \$100 gift card as a door prize for the TMCA Graduate Institute in South Padre Island. President Garvel asked Betty Brown, who is serving on the financial committee for Mary Lynne's campaign, if money was still needed for her campaign. Brown reported that the reception that will be held in New Orleans will be quite costly. Mary Lynne reported that she has received quite a few resolutions of support from all over the United States. The Capital Chapter voted to donate another \$500 to Mary Lynne's campaign. Betty Brown also announced that there will be silent auctions at the TMCCP seminars in Irving and South Padre, with the proceeds to benefit Mary Lynne's campaign.

President Garvel reported that the Chapter has meetings scheduled for September 20 in Buda; in December in Leander; and in January in Austin, at the Election Law Seminar. Garvel also reported that the Capital Chapter will be hosting the Salado Seminar in 2007 on July 27 and 28. IIMC Region 4 Meeting will be held November 31–December 2 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. ★

2007 TMCCP Seminars

Election Law Course 4 credit	Austin	January 17-19
Office Administration Course 1 credit	Beaumont	April 12-13
Municipal Finance Course 3 or 4 credit	Amarillo	June 7-8
Legislative Update Course 1 credit	Irving	August 9-10
Graduate Institute Course 2 credit	Fredericksburg	October 11-12

CHAPTER NEWS

LONE STAR CHAPTER

By Aimee Nemer, TRMC

The Lone Star Chapter met on October 5 in McKinney with 24 members and guests present: Elaine Bealke, TRMC, city secretary, Plano; Dorothy Brooks, TRMC, city secretary, Rockwall; Tina Butterfield, records coordinator, McKinney; Betty Cosgrove, McKinney; Beverly Covington, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McKinney; Matt Denton, town secretary, Prosper; Bruce Dunn, city secretary, Saint Paul; Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie; Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina; Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney; Carolyn Jones, city secretary, Fairview; Nina Jones, city secretary, Denison; Micki Lewis, McKinney; Julie Lollar, deputy city secretary, Denison; Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Nan Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Cathy Pugh, city secretary, Tom Bean; Pam Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; Carrie Smith, city secretary, Parker; Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Lowry Crossing; Gayle Walton, city secretary, Wylie; and Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas. Our special guest was TMCA President Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City.

The Lone Star Chapter was honored to have President Fogarty in attendance for the installation of the 2006-2007 officers. After an inspiring speech on the positive influence we can all have on ourselves, President Fogarty gave a very unique presentation to each officer along with a special book. The 2006-2007 officers are: President Aimee Nemer; Vice President Carole Ehrlich; Secretary Cathy Pugh; Treasurer Kathy Wingo; and Historian Nina Jones.

President Nemer presented charter president Sandy Hart with a golden gavel plaque inscribed “Sandy Hart, Charter Lone Star Chapter President, October 2005-October 2006—In appreciation for your vision, dedication, and service.”

Lone Star currently has 46 members representing 9 counties including Collin, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt, Rockwall, Dallas, Denton, Cooke, and Lamar. In her acceptance speech, President Nemer presented a challenge for the chapter to make contact with city clerks in each of the 74 cities that are part of the Lone Star Chapter region. She also thanked the past year’s officers—President Sandy Hart, Vice President Dorothy Brooks, Treasurer Nan Parker, and Historian Carole Ehrlich—for their dedication in establishing a new chapter.

The November chapter meeting was held in Heath with Mayor John Ratcliffe as the speaker. The holiday committee, chaired by Elaine Bealke of Plano, is busy making preparations for a holiday luncheon to be held on December 7 at the Courtyard Theater in Plano. Special entertainment will be provided by an ensemble from Men of Note and guests will be donating a gift card to City House, an organization in Collin County providing social services for teens. Guests will also participate in a silent auction for gift baskets to raise funds for the chapter’s scholarship fund.

We are excited to be moving into our second year as a chapter and look forward to another year of making new friends, sharing experiences, and seeing new places as we travel around our region. ★



The Lone Star Chapter at their meeting in October. *Top:* the installation of the 2006-07 officers. *Above:* 2006-07 Chapter President Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy, presents a plaque to 2005-06 President Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney.

CHAPTER NEWS



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

By Perla Zamora

The Lower Rio Grande Valley City Secretaries/Clerks Association met on October 19 at Junction Café in Pharr. Roy Cantu, Director of the Public Information Office for the City of McAllen, presented a professional development session on effectively communicating with the media. The LRGV Chapter and Time Warner Cable are co-sponsoring a reception for Statewide Municipal Clerks attending the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program Graduate Institute to be held November 9-10 at the Radisson Resort South Padre Island.

Members present (pictured above) included: Veronica Montoya, city secretary, Edcouch; President Estela Von Hatten, city secretary, Brownsville; Secretary/Treasurer Annette Villarreal, city secretary, McAllen; Historian Perla Zamora, assistant city secretary, McAllen; Lupita Suarez, city secretary, La Villa; Susie Carrillo, Edinburg; Clarice Martinez, Edinburg; Myra Garza, city secretary, Edinburg; Aida Montoya, city clerk, Pharr; Griselda Ramos, Brownsville; and Sonia Hinojosa, assistant city clerk, Pharr.

For further information regarding the chapter, contact City Secretary Annette Villarreal, 956-972-7130. ★

PANHANDLE CHAPTER

by Suzanne Finch, TRMC

The Panhandle Chapter met August 17 at the Amarillo Club with twelve members present for their bimonthly meeting. Frances Childers presented an excellent program on The History of the City of Dalhart.

The next bimonthly meeting of the Panhandle Chapter was held October 19 at the Amarillo Club.

Connie McKiernan, city secretary, Panhandle, presided over the meeting. Canyon Executive Director/Main Street Manager Evelyn Ecker gave the program. CEDC Executive Director Ecker spoke on how to go about starting a project and stressed the key to success is building lots of partnerships with the other entities within the community.

This meeting was attended by Chris Alexander, EDC Director, Friona; Crystal Black, court/city clerk, Fritch; Jo Carol Boyles, city secretary, Canyon; Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart; Evelyn Ecker, CEDC Director, Canyon; Chapter Secretary Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford; Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman; Janie Guerra, city secretary, Cactus; Chapter Historian Janice Henson, TRMC, city secretary, Perryton; Phyllis Jeffers, city

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter appeared in *The Monitor* on October 29.

Thank you to the chapter for hosting the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar reception, and for the fantastic goody bags!



CHAPTER NEWS

secretary, Pampa; Terri Johnson, TRMC, city manager/city secretary, Friona; Chapter President Connie McKiernan, city secretary, Panhandle; Kayla McLennan, city secretary, Gruver; Carolee Nance, city secretary, Fritch; Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas; Kathy Rendon, city secretary, Stratford; and Terry South, city secretary, Canadian.

The chapter is scheduled to meet again in the City of Amarillo on December 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Amarillo Club. ★

PINEYWOODS CHAPTER



Top left: Chapter President Terre Noble presents Carrie Edwards, city secretary Colmesneil, with the Pineywoods Chapter's 2006 Municipal Clerk of the Year award.



Lower left: The Pineywoods Chapter at their annual banquet, hosted by the City of Livingston, on Saturday, October 21. Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Ashley Judd, city administrator, Alto; Secretary/Treasurer Tina Cavazos, city secretary, Diboll; Stacy Corley, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches; Irene Nicks, city secretary, Livingston; Vice President Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil; Marilyn Sutton, city manager, Livingston; Mitzi Thompson, city secretary, Crockett; and President Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

By Michele L. Glaser, TRMC

The Salt Grass Chapter held its 2006/07 organizational meeting on August 16 at Steak & Ale in Houston. New officers for 06/07 are President Michele Glaser; Vice President Yolanda Benitez; Secretary Kaylynn Holloway; Treasurer Shannon Price; and Historian Lisa Stavena. Appointments were made to various committees including the Audit, Banquet, Bylaws, Clerk of the Year, Deloris McKenzie Scholarship, Fundraising, Holiday Party, and Membership Committee. Members decided to continue holding monthly meetings at one central location.

Twenty-one members attended the September meeting. Representatives from the Galveston area office of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission gave an informative program on TABC's licensing requirements and enforcement procedures. Members unanimously endorsed Mary Lynne Stratta's candidacy for Second Vice President of the IIMC and voted to contribute \$2,000 from the Salt Grass Chapter towards her campaign.

Attendees included: Kaylynn Holloway, TRMC, West University Place; Sue Daniel, Humble; Deborah Loesch, TRMC, Hunters Creek Village; Michele Badia, Hunters Creek Village; Linda Vourazeris, Katy; Missy Bunch, Katy; Tracy Dutton, Bellaire; Lisa Stavena, Wharton; Beth Staton, Hedwig Village; Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, Friendswood; Sharon Parks, Friendswood; Melinda Welsh, Friendswood; Rose Hamidian, Webster; Pauline Small, TRMC, Webster; Shannon Price, Webster; Rena Hardage, Dickinson; Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, Bunker Hill Village; Sharon Moblo, Deer Park; Olga Garza, Southside Place; and Meredith Brant, Seabrook; Michele Glaser, TRMC, Seabrook.

Twenty-eight members attended the October meeting to hear a presentation from Tammy Lopez, Southwest Airlines, who explained Southwest's free SWABIZ program for tracking business travel. Tammy brought wonderful door prizes for Salt Grass members including free Houston Rockets tickets and two free coupons toward Southwest tickets.

Upcoming events include a presentation about notary duties and our annual holiday party at Webster City Secretary Pauline Small's house. ★

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

by Toni Chrestman, TRMC

The South Plains Chapter met in Lubbock on September 20 at the Lubbock Club. The meeting was hosted by the City of Ralls' Gloria Espinosa, TRMC.

President Gayla Cowan welcomed members and guests.

Gloria Espinosa introduced Karin McCay with KCBD. She spoke to us on stress: ways to recognize it and ways to manage it.

Gayla Cowan read correspondence: a thank you from Joyce Snay for hosting the June TMCCP seminar; a thank you from Ranette Larsen for the retirement card sent from our chapter; and a thank you from Karen Lawson for being chosen Municipal Clerk of the South Plains Chapter. Toni Wilson will send an email to the members from Joyce Snay concerning joint elections with school districts.

Tommy Combs reported that Kim Scofield with the Texas Library Association will present the program for our training seminar on October 13. The seminar will be on managing electronic records and improving filing systems. It will be held at the Garden and Arts Center in Lubbock.

Gloria Espinosa, chair of the nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers for 2007-2009: President Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown; Vice President LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Treasurer Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Secretary Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa; Historian Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/manager, Morton; and Trustee Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal. The officers were elected and will be installed at the December meeting.

The South Plains Chapter voted to contribute \$500.00 to Mary Lynne Stratta's campaign for 2nd Vice President of IIMC. The South Plains Chapter will purchase a \$50.00 gift card to be used as a door prize at the Graduate Institute in Novem-

ber. After some discussion it was the consensus of the membership to try sending the agenda for future meetings by email to those who have email and mailing those that don't have email. We will send the dues notices in the same manner.

The next meeting was set for December 13. TMCA President Patrice Fogerty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, will attend. Debbie Gressett of Seminole will host. We will have our Chinese Christmas gift exchange. Gifts should be in the \$15.00 range.

Members and guests attending were: JoAnn Beard, city secretary, Smyer; Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Mary Jo Collins, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Brownfield; Tommy Combs, deputy city secretary, Lubbock; Gayla Cowan, city secretary, Amherst; Gloria Espinosa, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Nancy Hale, city secretary, Spur; Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa; Belinda Hinojosa, city secretary, Plainview; Jodie House, Crosbyton; Mary Helen Jamerson, TRMC, Ralls (retired); Vallarie Jones, Earth; Vickie Kelley, city secretary, Earth; Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada; Stephanie Lee, Lubbock; Jane McDaniel, Lubbock; Sylvia Martinez, TRMC, utilities billing clerk, Plains; Jeannie Rogers, Tulia; Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/manager, Morton; Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface; Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Chris Wade, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland; Renee Wilbanks, city secretary, Idalou; Wilma Williams, city secretary, Denver City; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown.

The South Plains Chapter hosted a one-day seminar on October 13. The seminar speaker was Kim Scofield with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin. She is one of six analysts with TSLAC. The morning session was on Improving Filing Systems; the afternoon session was on Managing Electronic Records. There were 25 in attendance. ★

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