



# TMCA NEWS

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## President's Message

Wow! Time really does fly by when you are having fun! I can not believe the year has passed so quickly. It seems like only yesterday I stood before you, taking an oath to uphold and faithfully execute the duties as TMCA, Inc., 2009 President. I will always remember that night.

As my year comes to an end, I must say it has truly been a tremendous journey. However, I could not have taken this trip alone. I had so many professional leaders riding right beside me in ALL of you. As a municipal clerk, deputy, or assistant, you have made my tenure as president such an easy transition. I thank each of you first for your participation and support of your professional association. I thank each of you for



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TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC  
City Secretary, Waco

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

your dedication and the initiative of wanting the very best for our association. I thank each of you, just for being who you are. We all have different profiles (Director, Thinker, Socializer, Relater), but once you add a little motivation, a little patience, a little self-control, a little determination, and a little creativity, our unity results in one great organization!

In traveling to local TMCA chapters and meeting with TMCA committees, I have gotten to meet and welcome new clerks and become reacquainted with the seasoned clerks.

Through the leadership and management of the executive board and TMCA staff, we continue to maintain and provide quality educational training. We have obtained the very best instructors and selected seminar topics that are relevant to our profession. As technology continues to advance, TMCA must continue to review current practices and stay connected with all the facets of technology. In doing that, we have

- **Increased TMCA membership to 929 (an all-time high)**
- **Experienced significant growth in TMCCP enrollment; the number of graduates continues to increase each year**
- **Reviewed, processed, and issued 10 travel stipends**
- **Reviewed, processed, and issued 12 TMCCP registration scholarships and 15 major scholarships**
- **Reviewed and evaluated seminar locations**
- **Subscribed to new evaluation/survey software**
- **Reviewed and evaluated all seminar evaluation concerns and proposals**

## 2009 in Review

### *Attendance Tracking Upgrade*

*In response to members' requests for a method to replace the paper attendance-sign-up sheets with a faster, more accurate process, we switched to name badge scanners in 2009. Members had previously shared their concerns via seminar evaluations for a fairer process that accurately measured the actual contact hours spent in the classroom.*

*To protect and improve the credibility of the educational sessions for purposes of certification, the TMCA board members decided that a more accurate measure of attendance could be obtained by use of electronic scanners. Scanning is a more objective, documented process for recording actual attendance hours required for the TRMC Certification. Scanning attendance also saves time and money in the process of transferring credits to members' transcripts after seminars.*

*IIMC and other professional associations are also instituting scanners for attendance at their future educational sessions.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Purchased and implemented seminar attendance tracking software
- Purchased equipment and implemented digital recording of executive board meetings
- Made the decision to purchase software licensing for online association management in order to expand services to our membership
- Appointed a committee to research and consider educational options for TRMC recertification
- Represented and supported our own Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta, IIMC President, as she took the charge to lead us internationally
- Worked with IIMC Region IV Directors in coordinating the IIMC Region IV seminar

These are just a few accomplishments. We will continue to evaluate solutions for the betterment of our association as we continue

to be a catalyst for the region and around the nation. We will spread our wings through journeys unknown, landing on nothing but the very best for TMCA, Inc.

There are several great initiatives underway for TMCA that our future leaders will continue to pursue with favorable membership support. I look forward to being part of the future successes of TMCA.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as your 2009 President. Thanks to TMCA, Inc., staff and the executive board. Special thanks to the Waco city council members for their support. A HUGE thanks to my wonderful staff for their support and carrying on during my absences.

Many thanks to each of you!

*Trish*

**Patricia Ervin, TRMC  
2009 TMCA President**



On behalf of the TMCA membership, 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC (*right*), presents a plaque of appreciation to 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC.

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# 2009 Presidential Travel

President Patricia Ervin traveled all across Texas this year from her home city of Waco. She met with the sixteen TMCA chapters, attended four TMCA board meetings and the IIMC Region IV meeting, and represented Texas at the IIMC Annual Conference in Chicago!



**Panhandle Chapter**  
December 17, Amarillo

**South Plains Chapter**  
December 16, Lubbock

**West Texas Chapter**  
August 26, Midland

**Hill Country Chapter**  
June 24, Fredericksburg

**Alamo Chapter**  
September 25, San Antonio  
TMCA Board Meeting, Annual Banquet  
October 7-10, San Antonio

**Bluebonnet Chapter**  
March 11, Stephenville

**Lone Star Chapter**  
October 14, The Colony

**Red River Chapter**  
September 16, Wichita Falls

**North Texas Chapter**  
June 10, Irving

**TMCA Board Meetings**  
March 13, July 17, November 13, Dallas

**Central Texas Chapter**  
February 18, Hewitt

**Northeast Texas Chapter**  
March 20, Tyler

**Pineywoods Chapter**  
October 17, Lufkin

**Salt Grass Chapter**  
December 2, Houston

**Coastal Bend Chapter**  
August 13, Port Aransas

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter**  
November 20, McAllen



**IIMC Annual Conference**  
May 18-24, Chicago, IL



**Key:**  
--- airplane travel  
— automobile travel

# 2009 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Honorees



**Debbie Chelf, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Hutto  
CAPITAL CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

**Toni Chrestman, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Slaton  
SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

**Carole Ehrlich, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Wylie  
LONE STAR CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
& STATE NOMINEE

**Suzanne Finch, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Hereford  
PANHANDLE CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
& STATE NOMINEE

**LeAnn Gallman, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Muleshoe  
SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
STATE NOMINEE

**Melba Haralson**  
City Secretary, Gladewater  
NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR



**Norma Grimaldo, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Odessa  
WEST TEXAS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
& STATE NOMINEE

**Donna Hawkins**  
City Secretary,  
Beverly Hills  
CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

**Trish Holley, TRMC**  
City Clerk, Burkburnett  
PANHANDLE CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
& STATE NOMINEE

**Mary Kayser, TRMC**  
City Secretary,  
Garland  
NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER  
STATE NOMINEE

**Linda Knight, TRMC**  
City Secretary,  
Breckenridge  
BLUEBONNET CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR & STATE NOMINEE

**Laure Ladner, TRMC**  
City Sec./Office Mgr., Hemphill  
PINEWOODS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR



**Lydia Lopez, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Hewitt  
CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER  
STATE NOMINEE

**Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**  
City Clerk, San Marcos  
CAPITAL CHAPTER  
STATE NOMINEE

**Linda Rhodes, TRMC**  
City Secretary,  
Lake Worth  
NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

**Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Victoria  
COASTAL BEND CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
& STATE NOMINEE

**Leticia Vacek, TRMC**  
City Clerk, San Antonio  
ALAMO CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
& STATE NOMINEE  
**TMCA MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR**

**Sandra Watkins, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Deer Park  
SALT GRASS CHAPTER  
MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR  
& STATE NOMINEE

TMCCP SEMINAR

# Election Law Seminar

January 11-13, Irving, Texas

Early Registration Deadline: *December 28*

Join us **January 11-13** at the **Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW** in Irving for our annual **Election Law Seminar!** **Learn more and register now.**

The optional **Pre-Seminar Session** covering “**Responsibilities of the Municipal Clerk in Municipal Elections**” and “**Step-by-Step Process of an Election**” runs Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This Pre-Seminar session is recommended for those new to elections, or for those experienced in elections who are seeking a refresher. Registration for this session includes the invaluable “**Step-By-Step**” **booklet.**

A new optional **Question-and-Answer Session** will be held for an hour at 6:00 p.m. on Monday. Anyone is welcome to attend this informal session.

The **Election Law Seminar** begins at **7:00 p.m. on Monday** and adjourns at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday. (*A list of topics and speakers is available in the chart at right.*)

Our Tuesday luncheon features a **graduation ceremony** for all those who have earned their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification through TMCCP in 2009. **Our keynote speaker will be Texas Secretary of State Esperanza “Hope” Andrade.**

We hope to see you in Irving this January! **Register today.**

## Pre-Seminar Session

**Monday, January 11, 10:30-4:00 p.m.**

### **Responsibilities of the Municipal Clerk in Municipal Elections**

#### **Step-By-Step Process of an Election**

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, City Secretary, Missouri City  
Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary, Garland  
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, City Clerk, San Marcos  
Toni Milam, TRMC, City Secretary, Buda

## Q&A Session (optional)

**Monday, January 11, 6-7:00 p.m.**

Featuring a panel of city secretaries  
*This session is open to any pre-seminar or seminar attendee.*

## Election Law Seminar

**Monday, January 11, 7:00 p.m.–**

**Wednesday, January 13, 11:00 a.m.**

*Monday evening concurrent sessions (choose one):*

### **Provisional Voting**

Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary, Garland  
Susie Quinn, TRMC, City Secretary, Rowlett  
Tonya Todd, TRMC, City Secretary, Wink

*or*

### **Contracting/Joint Elections**

Patricia Ervin, TRMC, City Secretary, Waco  
Pam Schmidt, TRMC, City Secretary, Richardson  
Bruce Sherbet, Elections Administrator, Dallas County  
Kathy Van Wolfe, Elections Admin., McLennan County

*Tuesday and Weds. concurrent sessions (attend all three):*

### **Legislative Update/Training Workers**

Bruce Sherbet, Elections Administrator, Dallas County  
*and*

### **Special Elections, Recount, Cancellations, & DOJ Submissions**

Alan Bojorquez, Bovey & Bojorquez, LLP  
*and*

### **Early Voting**

Art Camacho, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Haltom City  
Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Wichita Falls  
Sandra Watkins, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Deer Park

# 2009 TMCA Annual Banquet

*October 8, 2009 • The Menger Hotel, San Antonio*



*TMCA held a memorable Annual Banquet this year at the historic Menger Hotel on San Antonio's Riverwalk. TMCA members were recognized, scholarships were awarded, 2009 retirees were honored, the 2009 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year was announced, and our 2010 officers were sworn into office.*

*The following pages in this special newsletter section offer a glimpse of this terrific event. We hope to see you next year at the Annual Banquet in Galveston!*



San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro welcomes the banquet attendees.

Photo courtesy Leticia Vacek, TRMC



© Paul Traves, T16 Photography



Photo courtesy Teresa Moore



Photo courtesy Thelma Lenz, TRMC

*Top left photo:* San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro poses with the Jefferson High School Mariachi Group. The Group serenaded the banquet attendees with wonderful music.

*Center left photo (from left to right):* Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Buda; Teresa Moore, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay; Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; and Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander.

*Lower left photo: Seated, from left to right—*Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; Crystal Scott, deputy city secretary, Webster; Charlotte Tighe; and Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park. *Standing, from left to right—*Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood; and Robin Eldridge, administrative secretary, La Porte.



Photo courtesy Irma Parker, TRMC

*Above (from left to right):* Edna Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville; Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; Cindy Cerny, city secretary, El Campo; and Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria.

*At right (from left to right):* IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; 2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; and TMCA Past President Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio.



Photo courtesy Leticia Vacek, TRMC



Photo courtesy Leticia Vacek, TRMC



*Above photo:* The Jefferson High School Mariachi Group plays to the TMCA Executive Board.

*Top left photo:* Trustees are administered the oath of office. *From left to right:* Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster; Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen; and Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman.

*Center left photo:* All 2009 TMCA committee chairs are recognized.

*Lower left photo:* TMCA/TMCCP staff are recognized. *From left to right:* Administrative Assistant Miriam Sheehan, TRMC; Education Director Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC; and Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC.

*At right:* Past President Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio, is recognized.

## 2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Leticia Vacek, TRMC

**Congratulations to Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio, on being selected as the 2009 TMCA, Inc., Municipal Clerk of the Year!**

Leticia was presented this award by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen, on October 8 during the TMCA Annual Banquet at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in San Antonio.

Leticia has served as city clerk of the City of San Antonio since 2004. She began her career in municipal government in 1983 as a receptionist with the City of Harlingen. While at Harlingen, she advanced to secretary in the city secretary's office, then secretary to the city manager, and finally assistant city secretary. Leticia was hired as assistant city clerk by the City of McAllen in 1988, was appointed city clerk in 1990 by the mayor and city council, and later promoted to director of administration/city clerk.



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TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Leticia Vacek, TRMC (left), city clerk, San Antonio, with TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen.

## MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR LETICIA VACEK, TRMC

While at McAllen, Leticia made productive innovations into the functioning of the Office of the City Clerk. She budgeted to upgrade computer hardware, modernized the office, and purchased and incorporated records and vital stats technology. Her initiative and determination resulted in a recodification of the city's Code Book for the first time in almost 30 years.

Five years later, Leticia and her staff transitioned into a new city hall. In her new capacity as director of administration/city clerk, Leticia played an important role in overseeing the layout of the administrative offices.

Leticia's other milestones at McAllen included implementation of an in-house electronic city council agenda system; development of an electronic records division, where files that had met retention could be destroyed semi-annually; and implementation of a new scanning system in the Vital Statistics Division—for which she would be awarded the "5-Star Award" from the Texas Department of Health for surpassing outputs while maintaining the integrity and standards of the office. Leticia also oversaw the City's Cable Network Department and oversaw the implementation of the new off-site Mail Center.

In 2004 Leticia was appointed city clerk of the City of San Antonio by the mayor and council, where she has

continued her commitment to excellence. She has a staff of 25 and reports directly to the mayor and council. Leticia has secured grants for a conveyor/compactor and industrial shredder for the Municipal Records Facility, saving 8 tons monthly of recycled material from going into the landfill. She oversaw the implementation of an in-house, web-based, online campaign finance system—a system in which San Antonio was the first Texas city to file campaign reports electronically online and be searchable. This electronic system was recently sold to the City of Dallas, and is being licensed in order to market the software.

Leticia also recognized the need for an archivist due to the rich history that San Antonio has to offer. She hired the first archivist for the City of San Antonio in 2006. Since 2004, grants totaling over \$250,000 have been awarded to preserve the city's historical documents and for records equipment. Penned letters from Santa Anna and Porfirio Diaz have been restored and reproduced for showcasing.

Throughout her career in municipal government, Leticia has been tireless in her pursuit of education. When the demands of her career ruled out full-time enrollment in college, Leticia adapted by enrolling in night school and also attending classes during her lunch hour and weekends. She graduated Phi Theta Kappa

*The San Antonio City Council recognized Leticia Vacek at a city council meeting with a dozen yellow Texas roses. "Leticia brings a spectacular work ethic, integrity, and professionalism to her work.*

*This recognition is well-deserved," said Mayor Julián Castro.*

## MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR LETICIA VACEK, TRMC

with an Associate's Degree in Public Service Administration from South Texas College, and earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of the Incarnate Word in May 2009. She recently was accepted and is enrolled in the Master's Degree Program of Organizational Development through the University of the Incarnate Word.

Leticia enrolled in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program in 1988, and graduated in less than three years with the prestigious Texas Registered Municipal Clerk designation. She has since recertified three times, and is enrolled in her fourth recertification. Leticia earned her Certified Municipal Clerk designation through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) in 1993. She is also enrolled in the Master Municipal Clerk Academy through IIMC.

Leticia has been an active member of TMCA since 1987. She served as a trustee on the TMCA board from 1997-1999, served on the Certification Committee from 1992-1996, and has served on TMCA's Local Government Records Committee (representing counties with a population more than 10,000) since 2004. She has also volunteered on the TML Booth Committee, and chaired the Retirement, Municipal Clerk of the Year, and Scholarship Committees. Leticia is currently active in the Alamo Chapter, where she serves as the immediate past president. She has also held membership in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter in the past, and served as their vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Leticia is a member of IIMC and has served on their Membership, San Antonio Conference, and International Relations Committees.

Leticia is active in the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas-San Antonio Chapter (HWNT) and served as 2005 Honorary Chair for the State



Photo courtesy Leticia Vacek, TRMC

Municipal Clerk of the Year Leticia Vacek, TRMC, with San Antonio City Councilmembers at the TMCA Annual Banquet. [View more photos from the banquet.](#)

Conference. She is currently serving her second year as the Chair of the HWNT-San Antonio Chapter Breakfast Scholarship Committee. She was awarded the 2006 "Corporate Award" from the La Prensa Foundation. She also serves as a board member of her Homeowners Association, and is past Girl Scout Leader and treasurer for her daughter's troop.

Leticia has instructed classes on "Election Training," "Records Training," "Vital Statistics Training," and "Effective Minute-Writing Skills." She has also served as a convener for the annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Leticia co-authored chapters in the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook* in 2001, 2003, and 2006. ★

## 2010 TMCA Executive Board

*The TMCA officers were installed at the Annual Banquet on October 8 in San Antonio.*

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*Seated, from left to right:*

Immediate Past President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, City Secretary, Waco

Vice President LeAnn Gallman, TRMC City Secretary, Muleshoe

President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC City Secretary, Richardson

President Elect Mary Kayser, TRMC City Secretary, Garland

*Standing, from left to right:*

Treasurer Art Camacho, TRMC City Secretary, Haltom City

Trustee Sherry Mashburn, TRMC City Clerk, San Marcos

Trustee Annette Villarreal, TRMC City Secretary, McAllen

Trustee Pauline Small, TRMC City Secretary, Webster

Trustee Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC City Secretary, Spearman

Trustee Susie Quinn, TRMC City Secretary, Rowlett

Trustee Linda Knight, TRMC City Secretary, Breckenridge

Secretary Norma Grimaldo, TRMC City Secretary, Odessa

# 2010 TMCA Officers & Committees

Officers

**President Pamela Schmidt**  
City Secretary, Richardson  
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**President Elect Mary Kayser**  
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mkayser@ci.garland.tx.us

**Vice Pres. LeAnn Gallman**  
City Secretary, Muleshoe  
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Muleshoe, TX 79347  
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**Secretary Norma Grimaldo**  
City Secretary, Odessa  
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Odessa, TX 79760  
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**Treasurer Art Camacho**  
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**Immediate Past President Patricia Ervin**  
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## TRUSTEES

**Cheryl Gibson-Salgado**  
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Management Committee Chair Lila Fuller, Nacogdoches; Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Administrative Director*

Committees

## Advisory Management Committee

**Lila Fuller**, Nacogdoches, Past President, Chair  
**Patricia Ervin**, Waco, Immediate Past President  
**Mary Kayser**, Garland, President Elect  
**Pamela Schmidt**, Richardson, President  
**Becky Garza**, Lubbock, Certification Committee Chair (non-voting member)  
**Peggy Burnside**, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Director (non-voting member)

## Audit Committee

**Cheryl Gibson-Salgado**, Spearman, Chair  
**Karen Thompson**, Pflugerville  
**Teresa Valdez**, Bastrop  
**LeAnn Gallman**, Muleshoe, Board Liaison

## Historian

**Suzanne Finch**, Hereford

## Membership Committee

(Comprised of **Chapter Presidents**)  
**Melba Haralson**, Gladewater, Chair  
**Cheryl Gibson-Salgado**, Spearman, Board Liaison

## Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee

**Debbie Chelf**, Hutto, Chair  
**Tracy Freimarck**, Windcrest  
**Ron Gonzales**, Fort Worth  
**Annette Villarreal**, McAllen, Bd. Liaison

## Nominating Committee

**Toni Chrestman**, Slaton, Chair  
**Brenda Dennis**, Schertz  
**Diana Echartea**, Wortham  
**Laure Ladner**, Hemphill  
**Angela Winkle**, Crowley  
**Pamela Schmidt**, Richardson, Bd. Liaison

## Open Records Steering Committee

**Melissa Brunner**, Flatonia

## Resolutions Committee

**Carole Vanzant**, Fair Oaks Ranch, Chair  
**Trish Holley**, Burkburnett  
**Irma Parker**, Rockport  
**Perla Zamora**, McAllen  
**Susie Quinn**, Rowlett, Board Liaison

## Retirement Committee

**Danette Dunlap**, Abilene, Chair  
**Thelma Lenz**, West University Place  
**Gayle Walton**, Wylie  
**Gail Weir**, Ore City  
**Linda Knight**, Breckenridge, Board Liaison

## Scholarship Committee

**Marie Balthrop**, Holliday, Chair  
**Toni Milam**, Buda  
**Brenda Shaw**, Morton  
**Christie Shivers**, Mexia  
**Peggy Burnside**, TMCCP/TMCA Administrative Director  
**Sherry Mashburn**, San Marcos, Bd. Liaison

## Technology Committee

**Patrice Fogarty**, Missouri City, Co-Chair  
**Shelley George**, Allen, Co-Chair

## TML Booth Committee

**Scarlet Swoboda**, Victoria, Chair  
**Coastal Bend Chapter Members**

## TML Representative

**Mary Kayser**, Garland, President Elect

## Certification Committee

**Rebecca Garza**, Chair  
City Secretary, Lubbock  
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Pamela Schmidt, TMCA President; Mary Kayser, TMCA President Elect; and Patricia Ervin, TMCA Immediate Past President*

## 2010 President Pamela Schmidt's Acceptance Speech

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2010 President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC  
City Secretary, Richardson

*Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, was elected the 58<sup>th</sup> president of TMCA during the TMCA Annual Business Meeting on October 8, 2009, in San Antonio. She presented this acceptance speech to attendees of the TMCA Annual Banquet.*

Thank you, Madame President. Good evening, everyone.

Wow!! What a journey I have been on for the past 23 years. When I moved to Texas in July 1986 and began working for the City of Balch Springs in the Public Works Department, I had no idea that the position and profession of city secretary existed. And today I'm embarking on what will be one of the most important responsibilities of my career—president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

I don't recall how I learned about the first Election Law Seminar I attended in 1988, but while I was there, I quickly learned that there was much more to being a city secretary than drafting minutes of city council meetings. This organization not only taught me about the duties that city secretaries are bound by law to perform, but it also taught me what it means to be a professional. Since being appointed city secretary of Balch Springs in October of 1987, I have also served the cities of Duncanville and Carrollton and I am now happily serving the City of Richardson.

## PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Each city had a different organizational structure, and while many responsibilities were similar, each challenged me to grow personally and professionally. TMCA helped to make that growth possible. The challenges started with my first election in May 1988 when I realized on Election Day that I had not given the election judges the ballots. Can you imagine the panic that set in and what a sight I must have been: eight months pregnant, running across an open lot to give the Judge the ballots. Thank goodness the polling location was next door. I relied on the information provided to me during the January seminar to do what was needed, and the election proceeded on without any other issues. I survived. Before leaving Balch Springs, I was also given the opportunity to experience working with a Charter Commission and holding a successful election adopting the first City Charter making Balch Springs a Home Rule City. That first charter was not perfect, but as current City Secretary Cindy Gross can tell you, the city is continuing to move forward today.

In Duncanville, I was given the challenge of learning to act as co-editor of the newsletter, and during the last two years there, I was also given the responsibility of purchasing agent. Among other things, the City of Carrollton gave me the opportunity to learn about the petition review process after receiving petitions for recall of all but one member of the City Council. The process was very much a manual process then, and it was no small task—not to mention the political tension that comes with such an election.

Now I am serving the City of Richardson. Here I have had to use those petition certifying skills I learned in Carrollton to review petitions for the sale of beer and wine, and mixed beverages. I know many of you have also had this

*“I value all of the experiences in each city, and I can look forward to future challenges because I know the people of this organization support one another.”*



Above: 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC (right), swears in 2010 TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC.

## PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

experience. For the past two years, open record requests have been my challenge. So far, I have survived. I value all of the experiences in each city, and I can look forward to future challenges because I know the people of this organization support one another.

There were easy times and rough times with each community, and I have relied on several things to get me through the rough times. First and foremost, I counted on my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Him all things are possible. He gave me my family, my friends, my colleagues, and the Texas Municipal Clerks Association to help me through it all. I don't know that I would have survived without every bit of the help I received.

This Association has given me much more than I have time to talk about this evening so I won't try to. Instead I am issuing a challenge. I ask each and every one of you to frame a copy of our **Code of Ethics** and place it in a prominent position in your office or work space. I ask you to read it on the first workday of every month for the next year. As you read it, take a few minutes to reflect on the

various occurrences of the past month and consider if there were times you could have made a different decision. What impact would a different decision have had? Think about what actions you could take in the future, should you find yourself in a difficult position, or what advice you might give in the event you get that call from a colleague seeking help. If you do this, then when the next difficulty arises, personally or professionally, you will be better prepared to follow the ethical path of honesty, integrity, loyalty and courtesy. Every one of us leads very busy lives and we are pulled in many different directions. It is very easy to get off track. But people of integrity and strong ethics always want to do the right thing, follow the right course, make the right decision, pass the exam and finish the last book report. Our Code of Ethics helps us to stay on track. Where would we be, who would we be, if we didn't care; if we didn't have strong ethics. The people in our communities expect city secretaries to know the answer or to know how to get the answer. They expect us to be impartial, but caring. They expect us to be there in the good times and the bad, and although government employees often get a bad rap, they

“*To my fellow clerks,  
thank you for  
the privilege of  
serving you  
as president of the  
Texas Municipal Clerks  
Association.*

*I pledge to  
be here for you,  
and to do all that I can  
to further  
this organization  
and our  
Certification Program  
to greater heights.”*

## PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Photograph © Paul Traves, f16 Photography

call *us* and they rely on *us*. As Albert Einstein said, "Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value." I believe that our Code of Ethics helps us to be people of value. So again, I challenge you to read our Code of Ethics on the first workday of each month and keep it at the forefront of your mind as you go through the days and weeks ahead.

Speaking of caring, I want to recognize a few people who have helped me along the way. When I first received a call to serve on the board as a trustee from our fearless leader, Dr. Joyce Snay, I was thrilled but felt totally inadequate to take on the responsibility. Joyce didn't see it that way and she pushed me forward. So, thank you, Dr. Snay for being there, for pushing me, for guiding me, for believing in me.

I also want to thank those who went before me; those who I have great respect for; those I'm honored to follow. I won't name them all, but I will name a few: Alyce Deering, former city secretary, City of Hurst; Marty Hendrix, city secretary, City of Fort Worth; Ranette Larsen, retired city secretary, City of Garland; Alice Church, retired city secretary, City of Fort Worth; Norma Rodriguez, retired city secretary, City of San Antonio; Dorothy Byrd,



2010 President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, speaking at the TMCA Annual Banquet.

retired director, TMCA/TMCCP. All have been an inspiration to me.

Others who have inspired me and given me purpose are the members of the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association and the Lone Star Chapter. The members of both associations have supported me over these many years, and their hard work and dedication to the city secretary profession keeps me encouraged. And it lets me know that TMCA is fulfilling its purpose. Thank you.

To my fellow clerks, thank you for the privilege of serving you as president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. Please call me, **email me**, or contact me in whatever way is convenient if there is anything I can do or if you have any ideas or suggestions that you feel the board needs to consider. I pledge to be here for you and to do all that I can to further this organization and our Certification Program to greater heights.

Now, in the words of former colleague Terre Noble, City of Center, "always remember, in whatever you do, shoot for the moon—and if you miss, you'll still land among the stars." Thank you. ★

PROFILE

# New Executive Board Trustees Cheryl Gibson-Salgado & Annette Villarreal

*Congratulations to Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman, and Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen, on their election to the 2010 TMCA executive board!*

Photographs © Paul Traves, f16 Photography



***Cheryl Gibson Salgado***

has served as city secretary of the City of Spearman since 1986. In February 2009, she was also appointed assistant city manager.

Cheryl received her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) in January 2000 (No. 345). She recertified in 2005 and 2010. Cheryl is also an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk.

**(continued)**



***Annette Villarreal*** has served

at the City of McAllen since 1992. She began at McAllen as a clerk in the city manager's office, then became senior clerk in the city secretary's

office the following year. In 1996 she advanced to the position of deputy city secretary; she was promoted to interim city secretary in June of 2004, and became city secretary in October 2004.

**(continued)**

## NEW TRUSTEES

### **Cheryl Gibson-Salgado (continued)**

Cheryl is active in her professional affiliations. In TMCA, she has served on the Membership Committee (1999-2001), Audit Committee (2004 and 2009 [chair]), Resolution Committee (2002 and 2005 [chair]), and Municipal Clerk of the Year (2006, chair). She is a member of the TMCA Panhandle Chapter, where she was honored with the chapter's nomination for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2008. She has been a TMCCP Election Law convener. Cheryl is an IIMC member, and is a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC). She has served on the IIMC Hospitality Committee and the 2002 Annual Conference Committee. She is also a member of the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT).

Cheryl's community activities include the Chamber of Commerce Miss Hansford Scholarship Pageant and Beta Sigma Phi. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening, volunteering, and time spent with family and friends.

Cheryl is married to Frank Salgado Sr., has four step-children, eleven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

When asked to comment on her appointment to the TMCA executive board, Cheryl said, **"I am sincerely honored to be chosen to serve as a trustee on the TMCA board. I aspire to be an asset to TMCA and to professionally grow from this experience. I am proud to serve the City of Spearman, represent the Panhandle area, and look forward to serving our organization."**

### **Annette Villarreal (continued)**

Annette received her TRMC Certification in January 2007 (No. 521), and is currently enrolled in her first recertification. She is also enrolled in the Certified Public Manager Program, Class I, at UTPA.

Annette is active in her professional affiliations. In TMCA, she served on the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee in 2007, then chaired the committee in 2009; she has also chaired the Resolutions Committee. She is a member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter of TMCA, where she has served as chapter president, secretary/treasurer, and historian. She has been a member of IIMC since 1997. She has also served on the South Texas College

Administrative Office Careers Advisory Committee since 2005.

In her community, Annette is a member of the non-denominational Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida Church of Alton, Texas. Her hobbies include amateur photography, fishing, and family time.

Annette is the recent widow of Jesus (Jesse) Alberto Villarreal. Her family includes her mother, mother-in-law, eight sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. Annette's three pets are a six-year-old Shit-zu named Peggy Sue, a four-year-old Red Heeler named Girlie Girl, and a two-month-old mix named Sammy Jo.

When asked to comment on her appointment to the TMCA executive board, Annette said, **"I am excited to serve as a trustee of TMCA, Inc., and support the mission of the office, which is about promoting professional development. Presently I am a big advocate of mentoring not only within my organization but also within my local chapter; further, I will gladly step up to the plate and do my part in encouraging active participation in TMCA and TMCCP."** ★

## 2009 TMCA Scholarships

*Fifteen TMCA members were awarded scholarships at the Annual Banquet. This year the TMCA Major Scholarship Awards included the **Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship**, the **Lila Fern Martin Scholarship**, the **Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship**, and individual scholarships from the following vendors: **American Legal Publishing**, **Franklin Legal Publishing**, **Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson**, and **Municipal Code Corporation**. Three **MCCi Records Management Scholarships** were also awarded.*

The TMCA Scholarship Committee awards scholarships annually amongst a pool of applicants based upon factors of eligibility. Thank you to this year's Scholarship Committee for their service: *Chair Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas; Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen; Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; and Board Liaison Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City.*

**[learn more about TMCA scholarship opportunities]**



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## SCHOLARSHIPS

Clockwise from top left: **Grace Tamez, TRMC**, city secretary, Helotes, is presented the **American Legal Publishing Scholarship** by **Richard Frommeyer**, codification consultant, American Legal Publishing.

Holly Harmon, TRMC (*not pictured*), records & info coordinator, McKinney, was awarded the **Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship**. TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Assistant **Miriam Sheehan, TRMC**, accepted on Holly Harmon's behalf. **Kirk Franklin**, president and attorney at law, Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., presented the award.

**Cara McPartland** (*lower far right*), city secretary, Wimberley, and **Sandy Hart, TRMC** (*bottom center*), city secretary, McKinney, were each presented a **Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship** by **Dale Barstow**, vice president sales, Municipal Code Corporation.

Toni Chrestman, TRMC (*not pictured*), city secretary, Slaton, was awarded the **Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship**. **LeAnn Gallman, TRMC**, city secretary, Muleshoe, accepted on Toni Chrestman's behalf. **Richard Hill**, partner, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, presented the award.



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thank you  
to our  
scholarship  
sponsors

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Russell Haddock**, senior account executive Southwest Region, **Municipal Code Corporation Innovations** (MCCi), presented three MCCi Records Management Scholarship awards at the TMCA Annual Banquet. This scholarship recognizes municipal clerks who have established outstanding systems for records management or who have improved existing systems; scholarship awards are used toward advanced or continued education. *From left to right: **Thelma Lenz, TRMC**, city secretary, West University Place, was awarded a Category 3 MCCi Records Management Scholarship (for an automated electronic records management system with imaging assistance); **Mary Kayser, TRMC**, city secretary, Garland, was awarded a Category 2 MCCi Records Management Scholarship (for a manual records management system with imaging assistance); and **Angela Stutts**, city secretary, Onalaska, was awarded a Category 1 MCCi Records Management Scholarship (for a manual records management system).*



## SCHOLARSHIPS



TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Joyce Snay, TRMC**, presented scholarships. *Far left:* **Mary Velasquez, TRMC**, city secretary, Eagle Pass, was awarded the **Lila Fern Martin Scholarship**. *From left to right:* the **Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship** was awarded to **Danette Dunlap, TRMC**, city secretary, Abilene; **Bill Flannery, TRMC**, city secretary/administrator, Comanche; and **Lisa Hernandez**, deputy city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch. *Far right:* TMCA Past President **Lydia Ozuna, TRMC**, city clerk, Wichita Falls, accepted the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship award on behalf of Sandy Page, deputy city secretary, Bowie (*not pictured*).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

This was the first year that the new **Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship** was awarded. TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Dr. Joyce Snay** presented the scholarship to two recipients: **Lindy Forsyth** (*left photo*), city secretary, Lefors, and **Melba Haralson, TRMC** (*right photo*), city secretary, Gladewater.

Thank you to all those who made donations to make this scholarship possible.

[Learn more about the Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship.](#)



SCHOLARSHIPS

# Thank You

to all those who have donated to TMCA scholarships in 2009

*American Legal Publishing  
Corporation*

*Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA*

*Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc.*

*Linebarger Goggan Blair  
& Sampson, LLP*

*Lone Star Chapter of TMCA*

*Municipal Code Corporation*

*Municipal Code Corporation  
Innovations (MCCi)*

*North Texas Chapter of TMCA  
(NTMCA)*

*Red River Chapter of TMCA*

*Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA*

*and the South Plains Chapter of TMCA*

# Thoughts on the Certification Program

and its influence on my

## *Life and Career*

*Retiree Betty Harrell, who was among the first TMCCP graduates (Certificate No. 2, 1972), spoke to TMCA banquet attendees about her years of service and her experiences in the Certification Program.*

On a Friday in September 1968, I entered the volunteer fire station (also city hall) for an interview with Bedford Mayor Jay Bruner. The city had recently adopted a city charter, and the first city manager and city secretary had resigned. My interview was for city secretary, and the only clue I had about the position was that it was only two miles from my home.

*Below: Betty Harrell, TRMC (left), city secretary (retired), Hillsboro, and TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, display Betty's original 1972 TMCCP certificate of graduation.*



## BETTY HARRELL

At the conclusion of the interview (during which the mayor filled out the application form for me), he asked if I could start to work immediately—meaning right now. I did get permission to make more suitable arrangements for my preschool children, and put on the pot roast I'd planned to serve my parents who were on their way from Arkansas. I began an incredible journey at 2:00 p.m. that day, one I have never regretted, a path I have been honored to travel.

The announcement of my appointment appeared in the Mid Cities Daily News and Margaret Larsen, Hurst city secretary, contacted Mayor Bruner about a new educational program the Texas clerks were launching through North Texas State University in Denton. The program would address the basic educational needs of city clerks and secretaries in Texas which at the best of times is difficult to pinpoint. The pilot program was developed over the next four years and included many of the modules used by clerks today in 2009. The project was the brain child of Dorothy Byrd, who had served as a city clerk in Andrews and returned to Denton for her doctorate. She was joined by city clerks from major cities in Texas who recognized that an informed, professional city secretary/clerk is an invaluable asset to every community no matter the population.



© Paul Traves, f16 Photography

*I began an incredible journey that day, one I have never regretted, a path I have been honored to travel.*

## BETTY HARRELL

The program gained momentum from the beginning as mayors and city managers from across the state encouraged their clerks/secretaries to take advantage of the professional training available. Some of the classes were taught by the pioneer clerks, but most were taught by Dorothy's associates from North Texas. The president of NTSU presented the certificates to the first graduating class in April 1972. I was personally escorted to the graduation by my husband Dale, along with City Manager Bob Blevins, outgoing Mayor Bruner and Alice and incoming Mayor Don Dodson and Peggy. And appropriately for the '70s I had a very large orchid corsage pinned to my suit! A BIG DEAL, which as I've observed the graduation exercises through the years, remains a BIG DEAL!

This past December I had the privilege of retiring as city secretary in Hillsboro, Texas. I describe my service as more of a rolling stone

The first graduating class of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, 1972. Inset: Betty Harrell, TRMC.



Graduation Exercises  
 North Texas State University  
 Institute for Executive Development Texas  
 Municipal Clerks and Secretaries  
 THURSDAY, APRIL TWENTIETH  
 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO  
 ONE O'CLOCK

Order of Exercises  
 Melba Flagg  
 Chairman of the Board of Education  
 Presiding

Invocation  
 C. B. Groves  
 City Secretary  
 Brady, Texas

Welcome  
 C. C. Nolen  
 President of the University

History of the Institute  
 Melba Flagg  
 City Secretary  
 Grand Prairie, Texas

Conferring of Certificate of Graduation  
 Dr. Gustave Ferre'  
 Vice President, Academic Affairs  
 North Texas State University

Texas Professional Municipal Clerk Secretary

Norton Barrett  
 Otella Clement  
 Virginia Cline  
 Cleon Compton  
 Marcella Cure  
 T. W. Daniel  
 Helen Fishbeck  
 Melba Flagg  
 Frederick Garza  
 Mary Gilliland  
 C. B. Groves  
 Betty Harrell  
 Margaret Larsen  
 Lee Lockard  
 Zelma Miller  
 Betty Murray  
 T. H. Norman  
 Kenneth Nunn  
 James O'Brien  
 Edna Oliver  
 Billie O. Partlow  
 Mary Perry  
 Joyce Rush  
 Sam Renshaw  
 Natividad Sanchez  
 Jack Spears  
 Jimmie Lou Stewart  
 Aliceanne Wallace  
 Betty Waters  
 Lahoma Wood

Crosbyton  
 Abernathy  
 La Porte  
 Nacogdoches  
 Andrews  
 Vernon  
 Brookshire  
 Grand Prairie  
 Elsa  
 Irving  
 Brady  
 Bedford  
 Hurst  
 W University Place  
 Brownfield  
 Katy  
 Killen  
 Texas City  
 Olney  
 Baytown  
 Breckenridge  
 Shoreacres  
 Livingston  
 Decatur  
 McAllen  
 Sherman  
 Floydada  
 Southlake  
 Lomax  
 Burk Burnett

## BETTY HARRELL

than the staid rock that would describe those who have served so many years faithfully among their families and friends in the same community. I have worked in many capacities in municipal governments in other states, but only in Texas in the position of city secretary. After retirement, what next? I took one day off and started my new career path as a Main Street Manager, focusing on marketing the city and preservation of our historic treasures in Hillsboro. It's really not so different from our city secretary responsibilities—just a little more time to focus on the individual projects.

From that September day in 1968 to today, my family would tell you that no matter where I have journeyed or whatever task I tackled, my basic approach to life and work has been influenced by my training as a city secretary/clerk. I am grateful to those pioneers from Hurst, Dallas, Fort Worth, Decatur, Waco, San Antonio, Irving, Grand Prairie, and others who set the standard for future generations of city servants. And I am thankful for all who have faithfully guarded the integrity of the clerk and expanded opportunities for these 41 years. ★

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009 TMCA Retirees

*Becky Brewster, TRMC, City Secretary, Van Horn*  
*Beverly Covington, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, McKinney*  
*Barbara Fuller, City Secretary, Keene*  
*Sylvia Glover, Assistant City Secretary, Fort Worth*  
*Betty Harrell, City Secretary, Hillsboro*  
*Barbara M. Haddock, TRMC, City Secretary, Hollywood Park*  
*Jan Kaase, TRMC, City Secretary, Brownwood*  
*Sandra Lee, City Secretary, Georgetown*  
*Carol Loucks, TRMC, City Secretary, Henrietta*  
*Nelda Mays, TRMC, City Secretary, Saginaw*  
*Patsy Marshall, TRMC, City Secretary, East Tawakoni*  
*Lois McCaleb, City Secretary, Longview*  
*Alda Montoya, City Secretary, Pharr*  
*Carolee Nance, City Secretary, Fritch*  
*Becky Null, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Euless*  
*Daphne Richardson, City Secretary, Cross Timber*  
*Judy Thompson, City Secretary, Everman*  
*Sylvia Trevino, City Secretary, Harlingen*  
*Vicky Varnau, TRMC, City Administrator, Pilot Point*  
*Beverly Weikum, TRMC, City Secretary, Lake Dallas*  
*Judy Womack, TRMC, City Secretary, Mesquite*  
*Teri White, City Secretary, Jamaica Beach*

## TMCCP SEMINAR RECAP • OCTOBER 8-9, SAN ANTONIO

## 2009 Graduate Institute

The TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in San Antonio on October 8-9 was a terrific success. "Achieving and Sustaining Excellence in Your Personal and Professional Life," presented by Judy King of Quality Management Services, was both educational and entertaining.

Next year's Graduate Institute Seminar will be held in Galveston on October 14-15, and will feature speaker Walt McBride discussing ethics. Registration will begin August 2010. We hope you will join us in Galveston!

*Inset top right:* Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney; Betty Brown, local gov./election specialist, Bickerstaff/Heath, Austin; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos; Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas; and speaker Judy King, Quality Management Services.

*Inset near right:* Speaker Judy King, Quality Management Services with TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC, and Administrative Assistant Miriam Sheehan, TRMC.

*Background:* Attendees of the seminar at luncheon. [View more photos from the Graduate Institute Seminar.](#)



# TML Report

By TML Representative Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary, Garland



Mary Kayser, TRMC

The Texas Municipal League Board of Directors met October 21 in Fort Worth during the 2009 TML conference. The board recognized our outgoing members. TML President John Cook announced the appointment of a TML Legislative Advisory Committee on the Texas Municipal Retirement System Issues. The formation of this legislative advisory committee was proposed by John Monaco, Mayor of Mesquite, and a TML Board member. President John Cook appointed 26 city officials to the advisory committee. TML will make a courtesy call on the TMRS executive director, and let him know what TML is doing with the committee and seek his input. The committee will also be developing legislative recommendations in preparation for the 2011 legislative session. I will keep you updated as the committee reports to the board.

Executive Director Sturzl reported on the Alpine case (Open Meetings case) and that it has been dismissed. Several cities may be filing an entirely new lawsuit based on the same legal principals as the Alpine case. TML member cities will be getting a letter explaining that a new suit is being filed and how to participate if they are interested. TML will file briefs in support of the plaintiff's position as they did in the Alpine case.

Mr. Sturzl also went over several laws that were passed that showed yet again how broken the legislative process can be. He additionally provided the board with some cor-

respondence from Senator Kel Seliger to the Public Utility Commission regarding municipal access line fees and the PUC's characterization of those fees as a tax. The ROW way fees are a value based rental for use of public property. Once again TML is looking out for municipalities and trying to help us keep our legitimate fees.

TML presented their annual audit and it was accepted by the board. The audit committee also recommended that the TML put in place conflict of interest policies for staff and board members; we should have those at the next meeting.

Later in the evening on October 21, TML hosted a dinner and reception at the Modern Art Museum for outgoing TML President John Cook, Mayor of El Paso.

On Thursday, October 22, TML hosted a reception at the Petroleum Club for incoming TML President Debra McCartt, Mayor of Amarillo.

On Friday, October 23, the TML Board met again to welcome new boardmembers and to receive a report from the nominating committee. Debra McCartt, Mayor of Amarillo, was elected TML President for 2009-2010, and Dr. Robert Cluck, Mayor of Arlington, was elected President Elect.

In the afternoon TML held discussion on the 2009 resolutions prepared by the TML Resolutions committee. The resolutions are listed on TML's [web page](#).

Our next meeting will be in Austin in April. ★

# TML Conference Booth

*TML Annual Conference, October 21-23, 2009, Fort Worth Convention Center*

Thank you to TML Booth Committee Chair Codi Delcambre, TRMC, town secretary, Argyle, and the TMCA North Texas Chapter members who comprised TMCA's 2009 TML Booth Committee! TMCA was well-represented at the conference, and it was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to Texas city officials.

*Thank you to all volunteers who staffed the TMCA booth and helped educate visitors about our Association and Certification Program.*

Jhanna Bogan, TRMC, city secretary, Springtown  
 Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City  
 Codi Delcambre, TRMC, town secretary, Argyle  
 Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne  
 Jean Dwinell, TRMC, city secretary, Fate  
 Carissa Finney, administrative assistant, Argyle  
 Rita Frick, TRMC, city secretary, Hurst  
 Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa  
 Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth  
 Trish Holley, city clerk, Burkburnett  
 Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland  
 Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos  
 Cynthia Olguin, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak  
 Sandy Page, deputy city secretary, Bowie  
 Ivy Peterson, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Cleburne  
 Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett  
 Sherry Reeves, admin. assistant, Grandview  
 Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie  
 Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson  
 Nicole Seidel, asst. to the city sec., Fort Worth  
 Elaine Simpson, city secretary/treas., Haslet  
 Jo Ann Talbot, TRMC, city secretary, Kaufman  
 Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park  
 Angela Winkle, TRMC, city secretary, Crowley  
 Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Pantego



*Seated left to right: Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park, and Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos, talk with a booth visitor.*

# IIMC News

By IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, City Secretary, Bryan



Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC

The IIMC Board of Directors met on November 6-7 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This site was chosen following a new mid-year meeting location bid process that resulted in a significant cost savings to IIMC over past mid-year meetings. The board spent significant time working on IIMC's first membership-driven long-range strategic plan. The board will finalize the plan for adoption at the May Board meeting. The strategic plan will then be presented to the membership at the annual business meeting to be held on Thursday, May 27, 2010.

The board spent the bulk of its time addressing issues and concerns with the education/certification guidelines that were adopted in October 2006. Since that time, our members have expressed continued concerns that the guidelines were rigid, inflexible, and inconsistent. I charged the Program Review and Certification Committee (chaired by Nancy Vincent, MMC, City Clerk, Thornton, Colorado, and vice chaired by our own Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, MMC, City Secretary, Missouri City) with conducting a thorough review of every aspect of the guidelines, to ascertain where changes were needed to provide more flexibility for our members seeking certification, to make certification as attainable and affordable as possible without "lowering the bar" or "watering down" the quality of education that comprises the standards for CMC and MMC certification, while protecting our institute structure. On top of that, I charged the committee with making sure that adequate feedback was received from institute directors, state/provincial associations, state/provincial education committees and our IIMC members, relative to the committee recommendations for the board's consideration. No easy task, I know! However, I am proud to report that the PR/C Committee, led by Nancy and Patrice, surpassed all expectations. We received more input on their report than on any other issue in the history of IIMC, making the board's decision path more concise and clear. Nancy attended the board meeting in Albuquerque to present the committee report and feedback analysis. I also stressed to the committee and the board of directors the absolute necessity that IIMC continue to respect the partnership with our IIMC approved institutes, which are the backbone of our educational infrastructure.

## IIMC News

The following changes to the guidelines were approved by the board and will be implemented January 1, 2010, in conjunction with the end of the current grandfathering period (another of my charges to the Committee and Board of Directors):

1. Remove the current requirement that MMC candidates receive a minimum number of points per year to remain in the Academy. This was done as a result of the continued economic conditions that are preventing many of our members from obtaining enough education hours to earn the needed points. Money should never be a reason for a clerk to have to give up their goal to obtain the Master Municipal Clerk designation.
2. In order to provide more flexibility to MMC candidates, the number of points for MMC is set at 100: 60 education points, 20 professional/social contribution points, and 20 flexible points that can be counted as either, depending on what the clerk needs.
3. Agreed that IIMC approved institutes will continue to receive one education point for two hours of instruction; state/provincial associations will earn one education point for four hours of instruction; and all other training will earn one experience or professional/social contribution point for six hours of training. The points assessment will be consistent across the spectrum of the membership.
4. Removed the requirement for pre-approval of courses by institutes.
5. Agreed that state/provincial associations should continue to pre-file documentation relative to training for points assessment, but that the process should be further streamlined and simplified.
6. Removed the cap for experience points for CMC; agreed that caps for college degrees or courses for MMC candidates will mirror the caps for CMC candidates (allowing more points for college courses); removed the current cap of 20 points for attendance at IIMC annual conferences; removed the current cap of 10 points for experience points (CMC) or professional/social contribution points (MMC) for attendance at conferences outside the institute or state associations; and removed the caps on distance education relative to IIMC education, institutes or courses on the approved list of courses.
7. Eliminated the CMC recertification program, but stressed that continued IIMC membership is necessary to maintain the designation, and as an encouragement to our CMC's to enter the MMC academy.
8. Agreed to implement a list of approved courses for CMC and MMC credit, but agreed the list was not all inclusive and must be fluid to allow additions as needed.
9. Agreed to allow up to eight (8) points, with scanning of attendance, at the IIMC annual conferences. In order to earn all eight points, a delegate must attend all educational session time slots during the entire conference. Educational sessions will be expanded to ensure adequate hours to translate to eight points.
10. Agreed that clerk presenters/instructors can earn points at the appropriate level for preparation and instruction time.
11. Agreed to ask PR/C to develop criteria for the awarding of points for future study abroad programs and that each study abroad program will be assessed points on its own merits.

## IIMC NEWS

12. Agreed with staff's recommendation to allow state associations or sponsoring groups hosting Athenian Dialogues to ascertain fees. IIMC will no longer require a \$100 fee per registrant. Sponsoring groups will be asked to use facilitators and books on IIMC's approved list. Agreed that participants can earn two education points with the completion of a learning assessment. Clerks seeking fellowship in the Athenian Leadership Society will still need to join the society by submitting \$15 and application form to IIMC.

The Board took other action as follows:

- Awarded the 2014 annual conference bid to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Adopted a balanced budget for 2010, as recommended by the Budget and Planning Committee.
- Approved the use of and funding for the implementation of attendance scanners beginning with the Reno conference.
- Approved funding for a new website, with an educational component to enhance distance education, networking, and communications for our members.
- Adopted educational mission, educational philosophy, professional certifications, and educational partnership statements as recommended by the Education and Professional Development Committee.
- Conducted the Executive Director's annual performance review.
- Accepted the Membership, Records Management and Research/Resource Committees' Reports.
- Approved the Budget and Planning, Public Relations/Marketing, Conference, International Relations, and Mentoring Committee reports.
- Adopted most of the policies submitted by the Policy Review Committee and sent some back for additional work by the Committee.
- Took no action on the Small Cities Task Force Report, and asked that the data from the survey be formulated in a manner that the Board can see the responses.
- Approved in concept (needing much more information) a proposal from the institute at Dalhousie University for an on line institute geared toward our international members.
- Ratified affiliation agreements signed by the President and our international partners in the Netherlands (VvG), the U.K. (ADSO and SLCC) and South Africa (IMASA).

In October, I used IIMC frequent flyer miles to travel to the Netherlands to meet with their new city clerks' association, the Vereniging van Griffiers (VvG). At that meeting, we signed an affiliation agreement to officially welcome them into IIMC membership and are researching the possibility of an institute at a public administration academy hosted by one of the universities there.

I then (at my own expense) participated in the Wales/England study abroad program. The first stop on the study program was Snowdonia in North Wales. There we met with Caernarfon Royal Town Clerk Katherine Owen and heard a fascinating presentation by the Welsh Assembly Government Heritage Minister, The Honorable Alun Ffred, regarding tourism in a declining economy while conserving the national park system. A national

## IIMC NEWS



park warden accompanied us to the summit of Mount Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales, while she explained the composition of the national park system and the role of local government in the system.

The next day we traveled to Aberystwyth, North Wales. En route, the Aberystwyth Town Clerk, Jim Griffiths, provided a Wales local government lesson. We met with his mayor, The Honorable Trevor Shaftoe, and toured the National Library of Wales. At the library, we met with the archivists and records preservationists who demonstrated the methodologies used to restore and preserve records and invaluable manuscripts and publications dating back to the 1100's.

We then traveled to Cardiff, the national capitol of Wales. We visited the Wales Millennium Centre, which was built with government dollars but is now self-supporting through its programs and donations from a charitable foundation to promote the arts. We also visited the Wales Assembly Government and learned about the building itself, which is a modern marvel of "green" construction, being self-heating and self-cooling. We met with Dr. Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, about devolved central and local government in Wales. He answered many questions for us about their national health program, funding for local government, taxation, quality of life issues, etc. We also attended a session of the Welsh Assembly and I, for one, was thrilled to learn that the Wales national government has more



*Top photo: Mary Lynne Stratta with the Wales/England study abroad group at Caernarfon Castle in Wales.*

*Above photo: Mary Lynne Stratta with the study abroad group in Aberystwyth, Wales (at center, Aberystwyth Town Clerk Jim Griffiths).*

*All photographs by IIMC member Wim Fluks, Netherlands, who participated in the Wales/England study abroad program.*

## IIMC News



female elected representatives (31 of 60) than any other national government in the world. While in Cardiff, we participated in a walking tour of the Cardiff Bay development area to learn about the public-private partnership to redevelop this area.

From there we journeyed to Cheltenham, England, where we met with Dr. Elisabeth Skinner, who serves as the institute director for the Institute of Local Council Management at the University of Gloucestershire, and her associate, Dr. James Derounian. They facilitated a session between study program participants and local town and parish clerks where we exchanged best practices. I was most pleased to finally meet Elisabeth face to face, as I have been working with SLCC Chief Executive Nick Randle for some time on designating the institute there as an IIMC institute as well, launching IIMC's first "joint institute" where local council clerks can work on their own certification and IIMC certification simultaneously. I am happy to report that their application as an IIMC institute is currently under review.

We next visited Blenheim Palace, whose Chief Executive also serves as a local town clerk. He presented an innovative and interesting business model for the future success of Blenheim Palace, which is the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. We then visited Christ Church University College, Oxford.



*Top photo:* At the National Assembly in Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, Wales. Left to right: Mary Lynne Stratta; Wim Fluks, IIMC member from the Netherlands; Dr. Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice & Local Government; and Alan Fairchild, External Affairs Officer for SLCC.

*Above photo:* At the University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, England—the group during a discussion of differences in local government.

All photographs by IIMC member Wim Fluks, Netherlands, who participated in the Wales/England study abroad program.

## IIMC NEWS



From Oxford the study program participants traveled to Daventry, where we attended the Society of Local Council Clerks conference. I want to thank Alan Fairchild, External Affairs Officer for SLCC, and his lovely wife, Lyn, for accompanying the study group participants on the entire journey. Alan was most helpful in that he gave us local government lessons during the entire time we were journeying from place to place. He and Lyn were excellent “chaperones,” and we thank them for their time and patience. At the SLCC conference, we heard several outstanding speakers and presented a session called “Lessons Learned from our International Partners,” where we shared the best practices we learned on the study program. I spoke to the delegates at the “Buck’s Fizz” breakfast about IIMC and the benefits of membership. At the SLCC conference, I was honored to sign a new affiliation agreement with the SLCC and to be named an Honorary Fellow of the Institute for Local Council Management. Ria Heitbrink, the President of the Institute of Municipal Administrators of South Africa, was present at the SLCC conference and we signed a new affiliation agreement between IMASA and IIMC. IMASA continues to work toward an IIMC approved institute in South Africa. I believe this visit with our international partners will facilitate the establishment of new institutes in Region XI, a stronger partnership with our international affiliates, and increased IIMC membership.



*Top photo:* Study abroad program participants presenting best practices learned at the SLCC Conference in Daventry, England.

*Above photo:* The group after high tea at the Althorp estate (Northampton, England), the ancestral home of the Spencer family and the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

*All photographs by IIMC member Wim Fluks, Netherlands, who participated in the Wales/England study abroad program.*

## IIMC NEWS

The 2010 annual conference will be held in Reno, Nevada, and will offer the lowest room rate in over a decade: \$99/night. This conference will be affordable for our members with this room rate, free shuttle service to/from the hotel, and low cost eateries of all sorts in the resort. The opening reception will be held at the National Automobile Museum and the all-conference event will be a visit to Virginia City of Bonanza fame, complete with gun fighters, Mark Twain (who lived and wrote there), and lots of other fun activities! Most importantly, the Nevada host clerks, the Nevada Institute Director, the IIMC Conference Committee and IIMC staff have put together an outstanding educational program. Look for the preliminary conference program in mid-December.

As always, I am grateful to my Texas friends for your continued support and encouragement. I am proud of the accomplishments of IIMC since May and look forward to a great year with everyone's hard work and support.

If you want additional information, please feel free to **contact me**. ★

## TMCCP Certificates Earned

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

### Course 1

Amy Arnold, White Settlement

Nan Brush, Bangs

Linda Byers, Vernon

Carolyn Caldwell, Lindale

Cindy Cerny, El Campo

Bruce Dunn, St Paul

Gale Ivy, San Saba

Kay Lunnon, Gainesville

Cara McPartland, Wimberley

Karen Mericle, Clear Lake Shores

Teresa L Moore, Horseshoe Bay

Ursula Paddie, Lampasas

Alicia Ramirez, San Angelo

Traci Riggs, Stephenville

Crystal N. Scott, Webster

Janelle Williams, Palestine

Kerry K. Williams, Llano

### Course 2

Debbie Thomas, Alvarado

Alicia Ramirez, San Angelo

### Course 3

Vickie Brenton, Winnsboro

Kelly Dix, Burnet

Dessie Enns, Redwater

Saundra Passailaigue, Shavano Park

Alicia Ramirez, San Angelo

Larry Thompson, Ganada

Karen Warren, Hillsboro

### Course 4

Kathryn Davidson, Gilmer

Alicia Ramirez, San Angelo

Debbie Thomas, Alvarado

Janelle Williams, Palestine

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Yolanda Benitez, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Garden Ridge

The Alamo Chapter held their monthly meeting on September 25 at Panchito's Mexican Grill located in The Quarry in San Antonio.

President Yolanda Benitez called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. After approval of the minutes of the May 22 meeting and the September treasurer's report, the following committee reports were presented:

**Bylaws Review Committee** – Vice President Brenda Dennis presented the proposed Bylaws to the membership and requested

*Below left:* Alamo Chapter President Yolanda C. Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge, presenting TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, with gifts of appreciation for coming to our meeting and addressing the membership.

*Below right:* The Alamo Chapter members at the September meeting in San Antonio.



## ALAMO CHAPTER

that an item approving the bylaws be placed on the next agenda.

**Scholarship Committee** – The new Alamo Chapter scholarship will be named “Norma Rodriguez Scholarship,” in honor of San Antonio City Clerk Emeritus Norma Rodriguez, TRMC. Committee Chair Leticia Vacek reported that seminar registrations were to be paid by scholarship funds for TMCA members only. An amount of \$350.00 to open the fund was suggested. President Benitez reminded members that \$10.00 of our local chapter dues goes toward this fund, and Treasurer Jennifer Reyna reported that we currently have \$310.00 in the scholarship fund. The following Alamo Chapter members said they would each donate \$50.00 to the fund: Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city secretary, San Antonio; Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge; and Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz. Ms. Vacek also reported that scholarship namesake Norma Rodriguez has also pledged \$100 towards this scholarship.

**Graduate Institute Host Committee** – Committee Chair Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights, stated that TMCA was requesting additional help concerning donation of a door prize from each chapter. Chair Reyna also requested more volunteers for transportation to and from the Records Facility. Tina Flores stated that they have a 16-passenger van that can be used for transportation on that day.

Vice President Dennis introduced the guest speaker, 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, who gave a motivational speech concerning TMCA and TMCCP, and encouraged



*At the September meeting.* At left: Celia DeLeon, Olmos Park, and Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights. At right: Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes; Sheila Edmondson, Cibolo; and Leticia Saenz, deputy city clerk, San Antonio; Amelia Ramirez, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights.

everyone to restore and exhibit professionalism when representing our cities. She announced that the IIMC Region IV meeting will be in San Marcos on December 3-5, and asked for assistance from the Alamo Chapter in hosting this meeting. Ms. Ervin also noted that TMCA has incentives for any TMCA member who submits names of city secretaries and city clerks who are not currently a member of the association. The chapter presented Ms. Ervin with gifts of appreciation.

President Benitez presented three chapter members with awards. Retired Hollywood Park City Secretary Barbara Haddock, received

## ALAMO CHAPTER

a TMCA blanket monogrammed with her name and year of retirement. Lisa Hernandez, deputy city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, received a “Texas” plaque in recognition of her selection as a Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship recipient; and Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio, received a plaque in recognition of her selection as the Alamo Chapter’s nominee for the TMCA Clerk of the Year. Cake was served in honor of the three ladies receiving these awards.

In other business, the membership approved canceling the November meeting and postponing it to December, which will include a holiday luncheon. The members voted to have the meeting at the City of Garden Ridge Community Center on December 11 at 11:30 a.m.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



The Alamo Chapter in San Antonio in September. Guest Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, sits front, center.

## ALAMO CHAPTER

The following members were present at the September Alamo Chapter meeting:

Janice Alamia, city secretary, Hollywood Park

Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge

Celia De Leon, Olmos Park

Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz

Sheila Edmondson, Cibolo

Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights

Linda Gill, city secretary, Castle Hills

Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville

Lisa Hernandez, deputy city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch

Jessica Johnson, asst. city secretary/HR, Hollywood Park

Sandra Passailaigue, city clerk, Shavano Park

Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights

Leticia Saenz, deputy city clerk, San Antonio

Judie Surratt, dep. city secretary/HR manager, Alamo Heights

Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes

Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio

Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch

Guests:

TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city sec., Waco

Tina Flores, San Antonio

Barbara Haddock, city secretary (ret.), Hollywood Park

Denise Luckey, San Antonio

Amelia Ramirez, San Antonio

Melinda Uriegas, San Antonio

## 2010 TMCCP SEMINAR CALENDAR

### January 11-13, 2010, Irving ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 4 seminar credit*

### April 8-9, 2010, San Marcos OFFICE ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION

Speakers:

UNT College of Business Administration faculty

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 2 seminar credit*

### June 17-18, 2010, Lubbock PUBLIC FUNDS INVESTMENT

Speaker: Patrick Shinkle

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 1 or 3 seminar credit*

### August 5-6, 2010, El Paso RECORDS MANAGEMENT/OPEN RECORDS/ PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Speaker: Mary Lynne Stratta & Lisa Johnston

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 2 seminar credit*

### October 14-15, 2010, Galveston GRADUATE INSTITUTE SEMINAR: ETHICS

Speaker: Walt McBride

*TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 1 seminar credit*

**Further details plus 2011 TMCCP seminars  
are available on our website.**

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Bluebonnet Chapter

By **Nancy Turnbow**  
*City Secretary, Baird*

The Bluebonnet Chapter met September 9 in Stamford. Stamford Chief Financial Officer Karen Lou Graham and Stamford City Secretary Susan Trotter were the hostesses for the meeting.

We were served a wonderful meal at the Cliff House Restaurant. James Decker from the Shotts, Pardue & Guevarra Law Firm spoke to the city secretaries concerning economic development issues. The business portion of the meeting was then held, during which several topics and chapter business were discussed. ★



James Decker, of the law firm Shotts, Pardue & Guevarra, address the Bluebonnet Chapter about economic development issues.

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Debbie Chelf, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Hutto*

The chapter met September 16 in Round Rock. The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; attendees were welcomed and introductions were made.

Chapter business included approval of the July meeting; presentation of the financial report and contributions to the Flower Fund; discussion on contribution to IIMC; and a report by Scholarship Chairman Debbie Chelf.

There was discussion on a door prize to be donated from the Capital Chapter for the 2009 TMCCP Annual Graduate Institute. The chapter unanimously voted in favor of LeAnn Quinn's motion that the chapter donate a \$100 bill for the door prize.

The members unanimously voted in favor of Sara White's motion that 50 more t-shirts



Chapter President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop, addressed the chapter members at the September 16 meeting.

## CAPITAL CHAPTER

should be ordered for Melissa Brunner's fundraising sales for the chapter.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

### Future chapter meetings:

*December 16, 2009*

*Hutto, hosted by Debbie Chelf*

*January 20, 2010*

*Bryan, hosted by Mary Lynne Stratta*

*March 20, 2010*

*(To Be Announced)*

*May 19, 2010*

*Point Venture, hosted by Chance Chatham*

*September 2010*

*(TBA)*

*November/December 2010*

*Bastrop, hosted by Teresa Valdez*



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*Photos at right: Chapter members at the September meeting in Round Rock.*

## CAPITAL CHAPTER

### Capital Chapter members in attendance in attendance at the September meeting:

Rachel Austin, deputy city clerk, Liberty Hill

Susan Brock, city clerk, Taylor

Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath, Austin

Chapter Vice President Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia

Kathy Clark, city secretary/admin., Liberty Hill

Christy Fath, TRMC, city secretary, Lakeway

Mary Goerig, assitant city secretary, La Grange

Shelley Goodwin, deputy city clerk, San Marcos

Linda Hambrick, city secretary, Jonestown

Chapter Historian Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron

Cara McPartland, city secretary, Wimberly

Lisa Oltmann, city secretary, LaGrange

LeAnn Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Cedar Park

Janet Rogers, city secretary, West Lake Hills

Chapter President Teresa Valdez, city secretary, Bastrop

Sara White, city secretary, Round Rock



Round Rock City Council member Kris Whitfield (*far right*) welcomes everyone to the meeting. *Seated:* La Grange Assistant City Secretary Mary Goerig and City Secretary Lisa Oltmann, Cedar Park City Secretary LeAnn Quinn, and Round Rock City Secretary Sara White. In the background: professional attire, appropriate to wear to work, was showcased.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Central Texas Chapter

By **Donna Hawkins**  
*City Secretary, Beverly Hills*

The Central Texas Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting on August 26 in the City of Hubbard. Hubbard City Secretary Dorthy Jackson hosted the meeting at Wild Bill's Outlaw Steakhouse. Guests included City of Hubbard City Manager Mr. Alfredo Saldana and Chief Thomas Echartea.

Hubbard City Secretary Dorthy Jackson presented a program "Safe Route to School Grant" and explained how the city submitted a grant for a hike/bike trail with lighting for area schools in Hubbard. ★



- Chapter members present in August:
- Esmeralda Cuate-Hudson, assistant city secretary, Waco
  - Betty Harrell, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Hillsboro
  - Secretary Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills
  - Dorthy Jackson, city secretary, Hubbard
  - President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt
  - Vice President Yrene Morgan, TRMC, administrative assistant, Teague
  - Cresandra Polk, Waco
  - Kendra Purshe, admin. asst., Robinson
  - Karen Sanchez, Robinson
  - Linda Vranich, city secretary, Robinson

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter President **Irma Parker, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Rockport*

The Coastal Bend Chapter met at noon on November 20 at the Tejas Café in Victoria. Victoria City Secretary Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, hosted this final meeting of 2009. Meeting notices were mailed or emailed to all members prior to the meeting along with proposed amendments to the chapter's bylaws.

During the business portion of our meeting, Secretary-Elect Theresa Bowe, TRMC, city secretary, Yoakum, was installed as chapter secretary, since she was unable to attend the installation of officers in Port Aransas.

At the TMCA Annual Banquet in San Antonio (left to right): Edna Lopez, city secretary, Kingsville; Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; Cindy Cerny, city secretary, El Campo; and Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria.



As reported in the last TMCA newsletter, several members had planned to attend the TMCCP Graduate Institute in San Antonio in October to support our nominee for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year, Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria. It was a great seminar, and we are extremely proud of Scarlet and her many accomplishments! Chapter members attending TMCCP Graduate Institute included: Gena Jiral, deputy city secretary, Yoakum; Amanda Alvarado, city secretary, Mathis; Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport; Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Larry Thompson, TRMC, city secretary/treasurer, Ganado; Edna Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville; and Callie Shreckengost, TRMC, city secretary, Refugio. Larry Thompson proudly announced the Graduate Institute was the last seminar required for his TRMC Certification—he will be receiving his certificate of graduation at the January TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Yoakum Deputy City Clerk Gena Jiral and Mathis City Secretary Amanda Alvarado informed members they are now working on their certification. We are proud of all of you; keep up the good work! ★

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Kathy Wingo, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Lucas

At its monthly meeting on October 14 the Lone Star Chapter met in the City of The Colony at Angelina's Restaurant. TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, conducted the installation of the 2009-2010 Lone Star chapter officers.

President Kathy Wingo presented a Lone Star Chapter Certificate Plaque to Vicky Varnau, TRMC, city administrator, Pilot Point. Mrs. Varnau retired after more than 20 years of service to the City of Pilot Point, which included service to the city as city secretary, interim city administrator, and assistant city administrator. Mrs. Varnau was commended for her service to the Lone Star Chapter. Mrs. Ervin also presented Mrs. Varnau with a TMCA throw blanket, which was embroidered with the TMCA logo and Mrs. Varnau's name. There were 22 attendees and one guest.



*Left to right:* TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, and Chapter President Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas, with retiring City Administrator Vicky Varnau of Pilot Point.

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

The chapter's next meeting will be its holiday luncheon in Frisco on December 2. The luncheon will be held at Randy's Steakhouse (7026 West Main, Frisco) from 11:30-1:00 p.m., and it will include a silent auction.

For information regarding the TMCA Lone Star Chapter (membership/meetings), please contact President Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas, at 972-727-8999.



TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, installed the Lone Star Chapter 2009-10 officers. *Left to right:* TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; President Kathy Wingo, city secretary, Lucas; President-Elect Bruce Dunn, town secretary, St. Paul; Secretary Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen. (*Treasurer Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano, and Historian Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina, not present.*)

### **Attendees of the October meeting were:**

Stephanie Calame, rec. mgmt. admin., Wylie  
 Bruce Dunn, town secretary, St. Paul  
 Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie  
 Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen  
 Lisa Henderson, city secretary, Pilot Point  
 Angela Kelly, deputy city secretary, The Colony  
 Julie Lollar, TRMC, city secretary, Denison  
 Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy  
 Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco  
 Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett  
 Vickie Schmid, TRMC,  
 deputy city secretary, Richardson  
 Alice Snyder, assistant city secretary, Plano  
 Gayle Walton, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Wylie  
 Christie Wilson, TRMC,  
 city secretary, The Colony  
 Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas

### *Guests included:*

Peggy Burnside, TRMC,  
 TMCA/TMCCP administrative director  
 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Waco  
 Joy Hart, sr. exec. admin. assistant, Murphy  
 Miriam Sheehan, TRMC,  
 TMCA/TMCCP administrative assistant  
 Vickie Varnau, TRMC,  
 city administrator (ret.), Pilot Point  
 Elmira Watkins, mother of Patricia Ervin

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

### 2009 Lone Star Chapter Year-in-Review Highlights

**FEBRUARY 2009:** The February 4 meeting was held in Richardson, with 17 attendees (including guests). Guest speaker Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, gave an overview of Legislative Bills and a handout of several bills of interest to cities was given to members.



Lone Star Chapter Scholarships—**Holly Harmon**, records & info. coord., McKinney, and Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy

Certificate plaques for retirees—Beverly Covington, McKinney; Carolyn Jones, Fairview; and Nan Parker, Frisco

**MARCH 2009:** The March 4 meeting was held in Krugerville, with 12 attendees (including guests). A roundtable discussion was held gathering feedback from the Lone Star Chapter members of future meeting speakers, attendance, services.



**City of Tom Bean Mayor presented City Secretary Cathy Pugh with a Certificate Plaque**



**APRIL 2009:** The April 1 meeting was held in Celina, with 23 attendees (including guests). The meeting consisted of a skit performed by members of the chapter: "Council Meeting Gone Wrong!" Feedback after the skit referenced the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*, Chapter 11, "Council Meeting Procedures and Parliamentary Procedures," to determine the correct procedures during a council meeting.

**AUGUST 2009:** The August 5 meeting was held in Denison, with 20 attendees (including guests). Guest speaker Bill Lindsay, former mayor of the City of Denison, addressed the chapter on "The Legislative Process." Drawing on his many years of experience, Mr. Lindsay gave a very informative overall "working" view of the legislative process. The dos, don'ts, and what-to-expect were presented along with a Q&A session.

**JUNE 2009:** The June 3 meeting was held in Tom Bean, with 27 attendees. Guest speaker Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland, presented "Networking: Weaving our Strands of Knowledge and Building our Bridges of Empowerment," noting several key factors of networking including tips of networking relationships. Several awards were presented:



Lone Star Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year—**Carole Ehrlich, TRMC**, city secretary, Wylie

**SEPTEMBER 2009:** The September 2 meeting was held in Plano with 18 attendees (including guests). Guest speaker Steve Sims, City of Plano Senior Planner, addressed the chapter on the topic of the 2010 Census. Mr. Sims spoke of the importance of the census and the impact it will have on communities and cities. Mr. Sim's PowerPoint presentation was made available to the attendees.

*See main article for recent events.*

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Linda Rhodes, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Lake Worth*

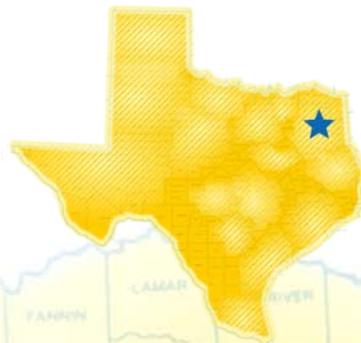
The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) Chapter has had a very busy year. As a recap, their meeting topics included:

- “Taxpayer Relations—Remembering Who We Work For” (presented by 2008 TMCA President Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches)
- December 2008 holiday party in Arlington with a wonderful view of the new Cowboys Stadium
- “Multi-Tasking” (presented by Honorable Kit Marshall, Mayor of the City of Aledo)
- “Speak and Smile” (presented by Barb Craft with Craft Training Center)
- “Importance of Professional Etiquette, Leadership, Mentoring, & Education” (presented by 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco)
- “Financial and Retirement Planning” (presented by AXA Financial Advisors)
- “Records Retention Schedules” (presented by Sarah Jacobson with the Texas State Library)
- “US Census 2010”

## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Lately, there seems to be a slight growth in the attendance at the NTMCA Professional Business Meetings, which is quite exciting. We encourage all city secretaries/clerks to attend as many meetings as possible. The education gained and networking experienced is of great value.

At the TMCA Graduate Institute this past October, one of our very own NTMCA members was sworn in as TMCA President. What an honor to have Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, as one of our chapter members! Pam is also a member of the Lone Star Chapter. At the Graduate Institute Banquet, Lone Star Chapter President Kathy Wingo graciously presented Pam with a joint gift from both of her chapters. She received a frame and photo album she can fill with memories of the upcoming year. The NTMCA Chapter thanks Lone Star for joining together to honor our shared chapter member and TMCA President. We love you, Pam! ★



## Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Melba Haralson**  
City Secretary, Gladewater

The TMCA Northeast Texas Chapter meets quarterly at rotating locations within our region.

One of our most enjoyable guest speakers earlier this year was 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin. She said it best when she said, "One of the most complex jobs in local government is that of the municipal clerk. The job is a mixture of ambiguity and conflict, of strain and neglect, which requires, at the very least, the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, and the skills of Noah." To that end, we strive to serve as a network of mentors and encouragers. This year we established a scholarship fund to assist our local chapter members in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program.

We welcome other city clerks/secretaries in Northeast Texas to join us for our informative yet sociable chapter meetings. For more information, contact Chapter President Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater, at 903-845-2196, or email [haralsonm@cityofgladewater.com](mailto:haralsonm@cityofgladewater.com). ★

### Current chapter members:

Cassandra Brager, city clerk, Tyler  
Vickie Brenton, city sec., Winnsboro  
Nina Browning, TRMC,  
city administrator, Winnsboro  
Karen Custer, city clerk, Kilgore  
Kathy Davidson, city secretary, Gilmer  
Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary,  
Gladewater  
Margaret Jackson, city sec., Pittsburg  
Shelly Kissick, TRMC, city sec., Longview  
Brenda Lankford, city secretary, Cuney  
Deanna McCasland,  
city secretary, Overton  
Kelly Poovey, city secretary, Henderson  
Sherry Roberts,  
city secretary/office mgr., White Oak  
Rosena Becker-Ross,  
city secretary/CCCI, Mt. Enterprise  
Donna Sickel, city secretary, Carthage  
Lisa Wallace, asst. city sec., Henderson  
Gail Weir, TRMC, city sec., Ore City  
Fran Wendeborn, TRMC, city sec., Rusk  
Lawanna Williams,  
assistant finance director, Kilgore  
Stefani Wright, city sec., Whitehouse

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Panhandle Chapter

By **Kim Rehkopf**  
*City Secretary, Dumas*

The Panhandle Chapter members met for their bimonthly meeting on October 15 in Amarillo at the Amarillo Club. Eight members were present. The chapter held a program concerning H1N1 Flu/Regular Flu & Prevention presented by Hector Mendoza, Assistant Director of Public Health, City of Amarillo.

The Panhandle Chapter is scheduled to meet again on December 17 at the Amarillo Club. The Panhandle Chapter will hold a brief business meeting and will be honored by special guest, TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, who will install the officers for 2010-2011. The Panhandle Chapter will then enjoy their annual Christmas gift exchange. ★

Members in attendance  
 at the October meeting:

Frances Childers,  
 city secretary, Dalhart

Chapter President Suzanne Finch, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Hereford

Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Spearman

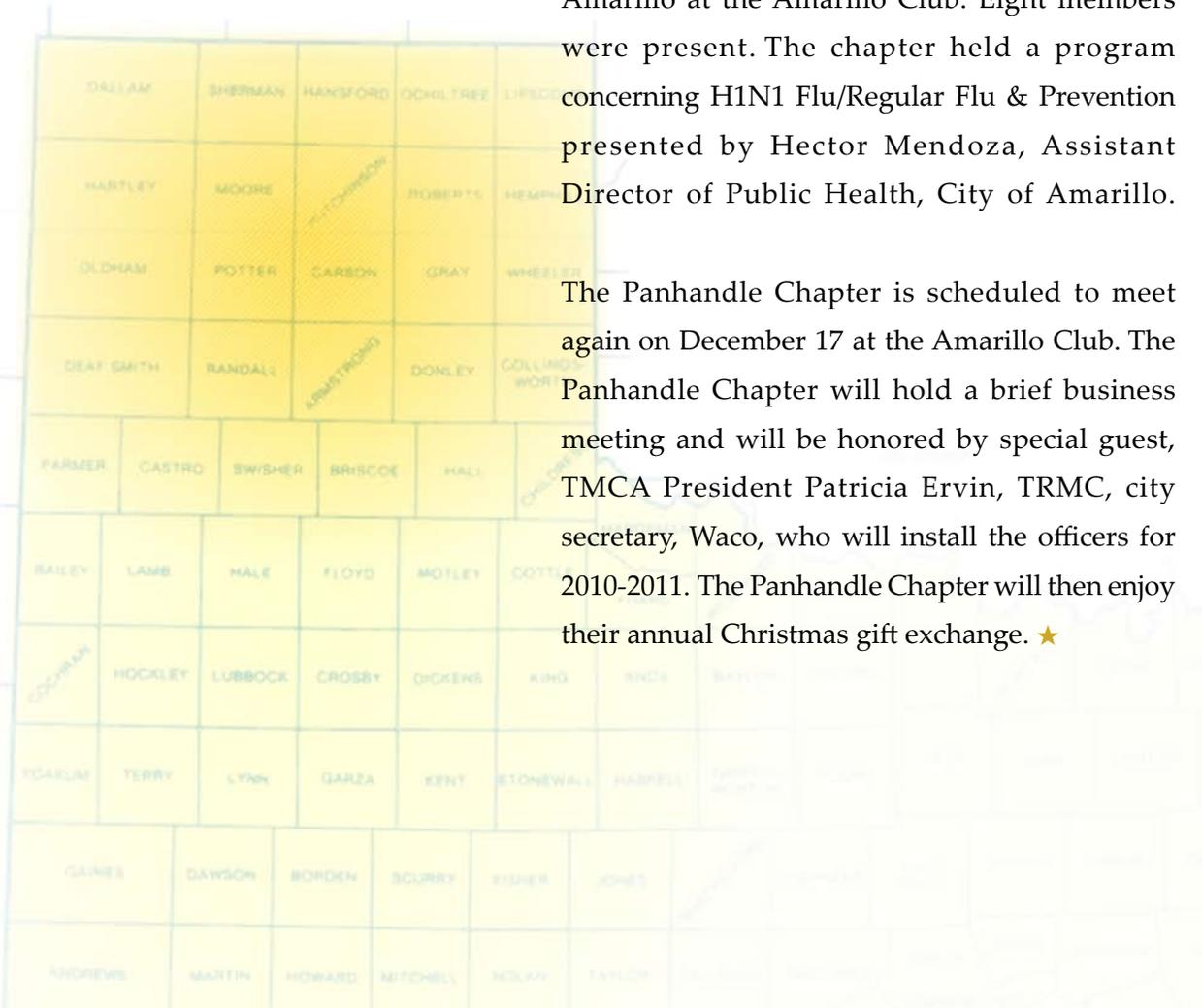
Chapter Vice President  
 Gretchen Mercer, city secretary, Canyon

Chapter Treasurer Carolee Nance,  
 city clerk, Fritch

Chapter Secretary/Records Retention  
 Officer Kim Rehkopf, city sec., Dumas

Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis

Becca Wood, city secretary, Perryton



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Carrie Edwards**  
*City Secretary, Colmesneil*

The Pineywoods Chapter held its annual banquet and quarterly meeting on October 21. The City of Huntington hosted members and guest, providing a wonderful dinner. Special guests included TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Huntington Mayor Woolbright; and Colmesneil Mayor Don Baird.

Chapter President Carrie Edwards, city secretary, Colmesneil, presented a plaque and recognized Laure Ladner, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, Hemphill, as Chapter Clerk of the Year, and congratulated her on receiving her TRMC Certification.

Following dinner, the chapter enjoyed encouraging words from TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, then held their quarterly meeting. ★

*Left:* The Pineywoods Chapter at their October meeting with guest TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC. *Right:* Chapter President Carrie Edwards with Pineywoods Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year Laure Ladner, TRMC, city secretary/office mgr., Hemphill.



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## Red River Chapter

By Chapter President **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, Holliday*

The Red River Chapter met on September 16 at Logan's Roadhouse in Wichita Falls. The group was excited to welcome new member Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City, to our meeting, and to introduce her to all that TMCA membership has to offer.

After enjoying a wonderful lunch, TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, addressed the group and shared the benefits of TMCA as well as her personal story. We truly appreciate Patricia joining us and sharing her personal experiences and abundant knowledge with our chapter.

The Red River Chapter recognized Trish Holley, city clerk, Burkburnett, as the Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year, and presented her with a letter of appreciation that was sent to her city council.

Chapter members also voted to donate \$100.00 to the Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship in honor of Patricia Ervin.

The next meeting will be held December 2 at Logan's Roadhouse in Wichita Falls at 1:00 p.m. We will participate in an ornament exchange in celebration of the Christmas season. For more information about the Red River Chapter, please contact President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, at 940-586-1313. ★

Members attending the September meeting were:

Amy Anderson,  
 city secretary, Lakeside City

Marie Balthrop, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Holliday

Kelly Bloodworth,  
 city secretary, Henrietta

Linda Byers,  
 city secretary, Vernon

Tammy Edwards, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Alvord

Trish Holley,  
 city clerk, Burkburnett

Lydia Ozuna, TRMC,  
 city clerk, Wichita Falls

Pat Quisenberry, TRMC,  
 city secretary (ret.), Vernon

Kim Whisitt,  
 city administrator, Archer City

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Thelma Lenz, TRMC**  
*City Secretary, West University Place*

The Salt Grass Chapter met at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak Houston on September 9. City of Sealy City Manager Chris Coffman gave a presentation on the Texas Recovery Program. The business meeting included approval of August meeting minutes, July and August financial reports, committee reports, ratification of chapter by-laws, and discussion of annual banquet and holiday party, membership drive, and scholarships.

The Salt Grass Chapter was well represented at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in San Antonio on October 8-9 at the historic Menger Hotel. City Secretary Thelma Lenz, TRMC, of West University Place, received a scholarship award from MCCi Corporation for Records Management.

On October 14 the chapter held its monthly meeting at the Texas Land and Cattle Steakhouse. Tiffany Schwank, Retirement Plans Specialist with ICMA-RC, was the featured program speaker. She



Chris Coffman, city manager, Sealy, gave a presentation on the Texas Recovery Program.

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

offered suggestions on some of the dos and don'ts when getting ready for retirement. Salt Grass Chapter business at this meeting included committee reports, including discussions and/or action regarding nominations for slate officers, revisions to the chapter by-laws, and appointment of a committee for the annual Public Information Act seminar.

The Salt Grass Chapter met at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak Houston on November 4. The program featured City of Katy EMS/Fire Administrative Director Mark Jordan, who provided information and tips on how to stay healthy and *fluless* by not being clueless during the flu season. The business meeting included approval of October meeting minutes; approving the award of five Deloris McKenzie Scholarships to chapter members; voting to elect an historian; recommending and approving the slate of officers for 2010; finalizing plans for the Annual Banquet and Holiday Party scheduled for December 2 at Cullen's; discussing membership dues; and discussing and voting on the chapter's Christmas charity donation project.

The Salt Grass Chapter wishes you and yours a safe and wonderful holiday season!

*At top right:* Salt Grass Chapter members at the TMCA Annual Banquet on October 8. *Seated, from left to right*—Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; Crystal Scott, deputy city secretary, Webster; Charlotte Tighe; and Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park. *Standing, from left to right*—Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood; and Robin Eldridge, administrative secretary, La Porte.

*At right:* City of Katy EMS/Fire Administrative Director Mark Jordan spoke to the Salt Grass Chapter members in November.



## SALT GRASS CHAPTER



The Salt Grass Chapter members at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak Houston in October.

Those in attendance at the October meeting included:

Laura Bloss, TML IEBP

Missy Bunch, TRMC,  
city secretary, Katy

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC,  
city secretary, Missouri City

Claudia Harrison,  
city secretary, Brookshire

Sharon Harris, TRMC,  
assistant city secretary, La Porte

Terri Johnson, TRMC,  
city administrator, Piney Point

Krisha Langton, TRMC,  
city secretary, Sealy

Thelma Lenz, TRMC,  
city sec., West University Place

Lisa Olmeda, TRMC,  
city secretary, Wharton

Stacey Pilkinton,  
city secretary, Taylor Lake Village

Crystal Scott,  
deputy city secretary, Webster

Pauline Small, TRMC,  
city secretary, Webster

Sandra Watkins, TRMC,  
city secretary, Deer Park

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## South Plains Chapter

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

The South Plains Chapter met on September 16 at the City of Spur Community Center. The meeting was hosted by Jody Taylor, city secretary, Dickens. President LeAnn Gallman called the meeting to order.

Jody Taylor introduced Ron Lane, General Manager of the Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company, who presented a program that gave an overview of the history and workings of the Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company.

President Gallman welcomed members and guests. She then read aloud thank you notes from Toni Wilson and TMCA President Patricia Ervin for TMCA Scholarship contributions. President Gallman also gave update on Toni Chrestman's daughter, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Chapter business included approval of the minutes of the June meeting; approval of the September treasurer's report; and the decision to donate a new \$100.00 bill as a door prize for the TMCCP Graduate Institute in San Antonio in October.

Members and guests in attendance at the September meeting:

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Muleshoe

Nancy Hale, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Spur

Maria Hatchett, TRMC,  
 city secretary, Lamesa

Belinda Hinojosa,  
 city secretary, Plainview

Susan Kerby (sister of LeAnn Gallman)

Toni Longoria, city clerk, Lorenzo

Monica Lopez,  
 city secretary, Lorenzo

Glenda Mayfield,  
 municipal clerk, Spur

Brenda Shaw, TRMC,  
 city secretary/manager, Morton

Jody Taylor, city secretary, Dickens

Belinda Terrell,  
 city secretary, Whiteface

Sharon Trumble,  
 city secretary, New Deal

## SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

President Gallman requested volunteers to work on activities for the TMCCP June 2010 seminar, which will be held in Lubbock. Sharon Trumble and Jody Taylor volunteered to serve on this committee, and requested that Becky Garza or her assistant serve on this committee as well, since they are best acquainted with the city. This committee is to bring suggestions back to the membership at the December meeting.

Nancy Hale reported on the Annual Chapter Seminar to be held in Lubbock on October 16. Nancy stated she had mailed out the seminar information, and requested that the cities who would like to donate a door prize contact her.

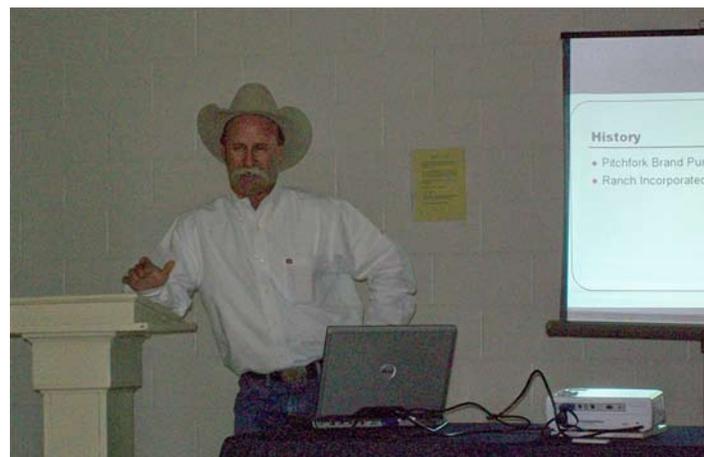
President Gallman advised members present that there would be a TML Region 3 meeting on September 24 in Ransom Canyon, and an IIMC Region IV meeting in San Marcos in December. The TMCA membership contest was also discussed.

The next meeting was set for December 16. TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, will be in attendance at this meeting, which will be hosted by Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada. ★

*Top right photo:* Ron Lane, General Manager of the Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company, presented a program that gave an overview of the history and workings of the Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company.

*Center right:* South Plains Chapter members listen to Ron Lane's presentation.

*At right:* LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, and speaker Ron Lane.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS



## West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Karen Bullard**  
*City Secretary, Crane*

The West Texas Chapter met at The Scarborough-Lineberry House in Midland on August 26 for its third quarterly meeting.

President Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink, called the third-quarter meeting of the West Texas Chapter to order at 11:35 a.m. Evelyn Ammons, city secretary, Blue Lake, sitting in for Secretary Gloria Saenz, gave roll call. Each member introduced herself to our guest, TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. President Tonya Todd acknowledged ten members present, representing ten cities; she determined a quorum was present with ten members in attendance.

President Todd welcomed all members and introduced President Ervin. Mrs. Ervin stated she had been with the City of Waco for 35 years, and has served as city secretary for the past eleven years.

In other business, Norma Aguilar reported that the Cities of Odessa and Midland were co-hosting the Region IV TML meeting on August 28, and reported the City of Odessa will host a TMCCP seminar in 2011.

Those present at the August meeting included:

- Evelyn Ammons, city sec., Big Lake
- Marla Arizola, city sec., Sterling City
- Reporter/Historian Karen Bullard, city secretary, Crane
- Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa
- Laquetta Harris, city secretary, Iraan
- Kaylah McCord, city secretary, Midland
- Lyn Miller, deputy city secretary, Midland
- Anita Sparks, city secretary, Rankin
- President Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink
- Molly Taylor, city secretary, Alpine
- Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink

*Guests:*

- TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco
- Mary Pena, Midland

## WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

President Tonya Todd suggested a gift exchange at the next quarterly meeting to start Christmas early. The next chapter meeting was scheduled for November 18 at Big Daddy's Catfish Restaurant in Odessa, to be hosted by the City of Big Lake.

For a Special Program Presentation, Patricia Ervin recounted her 35 years in public service with the City of Waco, and the benefits of being a member of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association and a certified municipal clerk. She stressed the need to restore professional etiquette in our daily lives. She encouraged each member to stay involved at the chapter level and volunteer when possible at various TMCCP seminars. She has enjoyed her year as TMCA president. In closing, she urged all members to attend the IIMC Region IV meeting in San Marcos in December. ★



At the West Texas Chapter meeting in August (from bottom to top, left to right): Anita Sparks, city secretary, Rankin; Mary Pena, Midland; Laquetta Harris, city secretary, Iraan; Kayla McCord, city secretary, Midland; Marla Arizola, city secretary, Sterling City; Evelyn Ammons, city secretary, Big Lake; Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Molly Taylor, city secretary, Alpine; Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Lyn Miller, dep. city secretary, Midland; Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; and Karen Bullard city secretary, Crane.

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