



TMCA NEWS



TMCA President
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC
City Secretary, Odessa

President's Message

PREPARE, SET, EXECUTE!

As our 2013 journey ends, we are about to embark on another year with TMCA in 2014!

Thank you to all 17 TMCA chapters for welcoming me as I visited each chapter this year. Every chapter is very distinctive, and the make-up across Texas is hundreds of sunrises over each city and town. You opened your doors with warm welcomes and smiles. I experienced seventeen memorable visits this unforgettable year.

I have shared with you nine life reminders to contribute to your personal and professional life. Here are the last three: Keep an open mind, live in the present, and my favorite, dance.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Keep an open mind.” Many of us hear only one side of the story, as some come to a conclusion with only hearing or knowing one side, and “forget” or don’t bother to research the other side of the hearsay. As it states in our TMCA Code of Professional Ethics: “To be ever mindful of my neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all and to extend the same treatment I wish to receive myself.” Maintain a clear mind and bring your wisdom to the circumstances.

“Live in the present.” All of us have something wonderful in our lives—family, friends, career, service—and it is up to us to cherish these treasures. Enjoy the moment: it’s life’s gift. Live in the “what is”; do not dwell on the “what should be.” From this moment, live uplifted lives and exhale positive energy in each deed.

“Dance...” In the words of Martha Graham, “We look at the dance to impart the sensation of living in an affirmation of life, to energize the spectator into keener awareness of the vigor, the mystery, the humor, the variety, and the wonder of life. This is the function of the American dance.” Dance allows us to express ourselves, especially with the many types of expressions of styles. You may express yourself through song, acting, poems, or other things that interest you. Many different images pop up in the mind with dance, touching all cultures, genres, emotions, providing social interaction and other types of behavior patterns. We

need this type of expression outside of the work environment to keep a healthy self-balance throughout our journey.

This year I have invited you on a journey of reminders with each quarterly article. I began with reminders to focus on ourselves: “be yourself,” “the impact of attitude,” and “be willing to change or accept.” I encouraged you to “be happy/have fun,” “aim high and produce results,” and “continue to grow.” Recently I reminded you to “welcome all experiences,” “stay focused and never give up,” and “keep communication open.” Finally, I hope you will open your ears to life’s beautiful music and embrace the rhythm of the dance. May the sunrays keep on dancing, for you are the sunrays to all you serve.

I count my blessings in the long-lasting memories we have made together on this journey. May your years ahead be filled with good health and happiness.

Thank you for my “dance” with each member, board, committee, staff, and TMCCP/TMCA!

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC

2013 TMCA President

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TMCA News is published by: Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.,
University of North Texas, 1155 Union Circle #305067, Denton, Texas 76203
Ph 940-565-3488, Fx 940-565-2012. <http://municlerks.unt.edu>
Vol. XXIV, No. 4, December 2013

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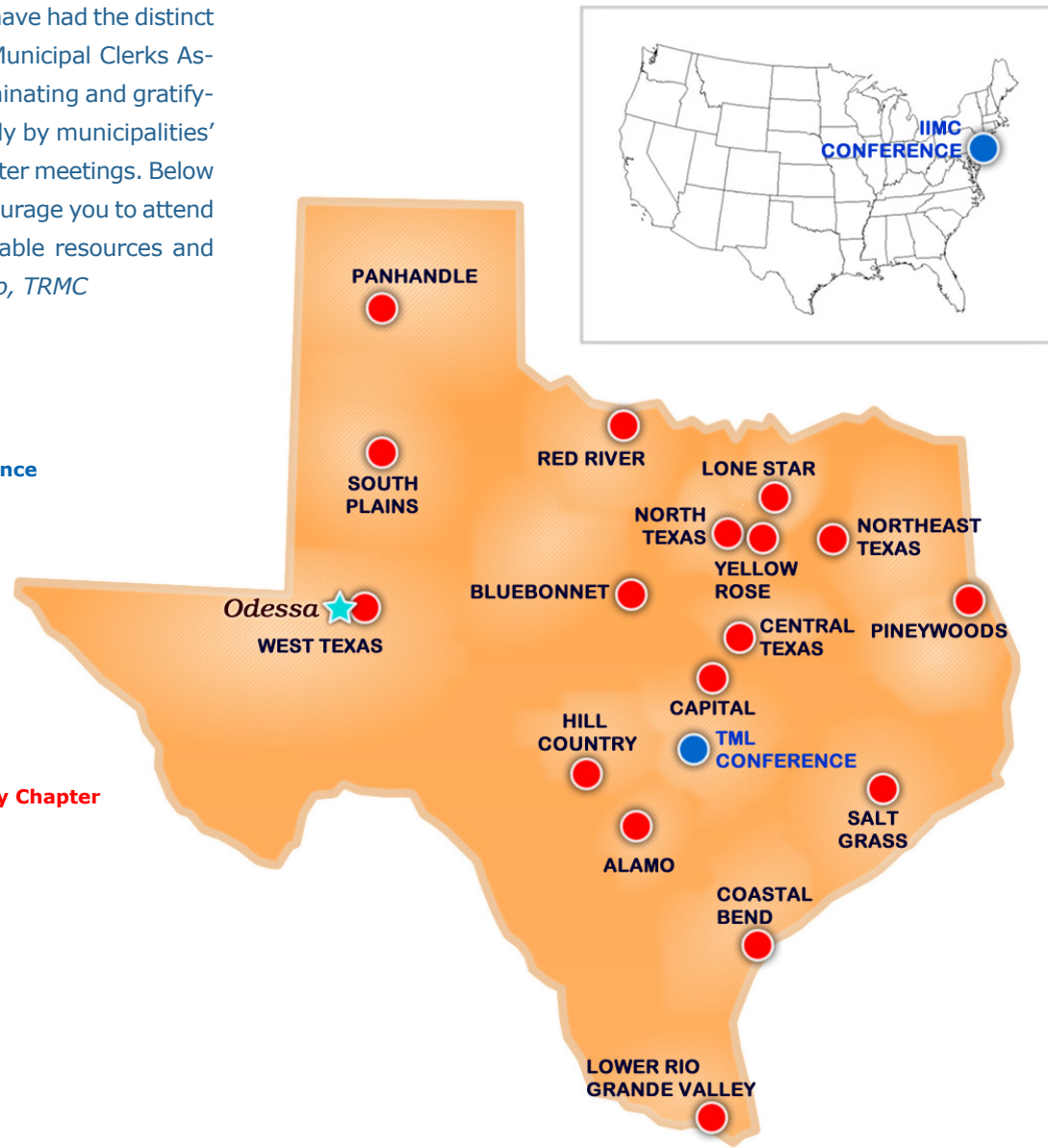
Submission deadline for publication in the **March** issue: **January 27, 2014.**

Send articles to: alexandra.burke@unt.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year marks a high point of my career, as I have had the distinct privilege to serve as president for the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. This year has been such an illuminating and gratifying experience, as I have been accepted warmly by municipalities' clerks and by city representatives at TMCA chapter meetings. Below is a list of meetings that I have attended. I encourage you to attend your **chapter meetings**, for they provide valuable resources and networking. —2013 President Norma Grimaldo, TRMC

- March 13, Midland: **West Texas Chapter**
- April 17, Kerrville: **Hill Country Chapter**
- May 19-23, Atlantic City, New Jersey: **IIMC Conference**
- June 12, De Leon: **Bluebonnet Chapter**
- June 19, Wichita Falls: **Red River Chapter**
- June 26, Leon Valley: **Alamo Chapter**
- July 17, Arlington: **North Texas Chapter**
- July 27, Salado: **Capital Chapter**
- August 1, Lancaster: **Yellow Rose Chapter**
- August 21, Robinson: **Central Texas Chapter**
- September 18, Harlingen: **Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter**
- September 26, Center: **Pineywoods Chapter**
- October 2, Wylie: **Lone Star Chapter**
- October 4, Canton: **Northeast Texas Chapter**
- October 8-11, Austin: **TML Conference**
- October 30, Rockport: **Coastal Bend Chapter**
- December 11, Houston: **Salt Grass Chapter**
- December 18, Lubbock: **South Plains Chapter**
- December 19, Amarillo: **Panhandle Chapter**



2013 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominees

The following 12 TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2013 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. This award is based upon years of service as a municipal clerk, TRMC Certification and recertification, TMCA service, local TMCA chapter service, and other municipal clerk-related service and works such as instructing, convening, IIMC participation, and more. Congratulations to these inspiring stars of Texas government! Don't miss our list of 2013 Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year honorees on [page 33](#).



Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC

City Secretary, Odessa
West Texas Chapter Nominee



Marie Balthrop, TRMC

City Secretary, Holliday
Red River Chapter Nominee



Art Camacho, TRMC

City Secretary, Haltom City
North Texas Chapter Nominee



LeAnn Gallman, TRMC

City Secretary, Muleshoe
South Plains Chapter Nominee



Melba Haralson, TRMC

City Secretary, Gladewater
Northeast Texas Chapter Nominee



Sherry Mashburn, TRMC

2013 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year
City Secretary, College Station; Capital Chapter Nominee



Ellie Monteaux, TRMC

City Secretary, Livingston
Pineywoods Chapter Nominee



Jennifer Reyna, TRMC

City Secretary, Alamo Heights
Alamo Chapter Nominee



Christi Shivers, TRMC

City Secretary/Finance Director, Mexia
Central Texas Chapter Nominee



Annette Villarreal, TRMC

City Secretary, McAllen
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter Nominee



Sandra Watkins, TRMC

City Secretary, Deer Park
Salt Grass Chapter Nominee



Kathy Wingo, TRMC

City Secretary, Lucas
Lone Star Chapter Nominee

TMCCP SEMINAR

Election Law Seminar

January 15-17, 2014, Irving, Texas • *Early Registration Deadline: January 2, 2014*

Join us for the **Annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving!** Our seminar format will be the same as last year: you may choose from a selection of sessions to best meet your educational needs.

Our usual three optional pre-seminar sessions are tailored to offer relevant information to cities that hold their own elections; cities that contract with the county for services; and attendees who are brand new to the election process.

Full information is available on our **website**. **Plan the sessions** you would like to attend **ahead of time, with back-up options**—to best accommodate everyone, there is a policy of no seat-saving, and sessions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to seeing you in January! ★

Wednesday, January 15, **three optional Pre-Seminar Sessions:**

- **9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.:** Optional Pre-Seminar Round Table for **Attendees Holding Their First Election** (*free with paid registration*)
- **12:00 noon-4:30 p.m.:** Optional Pre-Seminar **Step by Step Session for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections** (*\$140 registration fee, includes box lunch and "Step by Step" handbook*)
- **2:00-4:00 p.m.:** Optional Pre-Seminar Round Table for **Attendees Contracting for the First Time** (*free with paid registration*)

Wednesday, January 15—**the Election Law Seminar begins at 6:00 in the evening:**

- **"TML Legislative Update on Elections"**

Thursday and Friday—the following is a partial list of **breakout sessions** being offered during the Election Law Seminar (most sessions are 1 ½ hours in length):

- | | |
|---|---|
| ● "Bond Elections" | ● "Mail Ballots & FPCA Ballots" |
| ● "Candidate Packets, Candidate Filing Deadlines" | ● "Provisional Voting" |
| ● "Charter Amendment Elections, Poll Watchers & Inspectors" | ● "Recall Elections for Home Rule Cities, Referendum & Initiative" |
| ● "Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks" | ● "Recruiting & Training Election Workers" |
| ● "Joint Election Contracts" | ● "Runoffs, Vacancies, and Recounts" |
| ● "Local Option Petitions & Elections" | ● "Unofficial Tabulation; Document Preparation for Canvass; Swearing In; Reporting to SOS; Election Register" |
| ● "Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections" | |

TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

When You Give a Presentation...

By TMCA/TMCCP Education Director **Dr. Amy C. Holt, Ph.D.**



Dr. Amy C. Holt, Ph.D.
TMCA/TMCCP
Education Director

As municipal clerks you may be called on from time to time to give a presentation. A formal presentation (or even an informal presentation in front of a small group) can be a stressful event. Nothing can replace experience and practice, practice, practice to build confidence when preparing for a presentation, but there are some useful tools to help a speaker feel more comfortable as he or she prepares for and gives a presentation. Whether you are asked to make a presentation in front of your colleagues at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar, your council, or your child's parent-teacher organization, the following pointers can help you perfect your message and delivery.

Frame Your Story

Frame your talk as a story. Humans naturally like to listen to stories. The way you conceptualize and frame what you say can have a significant impact on how your audience is able to hear what you have to say and act on your message. For the introduction, quickly explain the topic, tell your audience why you care so

deeply about it, and convince the audience members why they should too. Usually your goal is to connect with them emotionally in order to motivate some sort of action. Include specific examples when possible to help the audience engage in your story. Good stories aren't too broad. They cover a very specific topic and give plenty of detail related to that narrow topic to help paint the picture for the audience. Of course, don't give too much detail. It is a fine line, but over-explaining a topic can be boring. Consider how much your audience already knows and allow them to figure some things out for themselves without spelling out every detail.

Assess Your Audience

Your audience will have an impact on your presentation. You are likely to select a different approach depending on the characteristics of the group. The success of your presentation is highly related to your ability to connect with your audience. Consider the size of the audience. Large group presentations often call for more formality and structure. Consider the

EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

demographics of your audience... age, occupation, cultural background, socio-economic status, and level of education, for instance. What information will be important to different groups of people? Fashion your presentation in such a way so that the audience is able to connect with your message. For instance, if you are speaking to a group of citizens who all live in one section of town, tell them how the new humane shelter will impact their neighborhood! Also, dress for your audience. Consider the topic and who will be in attendance and plan your attire accordingly. If you are presenting to a highly creative group (maybe the local arts association), then a slightly less conservative style is probably acceptable.

Plan Your Delivery

Talk to your audience, not at them. If you read your presentation directly from a script, the way the audience receives your information may not be what you had hoped. It might feel very formal, distant, and lifeless.

When the presenter reads notes word for word, he or she often does not use normal voice inflections and can get lost behind the words instead of clearly presenting the important ideas. Also, the speaker will lose the emotional connection with the audience because eye contact and other types of



interactions are virtually nonexistent when a speaker is solely focused on his or her notes. When you tell your story consider how you can involve your audience. If appropriate, allow for questions during your presentation and encourage them to predict the results of research before you reveal the significant data. As you plan your delivery

also consider how you will use technology to your advantage. Pictures and videos can significantly enhance the meaning of your story. How can certain software programs help to spice up what might otherwise be tedious parts of the presentation? If you use PowerPoint, don't read the words on the slide! The information is only interesting once.

Develop Stage Presence

For inexperienced speakers, the physical act of being in front of an audience can be the most stressful part of a presentation. When a speaker sways from side to side as he or she talks, it is distracting and weakens the presentation. Too many "ahs" and "uhms" are also distracting. Overcoming these types of nervous tendencies just takes practice. Nerves are not a disaster and the audience is not surprised if you are nervous. This nervous energy can even improve your presentation as it gives you energy and keeps your mind sharp. There are ways to

EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

release some of this nervous energy before the presentation. I usually try to walk up and down a flight of stairs before a presentation. This allows for a release of the extra energy. (Just remember to do this in advance—maybe 5 minutes—so that you can catch your breath before you begin.) Others may direct eye contact to only 4 or 5 people who appear friendly and are spread out across the room. Some practice standing very tall with good posture as a way to feel more powerful during the presentation. Deep breathing is always a good tip before and during the presentation. Brief pauses in the presentation to allow the presenter to breath also allow the audience a small mental break to process some of what they are hearing. These pauses may seem out of the ordinary to the inexperienced presenter, but are actually quite natural during a great presentation.

Provide Evidence

As you tell your story, provide supporting materials to back up your claims. Evidence

can clarify your purpose or main ideas, provide proof that your claims are true, and create a lasting impression. Evidence is the material that gives your story life. Types of evidence can include: facts and figures, statistics, statements by persons with authority, testimony by those with expert knowledge, and definitions. Consider your audience as you provide the necessary evidence. Do they already have a great deal of knowledge about the subject? If yes, then perhaps they don't need all the facts and figures, but they would like for you to tell them what other municipalities have done in similar situations and what the outcomes were in those situations. If your audience is unfamiliar with your subject matter, be sure to define acronyms that you may use and take time to explain some of the background information as you tell your story.

Finish Strong

Ideally, you would like to conclude your presentation before the audience begins

to wonder when you will finish. Since the conclusion is the last thing you say, it might be the most remembered. Take this time to briefly review what you've said and summarize each main point. This is the last opportunity to convince the audience that your topic is important so choose concluding evidence that makes an impact. You might want to save an impressive statistic or insightful quote to use in your conclusion. Always leave the audience with something to remember and when possible with something to do. Giving your audience a call to action in your conclusion gives your listeners direction regarding what to do with the information you've just presented and provides incentive for them to think about your presentation later.

Now that you know how to give a great presentation, can we count on you to convene a session at the Election Law Seminar? ★

TMCA Annual Banquet

Photographs by Paul Traves, *f16 Photography*

October 24, 2013, South Padre Island

TMCA held a wonderful, memorable annual banquet this year at the Hilton Garden Inn in South Padre Island on October 24. TMCA members were recognized; scholarships were awarded; 2013 retirees were honored; TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominees were honored; the 2013 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year was recognized; and the 2014 TMCA officers were sworn into office.

The following pages in this special TMCA newsletter section offer a glimpse of the banquet. We hope to see you next year at the TMCA banquet at the Y.O. Ranch in [Kerrville](#) on [October 23, 2014!](#)

Top photo, from left to right: **Kelly Edwards, TRMC**, town secretary, Westlake; **Kim Sutter, TRMC**, city secretary, Euless; **Julie Heinze, city secretary, Lewisville**; and **Alicia Richardson, TRMC**, city secretary, Southlake.

Near right photo, from left to right: **Annette Villarreal, TRMC**, city secretary, McAllen; **Perla Zamora, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, McAllen; **Amanda Elizondo, TRMC**, city secretary, Southlake; **Leticia Vacek, TRMC**, city clerk, San Antonio; **Melba Haralson, TRMC**, city secretary, Gladewater; and **Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC**, city secretary, Mount Enterprise.



Photos by Paul Traves, f16photo.com



2013 TMCA BANQUET



Photos by Paul Traves, fl6photo.com



The Annual TMCA Banquet was a fun and wonderful celebration of Texas Municipal Clerks!

TMCA ANNUAL BANQUET

2013 TMCA BANQUET

Photos by Paul Traves, f16photo.com



Top left: 2014 President **Art Camacho, TRMC**, city secretary, Haltom City, presents a plaque of appreciation at the banquet to 2013 President **Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC**, city secretary, Odessa, on behalf of the TMCA membership, honoring her service.

Top right: TMCA Past President **Lila Fuller, TRMC**, city secretary, Nacogdoches; **Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC**, retired TMCA/TMCCP education director; and TMCA Past President **Patrice Fogarty, TRMC**, city secretary, La Porte.

Below right: During the awards ceremony, TMCA members surprised retired TMCA/TMCCP education director **Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC (right)**, with an Honorary Membership in TMCA in recognition of her 20 years of service and tireless and warm support of Texas clerks; it was presented by President **Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC**.

Near left: Retirement Committee Chair **Maria Gonzalez, TRMC**, city secretary, Missouri City, honors 2013 TMCA retirees.



2013 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year

Congratulations to College Station City Secretary Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, on her selection as the 2013 TMCA Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year!

Each year Texas municipal clerks nominate one of their peers for the prestigious Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. To be eligible for the award, nominees must be **active members** of TMCA; must have **provided service** to other municipal clerks on a local level or state level; must have **exhibited leadership abilities**; must be a **Texas Registered Municipal Clerk**; and must currently hold a **municipal clerk** position. The Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee scores nominee applications on years of municipal service, years of TMCA membership, TMCCP certification/recertification achievements, TMCA service, local chapter service, special projects service, IIMC service, and participation as instructors or conveners in TMCA, local chapter, and IIMC education sessions.

Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as the 2013 honoree for her outstanding achievements as an exemplary public servant.



2013 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC** (right), city secretary, College Station, is presented a plaque of recognition by Committee Chair **Kathy Wingo, TRMC**, city secretary, Lucas.

Special thanks to 2013 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee members: Chair Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas; Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; Arcelia Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes; Thomas Harris, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Lubbock; Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak; and Michael Wells, TRMC, city secretary, Bedford.

2013 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, and the TMCA Capital Chapter nominated Sherry for this prestigious honor. TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas, made the official presentation to Sherry during the TMCA Annual Banquet in South Padre Island.

Sherry has served the citizens of College Station as the city secretary since August 2010; she previously served as city secretary of San Marcos from 2008 to 2010, and as city secretary of Bee Cave from 1999 to 2008. Sherry earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) certification in 2002, and has recertified twice; she is currently enrolled in her third recertification.

Sherry has served as a mentor to other city secretaries over the years both at the local and state levels. As someone who understands the vital necessity of the pursuit of continuing education, Sherry has frequently served as an expert instructor during the popular annual TMCCP Election Law seminar. She is also a chapter author for the



Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, spoke at the banquet.

Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook, an important resource published by TMCA for city secretaries.

Sherry currently serves as TMCA vice president. She previously served as treasurer and trustee and on numerous TMCA committees. Sherry has served in all capacities for the Capital Chapter of Texas Municipal Clerks. She is also an active member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). She received her Certified Municipal Clerk designation from

IIMC in 2003 and her Master Municipal Clerk designation in 2008. Sherry has also served on several IIMC committees and has convened at IIMC annual conferences.

As part of the nomination statements, Ms. Stratta said, "She has grown into a trusted leader in our organization and profession. She is honest, ethical, dependable, and loyal. Her mayor and city council have the utmost confidence in her, as do I. Sherry is very worthy of the designation of Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year, and I am honored to submit the nomination on her behalf."

Sherry's gracious acceptance speech included this challenge to her fellow city secretaries: "You are part of a profession that exemplifies integrity, fairness, and caring. As mentors I challenge you to take someone new under your wing and help them to see the possibilities within themselves; help them to shape a vision for personal excellence, integrity, and ethical behavior. I dare you to 'pay it forward!'" ★

2014 TMCA Officers & Committees

Officers

<p>President Art Camacho City Secretary, Haltom City PO Box 14246 Haltom City, TX 76117 817-222-7749 acamacho@haltomcitytx.com</p>	<p>Pres. Elect Sherry Mashburn City Secretary, College Station PO Box 9960 College Station, TX 77842 979-764-3541 smashburn@cstx.gov</p>	<p>Vice President Cheryl Salgado City Sec./Asst. City Mgr., Spearman PO Box 37 Spearman, TX 76117 806-659-2524 citysec@ptsi.net</p>	<p>Treasurer Lydia Lopez City Secretary, Hewitt PO Box 610 Hewitt, TX 76643 254-666-6171 citysecretary@cityofhewitt.com</p>	<p>Secretary Sandra Watkins City Secretary, Deer Park PO Box 700 Deer Park, TX 77536 281-478-7247 skwatkins@deerparktx.org</p>	<p>Immediate Past President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo City Secretary, Odessa PO Box 4398 Odessa, TX 79760 432-335-3276 ngrimaldo@odessa-tx.gov</p>
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TRUSTEES

<p>Marie Balthrop City Secretary, Holliday PO Box 508 Holliday, TX 76366 940-586-1313 hollidayadmin@srcaccess.net</p>	<p>Shelley George City Secretary, Allen 305 Century Pkwy Allen, TX 75013 214-509-4105 sgeorge@cityofallen.org</p>	<p>Aimee Nemer City Secretary, Richardson PO Box 830309 Richardson, TX 75083 972-744-4290 aimee.nemer@cor.gov</p>	<p>Jennifer Reyna City Secretary, Alamo Heights 6116 Broadway San Antonio, TX 78209 210-832-2209 jreyna@alamoheightstx.gov</p>	<p>Kim Sutter City Secretary, Eules 201 N Ector St Eules, TX 76039 817-685-1419 ksutter@eulesstx.gov</p>	<p>Scarlet Swoboda City Secretary, Victoria PO Box 1758 Victoria, TX 77902 361-485-3040 sswoboda@victoriatx.org</p>
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Mgmt. Committee Chair Mary Kayser, City Sec., Fort Worth; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Admin. Dir.; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Ed. Dir.*

Committees

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

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

Historian
Brenda Glenn Craig, Kerrville

*non-voting member

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

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

Nominating Committee
Lila Fuller, Nacogdoches, Chair
Maria Gonzalez, Missouri City
Sherry Roberts, White Oak
Art Camacho, Haltom City, Board Liaison
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, Board Liaison

Open Records Steering Committee
Toni Chrestman, Slaton

Resolutions Committee
Tina Broussard, Beaumont, Chair
Linda Byers, Vernon
Janelle Dolan, Burkburnett
Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Board Liaison

Retirement Committee
Carole Vanzant, Fair Oaks Ranch, Chair
Rosena Becker-Ross, Mount Enterprise
Arcie Felix, Mercedes
Brenda Shaw, Morton
Kim Sutter, Eules, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee
Cara McPartland, Wimberley, Chair
Susan House, Mesquite
Amy Turner, Midland
Christi Wynn, Brownwood
Scarlett Swoboda, Victoria, Board Liaison

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

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

TML Representative
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, Pres. Elect

Certification Committee

<p>Shelley George, Chair City Secretary, Allen 305 Century Pkwy Allen, TX 75013 214-509-4105 sgeorge@cityofallen.org</p>	<p>Melissa Brunner City Secretary, Flatonia PO Box 329 Flatonia, TX 78941 361-865-3548 mbrunner@ci.flatonia.tx.us</p>	<p>Danette Dunlap City Secretary, Abilene PO Box 60 Abilene, TX 79604 325-676-6202 danette.dunlap@abilenetx.com</p>	<p>Melba Haralson City Secretary, Gladewater PO Box 1725 Gladewater, TX 75647 903-845-2196 mharalson@cityofgladewater.com</p>	<p>Lee Woodward City Secretary, Huntsville 1212 Avenue M Huntsville, TX 77340 936-291-5403 lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov</p>	<p>Peggy Burnside Admin. Dir., TMCA/TMCCP 1155 Union Cir #305067 Denton, TX 76203 940-565-3488 peggy.burnside@unt.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Amy Holt Education Dir., TMCA/TMCCP 1155 Union Cir #305067 Denton, TX 76203 940-565-3488 amy.holt@unt.edu</p>
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Art Camacho, TMCA President; Sherry Mashburn, TMCA President Elect; and Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Immediate Past President*

2014 TMCA Executive Board

The TMCA officers were installed at the Annual Banquet on October 24.

Photograph by Paul Traves, f16 Photography



Seated, from left to right:

Treasurer Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt

President Elect Sherry Mashburn, TRMC
City Secretary, College Station

President Art Camacho, TRMC
City Secretary, Haltom City

Vice President Cheryl Salgado, TRMC
City Secretary, Spearman

Secretary Sandra Watkins, TRMC
City Secretary, Deer Park

Standing, from left to right:

Trustee Kim Sutter, TRMC
City Secretary, Euless

Trustee Shelley George, TRMC
City Secretary, Allen

Trustee Marie Balthrop, TRMC
City Secretary, Holliday

Immediate Past President Norma
Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC,
City Secretary, Odessa

Trustee Jennifer Reyna, TRMC
City Secretary, Alamo Heights

Trustee Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC
City Secretary, Victoria

Trustee Aimee Nemer, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

2014 President's Acceptance Speech “A Catching of Excellence”

© Paul Traves, TL6 Photography



2014 President Art Camacho, TRMC
City Secretary, Haltom City

Art Camacho, TRMC, City Secretary, Haltom City, was elected the 62nd president of TMCA during the TMCA Annual Business Meeting on October 24 in South Padre Island. He presented this acceptance speech to attendees of the TMCA Annual Banquet.

I would like to begin by extending my sincere thanks to you, Madam President—my dear friend—and to you also, members of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

I don't mind telling you that I have been working on this speech for nearly a year. Here's an important tip: if you want something to get here fast, just put a deadline on it. I have tried many times to modify this so I can say what I want without putting anyone to sleep, but I'm getting one shot at this, so please bear with me, because I am burdened with a tremendous responsibility of leading this fine association and continuing the quality of leadership that has preceded me. I have some shoes to fill, and I am not talking about some red, open-toe, platform pumps.

President Aguilar-Grimaldo gave a very detailed review and description of the TMCA last year in

her speech, so I won't repeat what she stated, but I would like to mention that I discovered the last male president selected was Roger G. Johnson of Lufkin in 1979, in what was then the Association of City Clerks/Secretaries of Texas, 34 years ago. There were 19 male Presidents from its beginning in 1952, prior to Mr. Johnson. I am the first male president since the incorporation in 1986 of the TMCA—27 years ago. There was a trend toward the male gender as a city clerk or secretary in the early years, mostly because of the dual status as the city's finance director, but this ended after specialization in finances occurred. This position eventually split for most cities as their populations increased, usually leaving the city secretary with administrative, elections, and other specific duties—as we mostly perform today—to females.

I would like to state, especially to my male companions here tonight, not to make a chauvinist

PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

mistake in assuming that although this is a female-dominated association, it may be weak or timid—on the contrary, it is a very strong group. In my years of being associated with TMCA, I have witnessed several of my female colleagues who were “put to the fire” in situations and they remained strong and confident in the wake of criticism and malice. They were, like the title of a popular 1990’s movie, “steel magnolias.” They didn’t collapse like a soft, crumpled flower, but rose to the challenge of the occasion and took it head on. Don’t get me wrong. I am sure they shed emotional tears of grief and anxiety in their private time, but they held true to their standards and continued doing what was right. And to those of you beginning your career as a clerk in the TMCA program, if you can ever grasp and take hold of one definite objective throughout this whole series of instructional training you are given, it is for you to maintain the intestinal fortitude in pursuing that which is right and just, and exemplify it to your citizens, your staff, and your council daily. You may be questioned on your knowledge and experience, but don’t ever let your ethics be doubted. That is TMCA.



My employment with a municipal government was not my first choice in the job market as I spent nearly 5 years in the grocery business and over 20 years in the oil and gas industry. My first city secretary position was literally handed to me while I was managing the water utility department over 14 years ago in Ranger, and it was there that I began pursuing my certification. Looking back, I am thankful for the five years I spent in that small town because I learned and experienced many things that tested my abilities as a clerk. Rarely did a day pass by that I wasn’t confronted with some type of question or situation that challenged my knowledge and proficiency. So, to all you

one-office, do-everything-type clerks here tonight: I’ve been there. When I left Ranger, I had my “C” water and wastewater license and my Code Enforcement certification, in addition to my TMCA certification.

But one major thing I also had that we all have had, or should have had, was a mentor. Just north of Ranger about thirty miles is the city of Breckenridge, where worked one of the best city clerks I have ever met—Linda Knight, who was selected as the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2011, and retired soon after. Most of her personal mentoring to me wasn’t particularly about what proper forms to use or what procedures to take, but about maintaining perseverance. As a defining voice of reason, her encouragement meant so much because she had also been in my position and was able to give me reassurance to continue forward, despite the opposition or sacrifice.

We are faced with tremendous challenges in our occupation, especially those that are placed upon us by our state legislature, and our response to these challenges is critical. Please excuse me, but I am prone to using sport analogies to make a point. In 1959, Vince

PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

*This
“catching of
excellence”
can become
contagious
and flood
throughout
our whole
organization.*

Lombardi became the coach of the Green Bay Packers, his first head-coaching job. Before he arrived, the Packers had not won a division or championship title in 14 years. Under his direction, they won five NFL Championships in eight years, including the first two Super Bowls. The Super Bowl trophy is named in his honor. His teams during the 1960's produced eleven players who are now in the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Yet, eight of those eleven players were on a team in 1958 that, prior to Lombardi's coaching, won only one game. Lombardi changed all that. He told them, "Gentlemen, we will pursue perfection. We will not attain perfection, but in pursuit of it, we will catch excellence."

So it is entirely up to us if we want to be successful in our work and "catch excellence" in our career. And that, at times, is difficult. We would all like to just sit back in our offices and watch the slow passing of time edge toward our retirement. But we can't do that. We can't serve our citizens or community properly if that is our only daily objective. I recently read a quote from Strategic Solutions that said, "There is a price to pay if you want to make things better and a price to pay for just leaving things as they are." I think about how swiftly the technology of today's workplace is advancing. What is the standard now will be obsolete within a

few years, and that scares a lot of us, particularly those of us who remember the smell of methyl alcohol from a freshly-printed pink colored mimeograph school paper. You are dating yourself if you remember that! Isn't it strange today to know that what are our safe boundaries now were once unknown frontiers? Think about what tools and mechanisms we have now—our cell phones, computer software programs, city websites, iPads, electronic utility billing, and digital scanning—while items such as carbon paper, adding machines, pencil sharpeners, and typewriters have vanished. How far advanced are we now than, say, ten years ago, and where are we headed in the future?

I would like to present a small challenge to all of our Association members. Each day you are given an opportunity whether to excel, remain stagnant, or give up. Two of the three choices are bad. You are held to standards of quality and integrity that continually gauge your performance of service. It would do well for each of us to read the **TMCA's Code of Professional Ethics** at least once a week. I have mine placed on my office desk nearby where I can easily read it. I'm serious about this. Sometimes we can become lazy in maintaining our work responsibilities and our job focus, which can easily lead to failing in our ethics, so we need to be reminded and encouraged.

PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

I think back to the very first day of employment at Ranger City Hall and how excited I was about working in a different job environment and how eager I was to learn the billing system and work with the public. It was great! Can you remember your first official day as a city clerk? I hope your experience was similar. We all need that “magic” again. We need to continually nurture that which motivates our vocation and refrain from that which is detrimental to our profession. I’ve realized my greatest challenge in my future role as the TMCA president does not exist with the Association members, the executive board, my city council, my city manager, or the TMCA staff. My greatest challenge is me. And your greatest challenge this year will be you. Some way, somehow, we have to fight against becoming lethargic in our workplace and become engaged in the level of performance that our citizens, staff, and councils deserve.

I don’t mind saying that maybe some of you may have to rethink your occupation, if you ever intend to become great at what you do. What I mean is that to be the best at something requires that you first be passionate about it. You have to really, really want to achieve all that you are capable of achieving and be willing to do that which is honestly necessary to accomplish it. Any attempt less than that means you cheated

yourself, not counting those who are dependent on your service. Your involvement, participation, and action directed toward this passion will no doubt create results that will mark the greatest year of your career service to the community and this association.

In conclusion, the TMCA membership has increased by nearly ten percent from what it was ten years ago—from 854 to 931—and our membership has flirted in and around the low 900’s. I have a goal that I would like to see us attain in 2014 and that is to “bust 1,000”: have the largest membership ever realized. It’s possible. But I don’t want to see it done for just number’s sake. I want to see it accomplished through raising the standard

of service excellence to such a high degree of professionalism that is so vibrant and so exciting, all the city clerks in the state of Texas will want to be a part of it. And it can be done through the collective efforts of each chapter and each clerk individually. This “catching of excellence” can become contagious and flood throughout our whole organization. I’ve been on a championship team and I have also been on the losing side, too, and trust me, winning is a lot better and more fun. So let us all work together, hold each other accountable in our profession, and make this year the greatest in TMCA history. ★



2014 TMCA President Art Camacho with fellow Haltom City officials who attended the banquet.

New Executive Board Trustees

Introducing Shelley George, TRMC, and Aimee Nemer, TRMC



Shelley George, TRMC

“Being elected by my peers to serve as a TMCA trustee is truly an honor. I look forward to participating in the important role the executive board has in guiding professional development for the TMCA membership and TMCCP educational program. My own achievements are a result of the mentoring that I have

received from others who shared their knowledge, experiences, and time with me. I am grateful for this opportunity and I will strive to fulfill the mission of the Association.”

Shelley George, TRMC, has served as the city secretary of the City of Allen since 2003. Her previous municipal experience includes Allen assistant city secretary (1998-2003) and secretary II (1997-1998) and McKinney administrative secretary. She has also served as assistant director/volunteer coordinator of the Foster Grandparent Program and served on the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (1990-1996).

Continued on next page



Aimee Nemer, TRMC

“It is a great privilege for me to be nominated to serve on the TMCA executive board. I’m very grateful for the opportunity to work with the other TMCA board members, staff, and our entire membership to promote and improve continuing education and professionalism within the municipal clerk’s office. I

also look forward to the professional growth that I will gain while serving in this capacity.”

Aimee Nemer, TRMC, serves as city secretary of the City of Richardson. She previously served as city secretary of the City of Murphy from 2004-2012. She also served at the City of Wylie as interim city secretary (January-May 2003), deputy city secretary (2000-2004), administrative assistant to the city secretary (1999-2000), and administrative assistant to the fire chief and city secretary (1997-1999).

Continued on page 22

NEW TRUSTEES

Trustee Shelley George (continued)

Shelley earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) in 2002 (No. 394), has recertified twice, and is enrolled in her third recertification. She is also an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk.

Professional Affiliations

Shelley is a member of both the Lone Star and North Texas TMCA chapters. She has served as the Lone Star Chapter secretary, and her Lone Star committee service includes Audit, Bylaws, Clerk of the Year, Legislative, Nominating, and Scholarship/Fundraising. Shelley has held membership in TMCA since 2000. Her committee service includes Advisory Management (2012-2013), Certification (2009-2013, chair 2012-2013), Technology (2006-2012), Retirement, and Resolutions. She is also a member of ARMA and a member of the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators.

Shelley has taught at the annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar on “Step by Step:



2014 TMCA Executive Board trustees, presented with commemorative hour glasses, were administered the oath of office by 2013 President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa.

Process of an Election” and “Ordering an Election.” She has also co-authored the ninth edition of TMCA’s *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*. Shelley has volunteered as a convener at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar.

Family, Community, and Hobbies

Shelley is married to Chad, and they have

three children—Emily, age 13; Timothy, age 11; and Bradley, 12 months old. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, cheering on her children at sporting events, and spending time with family and friends. Shelley’s community activities include charter membership in the High Noon Lions Club.

NEW TRUSTEES

Trustee Aimee Nemer (continued)

Aimee earned her TRMC in 2005 (No. 475), recertified in 2010, and is enrolled in her second recertification. She earned her IIMC CMC designation in 2005 and her MMC in 2010.

Professional Affiliations

Aimee is active in both the Lone Star and North Texas Chapters of TMCA. She has served as president and secretary of the Lone Star Chapter. Her Lone Star committee service includes Municipal Clerk of the Year (chair), Nominations, Scholarship, Legislative, and Records Management Work Day. Aimee's North Texas committee service includes Membership, Legislative, Holiday (chair), and Scholarship. The Lone Star Chapter honored her as its 2012 Clerk of the Year and nominee for the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year. Aimee has held membership in TMCA since 2000. Her committee service has included Certification (2012-2013), Nominating, Resolutions, and Municipal Clerk of the Year (2006-2008, chair 2008). Aimee is also a member of IIMC, where she has served as chair of the IIMC Public Relations and Marketing Committee.

Aimee served as a panelist for "Communications for Small Cities" at the 2011 TAMIO Conference. She co-authored the ninth edition of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*. In 2012 Aimee assisted with compilation of the TMCCP "Step by Step: Process of an Election" handbook. She has also volunteered her service as a convener at TMCCP and IIMC seminars. During Bryan City Secretary Mary

Lynne Stratta's campaign for IIMC 2nd Vice President, Aimee served as chair of her Communication Committee. Aimee has been recognized for her "Reach for a Star" program work both in a 2004 Dallas Morning News Community Profile and in 2002 on KRLD-AM 1080 as "Citizen of the Week."

Family, Community, and Hobbies

Aimee has been married to her husband Rodney Nemer for 15 years; they have five children and two grandchildren. Their children are Jaimen, age 27; Austin, 25; Rachel, 21; and twin boys, Sawyer and Daley, 12; and her eldest son's children are Bryson, age 3, and Penelope, age 2. Aimee's family also has a dog named Ocho and a turtle named Buddy. Her hobbies include reading and writing, watching old movies, wine tasting, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

Aimee's community activities have included service on the editorial board of *The Connection Magazine*, a tri-city chamber publication; 2004 service on the Wylie ISD Bond Committee; service as publicity officer for Wylie Women's League. Aimee established the City of Wylie "Reach for a Star" outreach program. Aimee coordinated the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the City of Murphy; established a City of Murphy signature event, "Murphy Maize Days"; and established MYGov program (Murphy Youth in Government). ★

Thank You to Our Scholarship Donors

Thank you to all those who donated to TMCA scholarships in 2013!

*American Legal Publishing
American Legal Publishing Scholarship*

*Bojorquez Law Firm
Susan Rocha Scholarship*

*Virginia Byrd
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship*

*Central Texas Chapter
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Kirk Franklin
Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship
& Gold Seminar Sponsorship*

*Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship*

*Lone Star Chapter of TMCA
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Underwood Law Firm
Underwood Scholarship
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

*Municipal Code Corporation
2 Municipal Code Corporation Scholarships
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

*MCCi
2 MCCi Records Management Scholarships*

*North Texas Chapter of TMCA
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Red River Chapter of TMCA
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
Lila Fern Martin Scholarship
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*

*South Plains Chapter of TMCA
Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship
Lila Fern Martin Scholarship*

2014 Scholarships

Congratulations to the TMCA members who 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; the Susan Rocha Scholarship, funded by the Bojorquez Law Firm; and individual scholarships from the following vendors: American Legal Publishing, Franklin Legal Publishing, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, Municipal Code Corporation, and the Underwood Law Firm. Two 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 Rebecca Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerroville; Ron Gonzales, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Fort Worth; Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster; and Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland.



Clockwise from top left:

Marisela Garcia, city secretary, Kemah, is presented the **Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship** by Dale Barstow, vice president sales, Municipal Code Corporation.

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, is presented the **Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson Scholarship** by firm partner **Richard Hill**.

Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas, is presented the **Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship** by **Kirk Franklin**, president, Franklin Legal Publishing.

2014 SCHOLARSHIPS

Clockwise from top left:

Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, is presented an **MCCi Records Management Scholarship** by **Russell Haddock**, senior account executive, MCCi.

Jessica Graefe, TRMC, city secretary, Giddings, is presented the **American Legal Publishing Scholarship** by **Richard Frommeyer**, codification consultant, American Legal Publishing.

Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, is presented the **Susan Rocha Scholarship** by Alan Bojorquez, **Bojorquez Law Firm**.

Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak, is presented the **Underwood Scholarship** by **Audi Sciumbato**, Underwood Law Firm.



Scholarship Committee member **Amy Turner, TRMC**, city secretary, Midland, introduced the scholarship awards.

Photos by Paul Traves, fl6photo.com

2014 SCHOLARSHIPS

Photos by Paul Traves, f16photo.com



Above left: **Jeana Bellinger, TRMC**, city secretary, Brenham, is presented an **MCCi Records Management Scholarship** by **Russell Haddock**, senior account executive, MCCi.



Above right: **Laure Ann Morgan, TRMC (right)**, city secretary/office manager, Hemphill, is presented a **Lila Fern Martin Scholarship** by **Dr. Amy Holt**, education director, TMCA/TMCCP.

Scholarship recipients not pictured: Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown (Municipal Code Scholarship); Sherry Reeves, TRMC, city secretary, Grandview (Underwood Scholarship); Stacy Corley, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches (Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship); Stacey Chadwick, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Rowlett (Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship); and Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood (Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship).

2013 TMCA Retirees

Congratulations to all our honored retirees!



At top: Retiree **Shirley Garvel**, city secretary, Elgin, spoke at the banquet.

Above: Retiree **Esther Arzola**, city secretary, Port Aransas.

Christa Albert, TRMC, finance clerk, Corsicana

Esther Arzola, city secretary, Port Aransas

Barbara Alavarado, city secretary, Howe

Ernestine "Tina" Cavazos, city secretary, Diboll

Sue Daniel, city secretary, Humble

Bruce Dunn, TRMC, city secretary, St. Paul

Sheila Elmore, city secretary, Hudson Oaks

*Bill Flannery, TRMC,
city administrator/city secretary, Comanche*

Shirley Garvel, city secretary, Elgin

Linda Gill, city secretary, Castle Hills

Betsy Gregson, city secretary/fin. officer, Huntington

Mary Juarez, assistant city secretary, Corpus Christi

Kerry Kittrell, city secretary, Orange

*Joyce Laudenschlager, TRMC,
assistant city manager, Burnet*

Paula Miller, city secretary, Killeen

Anita Mueller, city secretary, Hico

Sarah Jo Oakes, city clerk, Clute

Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls

Jenny Redden, TRMC, city secretary, Morgan's Point

Janet Rogers, city secretary, West Lake Hills

Vivian Saiz, city secretary, Junction

*Ruthie Sager, TRMC,
city administrator, Bunker Hill Village*

Donna Sickel, city secretary, Carthage

Terry South, city secretary, Canadian

Connie Torres, city clerk, Belton

2013 TML Annual Conference

By TML Representative **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**

City Secretary, College Station



Sherry Mashburn, TRMC

The 101st Texas Municipal League Annual Conference was a resounding success, and I sincerely hope that many of you were able to attend. This year's conference was a little different in that sessions were divided into six specific tracks, and there was something for everyone:

- Human Resources,
- Quality of Life,
- Technology,
- Professional Development,
- City Showcase, and
- Grab Bag.

In addition to the many concurrent education sessions, we had some fine keynote speakers. Cheryl Cran, president, Synthesis at Work, Inc., kicked off the conference at the opening General Session and helped us to better understand generational differences and the impact those have on the organization and the community. Marilyn Sherman challenged us to “take a front row seat” and to not settle for mediocrity in our personal or professional



TMCA proudly sponsored TML's Friday morning "Women in Government" breakfast. The speaker was Marie Lopez Rogers, mayor, Avondale, Arizona.

2013 TML CONFERENCE

lives. The featured speaker at the TMCA-sponsored “Women in Government” breakfast (my favorite event each year!) was Marie Lopez Rogers, mayor, City of Avondale, Arizona. She shared her story of growing up in a small migrant farm labor camp where her father stressed the importance of education if she didn’t want to work in the cotton fields her entire life. She also shared her vision for “Kids at Hope,” which is a polar opposite viewpoint of “kids at risk.”

The conference ended on a rousing note. Texas Tribune Editor-in-Chief and CEO Evan Smith led the discussion on the hot-button issue of tuition rates for those in the U.S. illegally with four Republican candidates for lieutenant governor: Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, Senator Dan Patrick, Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, and Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples.

It was a great conference, and I hope to see y’all at next year’s conference in Houston. I know that it will be better than ever!



At the TMCA-sponsored “Women in Government” breakfast on Friday (clockwise from top left): TMCA President **Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC**, city secretary, Odessa, addresses the audience; President **Aguilar-Grimaldo** and TMCA TML Representative **Sherry Mashburn, TRMC**, city secretary, College Station; **Sherry and Norma with session speaker Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers** of Avondale, Arizona; and **Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers** speaking during the breakfast.

2013 TML CONFERENCE

TMCA Booth

The TMCA Booth at the annual Texas Municipal League Conference on October 8-11 in Austin was a great success. **Thank you to TML Booth Committee Chair Cara McPartland, TRMC, city secretary, Wimberley, and the Capital Chapter of TMCA!**

At right: **Christina Bruckner**, city secretary, Lago Vista, and TMCA TML Representative **Sherry Mashburn**, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, volunteering at the TMCA booth at the TML Conference. Pictured at right is a giveaway gift basket graciously donated by the Central Texas Chapter and Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, LLP.

Below: **Martha Velasquez**, TRMC, city secretary, Luling, and **Mary Valenzuela**, city secretary, Kingsville, volunteering at the TMCA booth.



THANK YOU TO TMCA BOOTH VOLUNTEERS:

Kara Atwood, city secretary, Lufkin
 Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown
 Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham
 Betty Brown, TRMC,
 local gov. election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath
 Christina Buckner, city secretary, Lago Vista
 Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen
 Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander
 Joy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, Buda
 Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt
 Sherry Mashburn, TRMC,
 city secretary, College Station

Jesica McEachern, city secretary, Bridgeport
 Cara McPartland, TRMC,
 city secretary/court clerk, Wimberley
 Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon
 Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano
 Brenda Page, city secretary, Smithville
 LeAnn Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Cedar Park
 Myrna Rios, support services supervisor, Austin
 Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city sec./office mgr., White Oak
 Mary Valenzuela, city secretary, Kingsville
 Martha Velasquez, TRMC, city secretary, Luling
 Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville

2013 TML CONFERENCE



Above: **Mary Valenzuela**, city secretary, Kingsville, and **Martha Velasquez**, TRMC, city secretary, Luling, at the Olson & Olson, LLP, booth at the TML Conference.

At right: TMCA booth volunteers **Sherry Roberts**, TRMC, city secretary, White Oak; **Myrna Rios**, support services supervisor, Austin; and **Lee Woodward**, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville.



IIMC News

Milwaukee 2014: “Quench Your Thirst For Education”

By IIMC Region IV Director **Mary Kayser, TRMC**
City Secretary, Fort Worth

IIMC's Preliminary Program for next year's annual conference in Milwaukee is **now available**. The Annual Conference will be held May 18-24 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. See you there!



IIMC Bulletins

Congratulations to Nyla Flatau, TRMC, utility board secretary, McAllen, and Betsy Gates, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Tomball, on each receiving the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality.

Nyla Flatau earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) from TMCCP in 2007, recertified in 2012, and is enrolled in her second recertification. Nyla is a longtime member of TMCA.

Betsy Gates earned her TRMC Certification from TMCCP in 2012 and is enrolled in her first recertification. Betsy has many years of membership with the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

Congratulations to Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony, on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from IIMC. The MMC is one of the two professional designations granted by IIMC. To qualify for entrance into the Master Municipal Clerk Academy (MMCA), which prepares participants for achieving the MMC status, one must have earned the CMC designation. To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality.

Christie earned her TRMC Certification from TMCCP in 2004 and has completed two recertifications. She has held membership in TMCA for over ten years, and has served on the Municipal Clerk of the Year, Scholarship, and Retirement committees. ★

2013 Chapter Honorees

Congratulations to the following TMCA members on being chosen by their chapters as their 2013 Clerk of the Year. You are the stars of Texas government! (View TMCA Clerk of the Year nominees [here](#).)



Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC
City Secretary, Odessa
West Texas Chapter



Marie Balthrop, TRMC
City Secretary, Holliday
Red River Chapter



Danette Dunlap, TRMC
City Secretary, Abilene
Bluebonnet Chapter



Jana Faucett
City Secretary, Belton
Central Texas Chapter



Melba Haralson, TRMC
City Secretary, Gladewater
Northeast Texas Chapter



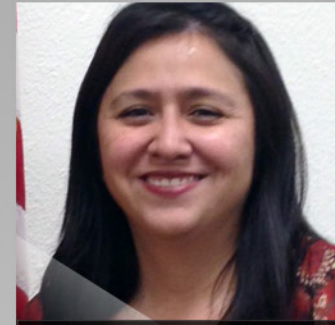
Lyn Hill
City Secretary, Cedar Hill
Yellow Rose Chapter



Sherry Mashburn, TRMC
City Secretary, College Station
Capital Chapter



Ellie Monteaux, TRMC
City Secretary, Livingston
Pineywoods Chapter



Jennifer Reyna, TRMC
City Sec., Alamo Heights
Alamo Chapter



Alicia Richardson, TRMC
City Secretary, Southlake
North Texas Chapter



Brenda Shaw, TRMC
City Sec./Manager, Morton
South Plains Chapter



Annette Villarreal, TRMC
City Secretary, McAllen
Lower Rio Grande Valley Ch.



Sandra Watkins, TRMC
City Secretary, Deer Park
Salt Grass Chapter



Kathy Wingo, TRMC
City Secretary, Lucas
Lone Star Chapter


 TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

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

At the August 28 meeting, chapter members enjoyed a fantastic buffet at the Hotel Alsace in the Alsatian-French city of Castroville. The meeting was opened by the mayor of Castroville, who recognized and thanked us for the service we provide to our governments, city residents, and visitors.

After approval of the chapter meeting minutes and financial report, discussions were held on proposed amendments to the chapter bylaws, the amount of 2013 chapter scholarship funds to be awarded, and volunteering for one of the many TMCA committees. Recent retirees Linda Gill, Castle Hills, and Mary Ybarra, Schertz, were recognized and given gifts of appreciation.

It was noted that many members had attended the June and August TMCCP seminars and that several members are currently enrolled in the TMCCP Certification/Recertification Program. Chapter President Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, congratulated those in the program and encouraged members to

continue with their education and to attend the October TMCCP Graduate Institute.

Upon closing of the meeting, a raffle prize, donated by Chapter President Vanzant, was won by Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville.

Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights, offered to host the October 30 chapter meeting.

The Alamo Chapter meets every fourth Wednesday, every other month, starting in February of each year. We invite anyone to join us, either as a member or a guest. For more information on our chapter, our meetings, and how to become a member, please visit alamotmca.org. ★

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Jana Faucett**

Deputy City Secretary, Temple

The Central Texas Chapter of Municipal Clerks held a bi-monthly meeting on August 21. The City of Robinson hosted the meeting, and President Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia, welcomed everyone including our special guest TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, to the Central Texas Chapter meeting. We want to extend a special thanks to Norma for attending our meeting and for sharing stories regarding her many travels and gracious words of encouragement to our chapter members. An amazing “B-B-Q” lunch was provided by the City of Robinson, and Jack Ferguson with BIS Digital provided a presentation regarding new and innovative digital recording software. A fun time was had by all!

Members also discussed TMCA updates, future chapter meetings, and upcoming seminars.

The Central Texas Chapter held its next bi-monthly meeting on October 16. The City of Hewitt hosted the



The Central Texas Chapter at their October meeting in the City of Hewitt.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

meeting and a wonderful meal was catered by Festive Occasions! Adam Miles, city manager, Hewitt, welcomed everyone and spoke regarding the new disc golf course recently opened in the City of Hewitt. A presentation was provided by Kathy Van Wolfe, McLennan County Elections Administrator, regarding Voter ID Law, and the Central Texas Chapter would like to extend our thanks to her for this valuable information!

Members also discussed TMCA updates, future chapter meetings, and upcoming seminars.

In other news, the 2014 Seminar will be hosted by the Central Texas Chapter and located at “Summers Mill Retreat and Conference Center” on July 25th and 26th. We are looking forward to using this beautiful venue centrally located between Austin and Waco and hope to see our friends from the Capital Chapter there! Several members from the Central Texas Chapter attended the Graduate Institute Seminar in South Padre and are looking forward to the Election Law Seminar in January!!



At the October Meeting held in Hewitt, with guest speaker Kathy Van Wolfe, McLennan County Elections Administrator.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Chapter members present at the October chapter meeting:

Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson

Ronda Cockerham, TRMC, city secretary, Italy

Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco

Amber Fuller, city secretary, Hubbard

Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills

Judy Keally, city secretary, Teague

Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt

Kathy McKenzie, HR director, Robinson

Cresandra Polk, Waco

Karen Sanchez, finance director, Robinson

Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia

Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan's Point Resort

Cynthia Ward, city secretary, Bellmead

Roshuna Wiley, deputy city secretary, Mexia



Central Texas Chapter members at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in South Padre Island: Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan's Point Resort; Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco; Jana Faucett, city secretary, Belton; and Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By **Brenda Craig, TRMC**

City Secretary, Kerrville

The Hill Country Chapter is looking forward to hosting the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar to be held in Kerrville in 2014. The Hill Country Chapter is planning now for some exciting goodie bags for all attendees and several spectacular door prizes. Mark your calendar now for October 23-24, 2014—you don't want to miss this one! ★

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

Leticia Saenz, San Antonio
Mary Supino, Arlington

Course 2

Linda Asbell, Lakeworth Village
Kara Atwood, Lufkin
Christy Badilla, Brady
Shannon Bennett, Deer Park
Leonardo Bonanno, Jr, Denton
Krista Cain, Weatherford
Jacky Casey, Rockwall
Deborah Dane, Kilgore
Sabra Davis, Granger
Jennifer Faircloth, Lucas
Jana Faucett, Temple
Asucena Garcia, Decatur
Seth Gipson, Hutto
Lyn Hill, Cedar Hill
Traci Paprocki, Schertz
Baudelia Rojas, Alton
Amy Shelley, Colleyville
Mary Supino, Arlington

Course 3

Linda Asbell, Lakeworth Village
Shannon Bennett, Deer Park
Gay Ferguson, Nederland
Jannette Goodall, Austin
Cara Hubbard, Reno
Angie Wade, Duncanville

Course 4

Machiel Covey, Clarendon
Deborah Dane, Kilgore
Jana Faucett, Temple
Cara Hubbard, Reno
Melinda Uriegas, San Antonio

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Janis Cable**

City Secretary, Lowry Crossing

Fall has definitely arrived in North Texas with brisk mornings, warm days, and cool nights. The kids are back in school and some of us are preparing for a November election.

The September 4 meeting of the Lone Star Chapter was held in McKinney (a central location convenient for many of our members) at Spring Creek BBQ. Seventeen members and two guests participated in our meeting, which highlighted the election of our slate of officers, adopting our budget for the 2013-2014 year, and our Character First topic, “responsibility.”

Brian Peppard, Senior GIS Programmer, Richardson, shared information about 311 systems, how they work, and what is available.

On October 2 the chapter meeting was held in Wylie. We were honored to have TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city



Above: Chapter members at Spring Creek BBQ in McKinney during the September meeting.

At left: Speaker **Brian Peppard**, senior GIS programmer, Richardson, at the chapter's September meeting.



LONE STAR CHAPTER

secretary, Odessa, in attendance to swear in our new officers. Outgoing President Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano, conducted the business portion of the meeting and proceeded to recognize board and committee members. Diane stated, "Thank you to everyone who is a member, on the board, or a committee. It was one of the best experiences I have had." She shared five points for members: 1) Bring people; 2) Serve members; 3) Recognize and cultivate talents; 4) Be ambitious; and 5) Think BIG.

TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo issued the oath of office to incoming officers Historian Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; Treasurer Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point; Secretary Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; President Elect Vickie Schmid, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Richardson; and President Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing.

Incoming President Cable's remarks focused on "Dare to Dream" and presentation of appreciation from the chapter was made to Diane Zucco, TRMC, city secretary, Plano, for her leadership. ★

Top photo, from left to right: President Elect **Vickie Schmid, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Richardson; Secretary **Jenny Page, TRMC**, city secretary, Frisco; TMCA President **Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC**, city secretary, Odessa; President **Janis Cable**, city secretary, Lowry Crossing; Treasurer **Alice Holloway, TRMC**, city secretary, Pilot Point; Historian **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen.

Near right photo: The chapter made a presentation of appreciation to outgoing chapter president **Diane Zucco, TRMC**, city secretary, Plano, for her leadership.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Ana Valdez**

City Secretary, Peñitas

We started this quarter by meeting in La Feria. Over a delicious lunch at Don Be-to's Restaurant, members brainstormed entertainment ideas for the upcoming TMCCP Graduate Institute banquet which would be held in October. Olga Oberwetter, city secretary, La Feria, surprised the chapter by raffling some door prizes to the members. Thank you very much, Ms. Oberwetter!

In September we met at Uncle Buck's Fishbowl & Grill in the Bass Pro Shop at Harlingen, where we had the honor of welcoming TMCA President Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa. Ms. Grimaldo discussed success and leadership with the chapter. We thank her for all her support of the LRGV Chapter and hope she enjoyed her visit.



Above: The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter at its September meeting in Harlingen.

Inset: Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter officers pose with visiting TMCA President Norma Grimaldo, TRMC (second from right), city secretary, Odessa.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

Our October meeting was held at the City Hall in Pharr on the sixteenth. We welcomed the Licensing Division Director of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Amy Harrison, and her staff. Ms. Harrison presented the legislative changes to the TABC application process. The chapter continued to discuss updates, upcoming events, and future chapter meetings.

Finally, the LRGV Chapter had the privilege to host the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in South Padre Island for fellow clerks and city secretaries from around the state. We hope you all enjoyed your stay, and we look forward to hosting the TMCCP “Records Management/HR Practices” Seminar in April 2014 in McAllen!

For those wishing to join the LRGV Chapter, please contact President Hilda Pedraza at hilda.pedraza@pharr-tx.gov. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Also be sure to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Irgvsecretaries.



At top and above: Chapter members gather at the October meeting in Pharr.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER



Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter members at the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in South Padre Island in October.

Members in attendance at the October chapter meeting in Pharr:

Yuri Cantu, San Juan

Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Harlingen

Arcelia Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes

Yolanda Galarza, Brownsville

Nayade Garza, Brownsville

Norma Olvera, TRMC,
administrative supervisor, McAllen

Sonia Padron, TRMC, assistant city clerk, Pharr

President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr

Vice President Bobby Rodriguez,
city secretary, San Juan

Yesenia Rodriguez, TRMC,
administrative supervisor, McAllen

Secretary/Treasurer Baudelia Rojas,
city secretary, Alton

Griselda Rosas, admin. supervisor, Brownsville

Historian Ana Valdez, city secretary, Penitas

Beatriz Valdez, Brownsville

Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen

Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen

Guests:

Amy Harrison, TABC Director Licensing Division

Jessica Santiago, TABC Administrative Assistant

Mario Villarreal, TABC Lieutenant

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

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

Greetings to all our fellow Texans from the North Texas Chapter!

Thanks to Dianna Buchanan, city secretary, Haslet, for hosting The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) on August 21. Mayor Bob Golden welcomed our group to Haslet. Nora Coronado, project coordinator for the City of Arlington, gave an overview of the Texas 83rd Regular Legislative Session. She highlighted city-related bills that she followed through the session.



Nora Coronado, project coordinator for the City of Arlington, spoke at the August 21 meeting in Haslet.

At this meeting the membership approved the following business items: the July 17 meeting minutes, the treasurer report for July 2013, and the proposed Slate of Officers for 2013-2014. The chapter discussed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 and bylaws revisions.

Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, hosted the September 18 meeting in Haltom City. We were instructed by TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt's presentation on the importance of



The North Texas Chapter at the August 21 meeting in Haslet. *Back row, left to right:* Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville; Michael Wells, TRMC, city secretary, Bedford; Janice England, TRMC, city secretary, Saginaw; Dianna Buchanan, city secretary Haslet; Shannon DePrater, TRMC, town secretary, Cross Roads; Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless; Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Ron Gonzales TRMC, assistant city secretary, Fort Worth; and Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington. *Center row:* Carol Borges, city secretary, Westworth Village; Sherry Reeves, TRMC, city secretary, Grandview; and Nora Coronado, project coordinator, Arlington. *Front row:* Jeanine Inman, TRMC, planning assistant, Haslet; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative assistant, TMCA/TMCCP; Susie Hiles, assistant to the city manager, Azle; Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Amanda Jacobs, assistant city secretary, Bedford; Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Jodi Brown, city secretary, Grapevine; April Hill, TRMC, city secretary, Roanoke; and Angela Winkle, TRMC, city secretary Crowley.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

asking questions. Great leaders routinely ask questions that coach their people toward creativity and innovation. Dr. Amy Holt honored our chapter as our speaker. She advised that asking questions leads to learning, and people within an organization should not only be allowed to ask questions, but encouraged to do so. Organizational benefits of a questioning culture include improved decision making and problem solving, greater adaptability, acceptance of organizational change, improved motivation, and empowerment of employees. Other results include stronger teamwork and enhanced innovation.

Nurturing a questioning culture also benefits the individual, Dr. Holt said, creating greater self-confidence, increased motivation and improved understanding of organizational constraints and opportunities.



Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP, spoke at the September 18 meeting in Haltom City.



Above: **Diane Cockrell, TRMC** (left), city secretary, Decatur, presents a plaque of appreciation to outgoing President **Alicia Richardson, TRMC**, city secretary, Southlake.

At left: **The North Texas Chapter 2013-2014 officers**, from left to right: Historian **Carol Borges**, city secretary, Westworth Village; Secretary **Shannon DePrater, TRMC**, town secretary, Crossroads; Treasurer **Mary Supino, TRMC**, city secretary, Arlington; Vice President **April Hill, TRMC**, city secretary, Roanoke; and President **Diane Cockrell, TRMC**, city secretary, Decatur.



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Individuals can also gain better listening and communication skills, become more flexible and develop a stronger commitment to learning and development.

Dr. Holt stressed that it is important to know what type of questions to ask and how to ask them, and she provided examples of unhelpful questions, great questions, and explained how to ask the right questions effectively.

Other highlights of her presentation included tips for questions to build relationships, questions to build a team, questions to help solve conflict, questions for planning and setting objectives, and questions to develop vision and values.

In conclusion, Dr. Holt explained, everyone has valuable ideas and experience that they can add to an organization.

Or, as she put it, “Sometimes you just have to ask.”

At this meeting the membership approved the following business items: August 21 meeting minutes, August 2013 treasurer’s report, proposed amendments to the bylaws, transfer \$1,762.07 from professional seminar fund to special project fund, transfer \$430.00 from membership fund to special project fund, fiscal year 2013-2014 budget, appointment of Carol Borges to fulfill vacancy of historian, and contributions to scholarship funds for: TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd, TMCA Dr. Joyce Snay, and NTMCA Alyce Deering. In addition, President Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake, was recognized for her outstanding service and innovative leadership over the past year. She initiated a strategic plan

for the future of our chapter and she was a driving force for many beneficial changes. She has challenged each of us to grow professionally. Even though she will no longer be our president, she will continue to be the “NTMCA Ninja.”

President Richardson administered the oath of office to the 2014 board of officers: President Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Vice President April S. Hill, TRMC, city secretary, Roanoke; Treasurer Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington; Secretary Shannon DePrater, TRMC, town secretary, Cross Roads; and Historian Carol Borges, city secretary, Westworth Village.

The 2013-2014 meeting calendar was presented by incoming president Diane Cockrell.

The NTMCA is always looking for new members. Anyone interested in attending our meetings or joining our chapter, please check out our website: ntmca@ymail.org or contact Diane Cockrell dcockrell@decaturtx.org or 940-393-0204, our chapter meetings have been blessed by speakers that share their ideas to enhance our careers. We want to share these opportunities with anyone that wants to participate. Come see what we are all about.

The NTMCA will meet on December 4 at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens for a Holiday Party. In January we will meet in Flower Mound at the Flower Mound Recreation Center; see our website for more information: ntmca.org.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER



The North Texas Chapter in Haltom City on September 18. *Back row, left to right:* Tracy Riggs, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Southlake; Janice England, TRMC, city secretary, Saginaw; Linda Cantu, TRMC, city secretary, Richland Hills; Amy Piukana, TRMC, assistant to city secretary, Hurst; Susan House, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Mesquite; Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; Christine Loven, assistant city secretary, Colleyville; Lindsay Wells, TRMC, administrative secretary, Euless; Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Kelly Edwards, TRMC, town secretary, Westlake; Tina Stewart, administrative aide, Arlington; Donna Pliska, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Haltom City; and Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth. *Center row:* Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth; Susie Hiles, assistant to city manager, Azle; Norma Zenk, TRMC, city secretary, Azle; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative assistant, TMCA/TMCCP; Michael Wells, TRMC, city secretary, Bedford; Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary, Highland Village; Laura Bell, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Carrollton; Amanda Jacobs, assistant city secretary, Bedford; Holly Houston, assistant to the city secretary, Euless; Sonja Land, TRMC, city secretary, Mesquite; Malinda Nowell, TRMC, city secretary, Weatherford; Asucena Garcia, TRMC, office clerk, Decatur; Jessica McEachern, city secretary, Bridgeport. *Front row:* Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless; Carol Borges, city secretary, Westworth Village; Shannon DePrater, TRMC, town secretary, Cross Roads; Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington; Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake; April S. Hill, TRMC, city secretary, Roanoke; Julie Heinze, city secretary, Lewisville; and Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

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

The Northeast Texas Chapter met at Canton City Hall on October 4. The group was joined by TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, who encouraged us with her talk on difficulties we overcome as city secretaries, and the “12 Things To Do” from the TMCA newsletter. Chapter President Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC, city secretary/court administrator, Mount Enterprise, presented appreciation gifts to Ms. Grimaldo; to our host Debbie Johnson, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Canton; to Assistant City Secretary Sereca Huff for driving the shortest distance (City of Van); and to our newest city secretary Janet Kavanaugh of Van (since April of this year).

We were especially pleased to have one of our retirees present: Fran Wendeborn, TRMC, Rusk. Fran gave an update on Deanna McCasland, city secretary, Overton, who appreciates your thought and prayers during her illness.

During the meeting, the chapter planned donations to be given at the TMCCP “Public Funds Investment” seminar in Tyler on June 19-20, 2014, and the door prize from the



Attendees of the October 4 meeting stand in front of Canton City Hall.

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Northeast Texas Chapter for the TMCA Annual Award Banquet in South Padre Island.

Following the business meeting, the members and guests enjoyed a lunch and an afternoon of shopping at the world-famous Canton Trades Days Park.

Our next meeting will be in December; for more information, call President Rosena Becker-Ross at 903-822-3269. ★

Those in attendance at the October meeting were:

Nora Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa

Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC,
city secretary/court administrator, Mount Enterprise

Vickie Brenton, TRMC, city secretary, Winnsboro

Karen Custer, Kilgore

Doris Crockett, Bullard

Debbie Dane, city clerk, Kilgore

Sereca Huff, assistant city secretary, Van

Debra Johnson, assistant city secretary, Canton

Janet Kavanaugh, city secretary, Van

Debbie Pierce, city secretary, Carthage

Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak

Julie Seymore, city secretary/finance officer, Canton

Jennifer Studdard, city secretary/director of finance, Nash

Lawanna Williams, finance director, Kilgore

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By **Gretchen Mercer, TRMC**

City Secretary, Canyon

The Panhandle Chapter met October 17. Members enjoyed a relaxing lunch in the beautiful Amarillo Club on the thirtieth floor with a spectacular view of the surrounding area. If you aren't familiar with the Texas Panhandle, you can see for miles on the ground, and twice as far from the thirtieth floor.

The meeting was called to order and the minutes and financial reports were approved. The nominating committee for 2014-2016 officers gave a report and nominations were accepted. A round table discussion was then held about programs the chapter would like to see presented in the coming year as well as ways to recruit city secretaries that aren't currently members. We are looking forward to a visit from TMCA President Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, who will swear in our new officers. We also look forward to our annual Christmas party at our December meeting.

The Panhandle Chapter had strong representation at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in South Padre Island with nine members attending. Our travel took a full day of changing



Panhandle Chapter members, from left to right: Kathy Styles, city secretary, Perryton; Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon; Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian; Kristina Solomon, city secretary, Tulia; Patricia Phipps, TRMC, city secretary/manager, Friona; Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman; Stella Sauls, TRMC, city secretary, Borger; Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford; and Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon.

PANHANDLE CHAPTER

planes and driving, but it was well worth it. I believe we all came back with some great ideas on bettering our individual skills.

We would also like to welcome our newest member, Sandra Perry from Skellytown, Texas. ★

Current members of the Panhandle Chapter are:

Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon

Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart

Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford

Charlene Gardner, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Pampa

Francis Hibbs, city secretary, Amarillo

Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon

Patricia Phipps, TRMC, city secretary/city manager, Friona

Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa

Andrea Rains, Amarillo

Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas

Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/assistant city manager, Spearman

Stella Sauls, TRMC, city secretary, Borger

Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian

Kristina Solomon, city secretary, Tulia

Kathy Styles, city secretary, Perryton

Sandra Perry, utility clerk, Skellytown

Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis

Ronnie Williams, Panhandle

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By Chapter Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer **Janelle Dolan, TRMC**
City Clerk, Burkburnett

Members of the Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at Pasquals Restaurant in Wichita Falls, on September 18 at 1:00 p.m.

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

Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted. The minutes of June 19 were approved, as well as the treasurer's report through September 9.

Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett, attended the TMCCP Legislative Update in San Marcos and emailed the members of the chapter the handouts from the seminar. Janelle went over the highlights, which included changes to voter registration, acceptable forms of identification for voting in Texas, personnel, budget and tax process, and open government in a digital age. This proved to be very informative and a great way to share information with all members of the chapter.

We announced the upcoming TML Conference and TMCCP seminars. Tracy Norr, city clerk, Wichita Falls, and Janelle Dolan were planning attendance at the TML Conference. Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday, would be in attendance at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in South Padre Island. Most of the chapter has plans to attend the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in January in Irving.

Discussion was also held on plans for the Christmas meeting and if our



chapter wanted to do a gift exchange or donate to a child. Last year the chapter donated clothes to children of a local family of Wichita Falls. We felt the blessing and rewards of giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. Suggestions were made for this year such as adopting a family, contacting the Arc, and/or Faith Refuge, which serves women and children in Wichita Falls. Further discussion will be held on this matter at the December meeting.

Our next meeting will be held December 4 at Pasquals Restaurant in Wichita Falls. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings.

For more information about the chapter contact Janelle Dolan, city clerk, Burkburnett, at jdolan@burkburnett.org or 940-569-2263. ★

Chapter members attending the September meeting:

Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday

Rena Benham, deputy city clerk, Wichita Falls

Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon

Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett

Tracy Norr, city clerk, Wichita Falls

Tracy Smith, administrative assistant, Lakeside City

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Lee Woodward, TRMC**

City Secretary, Huntsville

August in Webster

The Salt Grass Chapter was welcomed with hospitality and humor in the police department training room by Webster City Manager Wayne Sabo. After a three-month summer hiatus, the chapter enjoyed catching up a little over a barbecue lunch.

The meeting's speaker, Gary W. Smith, director of development services, Missouri City, is a former city attorney and city clerk, among other specialties. Esteemed among his colleagues—several of whom he had previously worked with were in attendance—Mr. Smith gave a fascinating presentation on the City of Missouri City's outlook on and guidelines for code enforcement.

TABC Legislative Update

A number of the chapter's members popped up at the August 21 "Legislative Update" session in Houston, hosted by Amy Harrison and Dick Wills of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. These meetings were held around the state, so many TMCA members may have been just as struck by some of the changes coming into play this fall.



Salt Grass Chapter members at the TMCA Annual Banquet in South Padre Island on October 24. TMCA Executive Board Trustee Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster; TMCA Resolutions Committee Chair Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville; TMCA Nominating Committee Chair and Past President Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte; TMCA President Elect Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; TMCA Executive Board Trustee Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; and 2013 Salt Grass Chapter President and TMCA Retirement Committee Chair Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

September Public Information Act Seminar and Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter annually hosts a “Public Information Act” seminar in Deer Park, this year being the twelfth annual event. Generally held in the spring, this year’s seminar was moved to September to allow for legislative updates. Featured speakers were Bret Adams, a government information analyst from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), and Mike Munson, the Supervisor of Communications and Records for the City of Webster Police Department. Both provided new views and fresh insights on handling these familiar topics. The TSLAC online resources will likely be a boon for municipal clerks for training and IIMC certifications. The monthly chapter meeting followed the seminar at the end of the afternoon.

October Meeting in Tomball

Several members of the chapter visited at the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference in Austin in October, but many were not able to attend. The chapter chose to use the October chapter meeting to have conference-goers share their experiences. Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville, and Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood, recapped sessions and speakers, and provided links and presentation materials.

Tomball City Secretary Doris Speer, TRMC, and Deputy City Secretary Betsy Gates, TRMC, gave everyone Halloween-themed gift bags

from the city and were great hostesses. The group also discussed annual donations to TMCA, nominations for 2014 officers, scholarship and Chapter Clerk of the Year deadlines, and anticipation for the annual installation luncheon to be held at Maggiano’s (Houston, Galleria) on December 11.

A few members were able to attend the TMCA seminar in South Padre Island in October (busy month!) and were excited by frequent Salt Grasser participation and recognition, including retirees, TMCA committee chair reports, and door prize donations. It was a great time with an excellent speaker!

Guests are always welcome at Salt Grass events! For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact 2014 President Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, at croan@cityofwebster.com. ★

Members in attendance at the October meeting:

Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

Betsy Gates, TRMC, Deputy city secretary, Tomball

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City

Michelle Perez, Deputy city secretary, Friendswood

Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball

Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood

Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Dolle K. Downe, TRMC**

City Secretary, Lancaster

The Farmers' Almanac is a well-known periodical that provides gardening tips, weather forecasts and human interest stories. The theme at the October 10 Yellow Rose Chapter installation of officers meeting was "Tending the Garden." Chapter President Lyn Hill, TRMC, city secretary, Cedar Hill, presented a garden tool to each incoming officer along with a thoughtfully prepared bit of wisdom about nurturing our Yellow Rose Garden. The ceremony turned out to be the chapter's very own valuable Farmers' Almanac, complete with tips for growing our chapter and forecasts for more blossoms in the coming year. Each officer also received a yellow rose. Officers for FY 2013-2014 include: President Dolle Downe, TRMC, city secretary, Lancaster; Vice President Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie; Treasurer Pam Woodall, city secretary, Ovilla; Secretary Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield; and Historian Dana Argumaniz, city secretary, Red Oak. Congratulations to our new officers.



Yellow Rose Chapter incoming FY 2013-2014 officers at the October meeting.

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

Chapter President Lyn Hill also presented the chapter with the very special poem below:

“The Yellow Rose Garden”

There is a yellow rose garden
That started right here,
And it blossomed and spread
Its sweet fragrance all year.

One bush, then two bushes, three
And then four.
At first, it was small,
But it grew more and more.

The branches grew strong,
And the vines intertwined.
A more beautiful garden
You never will find.

The lesson is this.
“United we stand.”
Let us walk through the challenge.
Let us all lend a hand.

We’re the Yellow Rose Chapter,
Celebrating one year.
We step to the forefront
Our mission is clear.

With our organized efforts
And striving each day,
We’ll promote our profession
And the TMCA.

The Yellow Rose Chapter holiday meeting is December 5, hosted by the City of Red Oak. We welcome you to come and visit us. You may just find the perfect garden to sow the seeds of friendship and shared goals. ★



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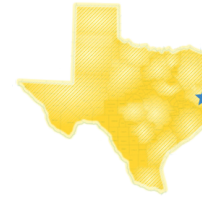
*If you haven't renewed your
TMCA membership for 2014,
it is now time to renew!
Purchase your 2014 dues in our
online store.*

TMCA Chapters



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Brenda Craig, TRMC, President
701 Main St
Kerrville, TX 78028
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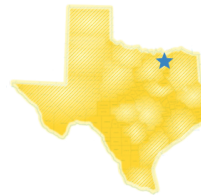
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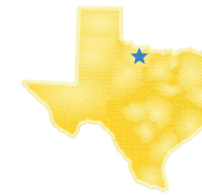
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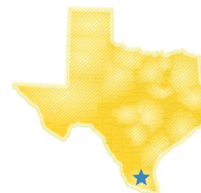
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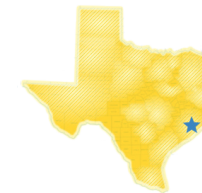
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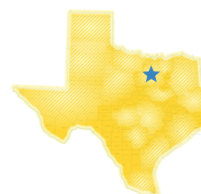
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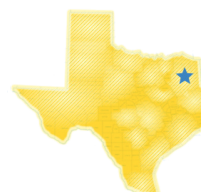
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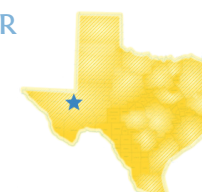
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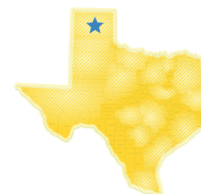
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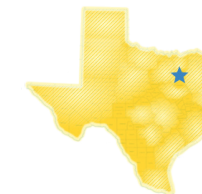
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