

TMCA NEWS



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TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC City Clerk, Wichita Falls

President's Message Choose to Make a Difference

My year as the 66th president of TMCA has definitely flown by, but I enjoyed every second of it. It has been an eventful year which included a job change in May and travel all across the great state of Texas. It was truly a blessing to be able to visit all 17 TMCA chapters and represent our organization at the annual IIMC Conference in Norfolk, Virginia, and the TML Annual Conference in Fort Worth. I have been overwhelmed by the hospitality, love, and support poured out to me over the past year from each chapter.

The TMCA board has had a busy year, and we continue to strive to make decisions that reflect the desires of our membership. At every chapter visit I have stated that “this is your organization, and we want your input,” and I sincerely mean that. Over the past year the board has listened to your ideas and concerns and worked hard to make changes to make our organization more member-centered, and I would like to highlight a few of them. We continue to look at our **strategic plan** to make sure that decisions the board makes fall in line with the plan, and we

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

are implementing a standing Strategic Plan Review Committee to monitor and update the plan as we move forward. The board has also worked to implement an **award process to recognize members that are achieving excellence and efficient management of resources in the Municipal Clerk's office**. I am excited that we will have our first application submission in 2019 and awards given at the annual awards banquet in 2020. TMCA awarded just over **\$12,000 in seminar scholarships and travel stipends** to assist members with certification and recertification, and we awarded **13 major scholarships** this year, including the very first Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship and a new vendor scholarship from Olympia Consulting. TMCA also joined together in 2017-2018 and **raised funds for members personally affected by Hurricane Harvey** and we were able to send them gift cards to show our love and support. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continuing to work with the board and membership as we continue to make improvements and move our organization into the future.

When I began my year with my acceptance speech at the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet in Austin in October of 2017, I was determined to be an inspiration to our members as I encouraged everyone to step out of their comfort zone and find ways to serve others. I am passionate about being a public servant and truly enjoy serving others in every area of my life; I hope that in at least some small way I have been successful in showing that to others through my actions. I am not sure what impact I have had on our membership, but I know for certain the impact you all have had on me! There are too many examples to list the



Photography by Paul Traves

2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC (left), is presented an engraved crystal recognition award by 2019 TMCA President Kim Sutter, TRMC, on behalf of the TMCA membership in appreciation of Marie's year of exemplary service to the Association.

Vol. XXIX No. 4, December 2018

TMCA News is published by: Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.

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municlerks.unt.edu

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ways that my life has been forever changed by stories shared with me, behaviors I have witnessed, and the way each of you embraced me for the imperfect person that I am. It has been such an honor to serve as president of TMCA this past year, and I will forever cherish the memories, friendships, and life lessons I have learned.

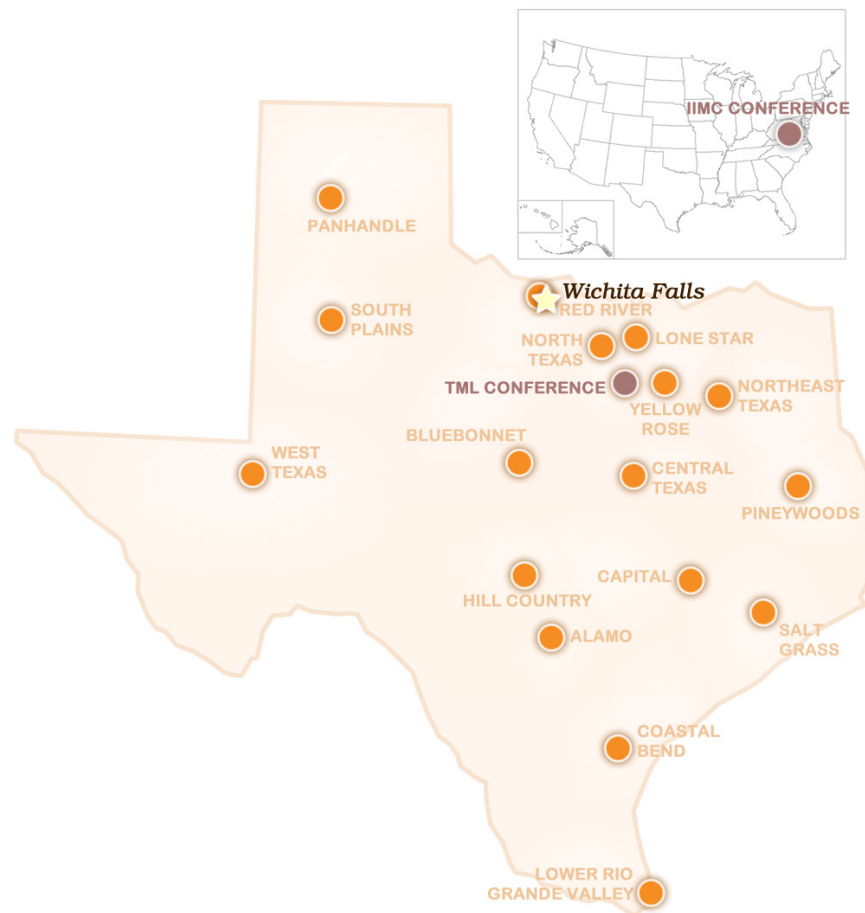
I would like to leave you once again with a quote from Dolly Parton that I shared during my acceptance speech. "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and be more, then you are an excellent leader." My hope is that my actions have inspired you at least half as much as yours have inspired and blessed me this year!

President's Travels

Thank you to TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, City Secretary, Wichita Falls, for representing TMCA in her travels across Texas—and to Virginia—this year! She visited all 17 of our chapters, and attended the TML and IIMC Conferences.

February 28 - Alamo Chapter
 March 1 - Coastal Bend Chapter
 March 21 - Red River Chapter
 April 18 - Pineywoods Chapter
 May 21-25 - IIMC Conference (Virginia)
 June 13 - Panhandle Chapter
 July 19 - North Texas Chapter
 August 15 - Capital Chapter
 August 16 - Hill Country Chapter

August 20 - Northeast Texas Chapter
 September 12 - Bluebonnet Chapter
 September 19 - South Plains Chapter
 Oct. 3 - Lone Star Chapter
 Oct. 10-12 - TML Conference (Fort Worth)
 Oct. 25 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
 December 5 - Central Texas Chapter
 December 6 - Yellow Rose Chapter
 December 12 - Salt Grass Chapter



2018 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominees

The following 18 TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2018 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!



Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC
City Secretary, Odessa
West Texas Chapter Nominee
TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year



Amy Anderson, TRMC
City Secretary, Lakeside City
Red River Chapter Nominee



Lori Cartwright, TRMC
City Secretary, Waxahachie
Yellow Rose Chapter Nominee



Toni Chrestman, TRMC
City Secretary, Slaton (now retired)
South Plains Chapter Nominee



Peggy Cimics, TRMC
City Secretary, Alamo
Alamo Chapter Nominee



Kerri Craig, TRMC
City Secretary, Horseshoe Bay
Hill Country Chapter Nominee



Jannette Goodall, TRMC
City Clerk, Austin
Capital Chapter Nominee



Kathy Hoover, TRMC
City Secretary, Gilmer
Northeast Texas Chapter Nominee
in memoriam



Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt
Central Texas Chapter Nominee



Ellie Monteaux, TRMC
City Sec. & Asst. City Mgr., Livingston
Pineywoods Chapter Nominee



Karen Price, TRMC
City Secretary, Pampa
Panhandle Chapter Nominee



Alicia Richardson, TRMC
City Secretary, North Richland Hills
North Texas Chapter Nominee



Crystal Roan, TRMC
City Secretary, Webster
Salt Grass Chapter Nominee



Baudelia Rojas, TRMC
City Secretary, Alton
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter Nominee



Deborah Sorensen, TRMC
City Secretary, Royse City
Lone Star Chapter Nominee



Doris Speer, TRMC
City Secretary, Tomball
Nominated by Lee Woodward, TRMC



Mary Valenzuela, TRMC
City Secretary, Kingsville
Coastal Bend Chapter Nominee



Christi Wynn, TRMC
City Secretary, Brownwood
Bluebonnet Chapter Nominee

TMCCP SEMINAR

Election Law Seminar

January 24-25, 2019, Frisco, Texas • Early Registration Deadline: January 9, 2019

Join us for the 47th annual **TMCCP Election Law Seminar** in Frisco! The seminar covers a multitude of topic options. You may choose from a selection of **breakout sessions** to best meet your needs.

If you hold your own elections and are new to elections or would like a refresher, we recommend registering for our popular pre-seminar session, "Step By Step: Conduct of an Election," held the day prior to the seminar.

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

We look forward to seeing you in January! ★



Wednesday, January 23, optional Pre-Seminar Session:

- **10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.:** Optional Pre-Seminar **Step by Step Session for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections** (\$145 registration fee, includes box lunch and >500-page "Step by Step" handbook)

Thursday, January 24, and Friday, January 25, Election Law Seminar breakout session choices:

- "Ballots"
- "Campaign Funding, Ethics, TEC Reports, Forms, & Regulations"
- "Candidate Packets: Applications, Filings, & Petitions"
- "Charter Amendment Elections, Poll Watchers & Inspectors"
- "Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks"
- "Ethics & Election Integrity"
- "ISD Elections: What You Need to Know"
- "Joint Elections"
- "Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections"
- "Orientation for New City Secretaries & Others Interested in the Certification Program"
- "Provisional Voting"
- "Recall Elections for Home Rule Cities, Referendum & Initiative"
- "Recruiting & Training Election Workers"
- "Runoffs, Vacancies, & Recounts"
- "TML Legislative Update on Elections"
- "Update from the Texas Secretary of State's Office"
- "What Happens Before And After An Election?"
- "But I Still Have Questions" (For Individuals Conducting Their First or Second Election)
Ask questions one-on-one from the experts in an open "job-fair"-style format: "Your Election Calendar," "Election Records," "Small Cities," "Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program," "Forms," "Secretary of State," and Additional Questions



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

Lucy Aldrich, Killeen
 Stefanie Borchers Brown, Leander
 Cassandra Brager, Tyler
 Tara Brooks, Grapevine
 Christina A. Cabrera, Bryan
 Laura Calcote, Wimberley
 Katherine Field, Slaton
 Yael Forgey, Azle
 Cinda Garner, San Augustine
 Cindy Gonzalez, McAllen
 Lola Hazel, Dalworthington Gardens
 Lori Hollingsworth, El Campo
 Sereca Huff-Huggins, Van
 Kristen Kahler, Ore City
 Sharon McFadden, Graham
 Patsy Patten, Wilmer
 Heather Robertson-Caraway, Tomball
 Jill Shelton, Bandera
 Angela Smith, Cleveland
 Brenda Tarpley, Jacksboro
 Kasi Wright, Wortham

Course 2

Brandy Barrett, Westworth Village
 Erica Berry, Troy
 Cassandra Brager, Tyler
 Rachél Gafford, Overton
 Rocio Gonzales, Allen
 Tammy Lofton, Waskom
 Courtney Paz, Lubbock
 Gale Roberts, Sulphur Springs
 Angela Smtih, Cleveland
 Janie Willman, Glenn Heights
 Kendra Worthy, Red Oak

Course 3

Siria Arreola, Boerne
 Cassandra Brager, Tyler
 Laura Calcote, Wimberley
 Dayl Cooksey, Sealy
 Susana Marin, Mansfield
 Diana Stapp, League City

Course 4

Erika Brady, Austin
 Cassandra Brager, Tyler
 Tara Brooks, Grapevine
 Dayl Cooksey, Sealy
 SueAnn Reyes, Midland

2018 TMCA Retirees

Congratulations to TMCA members who retired in 2018!

All of our TMCA retirees were announced and recognized at the annual banquet.

Shelley Britton, City Secretary, Fredericksburg

Susan Brock, City Clerk, Taylor

Linda Cernosek, City Secretary, Rosenburng

Toni Chrestman, City Secretary, Slaton

Brenda Craig, City Secretary, Kerrville

Deborah Dane, City Clerk, Kilgore

Carole Ehrlich, City Secretary, Wylie

Sandy Hart, City Secretary, McKinney

Toni Milam, City Secretary, Llano

Lupita Passement, City Secretary, San Benito

Sherry Tisdale, City Secretary, Bridge City

Nelwyn Ward, City Secretary, Memphis

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION'S Annual Banquet

TMCA had a wonderful annual banquet in South Padre Island in October! The festivities included presentation of **2018 TMCA Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year** award to **Norma Grimaldo**, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; induction of the **2019 TMCA President Kim Sutter**, TRMC, city secretary, Euless; presentation of **2019 scholarships**, recognition of **2018 retirees**, and more. **Thank you to TMCA chapters** for donating door prizes! Thank you also to our host chapter, the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter**, for hiring a fantastic mariachi band for the event!



Above: 2018 TMCA President Marie Balthrop (*right*) administers the oath of office 2019 TMCA President Kim Sutter.

Inset: Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter members with the event's mariachi band.

2018 TMCA Clerk of the Year Norma Grimaldo

Odessa City Secretary

Each year Texas municipal clerks nominate one of their peers for the prestigious state Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be

- an active member 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.

For her outstanding achievements as an exemplary public servant and invaluable mentor and advocate for city secretaries, Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as our 2018 honoree.



Committee Chair Kimberly Sloat presents the award to Norma Grimaldo.

Congratulations to Odessa City Secretary Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, who was nominated by the West Texas Chapter for this prestigious honor. TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, made the official presentation to Norma at the TMCA Annual Banquet.

In the chapter's nomination letter, Crystal Montez stated, "[Norma] has a can-do, one-team spirit that makes assisting other municipal clerks a passion for her. [...] No matter the environment or the mood of those she encounters daily, all her actions and reactions include a smile and an incredibly polite demeanor. She leads by example!"

2018 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

Norma began serving in public office 29 years ago and has served the citizens of Odessa as city secretary for 20 of those years. She received her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) certification in 2001, has recertified three times, and is currently enrolled in her fourth recertification. Norma earned the Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 2011.

Norma has been an enthusiastic leader, mentor, and friend to her fellow city secretaries. She served as president of TMCA in 2013, having previously served nine years on the TMCA Executive Board in every office and as a trustee. Norma has also served on several TMCA committees, including Advisory Management (2012-2014, 2015 chair), Audit (2014, 2016), Nominating (2017 chair), Nominating Policy Ad Hoc (2016), and Scholarship (2018). She was TMCA's TML Representative 2011-2012, and was the TML Women in Government Breakfast coordinator for TMCA in 2011. She co-authored two editions of the TMCA *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*. Norma was an instructor on contracting at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar from 2012-2015. She has convened at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar for five years.

Norma is active in the TMCA West Texas Chapter. She has served as the chapter's president (2002-2004, 2017-2018), vice president (2000-2002, 2012-2013), and vice president/treasurer (2013-2016). Her chapter committee service includes the Bylaws Committee and

the Education Committee. She was nominated for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

She has been active in Texas Municipal League, where she has served as TML Region IV secretary twice (2003 and 2009).

In her gracious acceptance speech, Norma said, "I am proud to be part of the finest Association in the best state and in the greatest country of this world. When you take on this role of a public servant, being the best is what it takes. Our communities, our cities, and all the citizens: they deserve our very best. Is that not the mission of our Association? To establish robust standards and instill a rigid core of ethics by providing guidance through superior educational resources that we have in our Association.

"[...] We're in a labor of love: a genuine concern for the matters of the city that's rooted in a passion of service and forged in the education of our Association. The support and the assistance that we give to each other, it injects a positive energy back into our city and our citizens. We want nothing but success for each other."

She closed her speech by saying, "This recognition, this award, this light: while it feels unfamiliar, it's a jewel that I will proudly wear for the rest of my life. Thank you, each one of you. I love you."

[View video of her full speech here.](#)

Congratulations, Norma, on this well-deserved recognition!

WELCOME

2019 President Kim Sutter

*2019 TMCA President Kim Sutter delivered her acceptance speech
At the October 25 TMCA Awards Banquet in South Padre Island*

Photo by Paul Traves



*2019 TMCA President
Kim Sutter, TRMC
City Secretary, Euless*

Good evening!

How many of you watched the Oscar Awards this year? Do you remember Jimmy Kimmel offering a jet ski to the person who delivered the shortest speech? Well I am open to any offers from the floor. Seeing none, let us get started.

First and foremost, I want to thank and recognize the man upstairs for his grace and blessings each and every day.

To get anywhere in life, we have to have our tribe. Joining us here tonight is my husband of 32 years, Bill Sutter. My very own family proclaims this man is a saint for putting up with me for so many years—regardless of the circumstances. He pushes me. Mostly my buttons. However, in spite of me, he sticks around. I have asked him “why?” and he typically responds with a joke, so to this day I do not have an answer to my question. I can only assume he does not know why either.

Also, here tonight is my womb mate and twin sister, Kelly Ondras. She is one of the most giving individuals you will find on this planet. However, although my twin, we are polar opposites on many fronts. When she is weak, I am her strength. When she is strong... well, I am still strong. I could go on, but you get the idea.

2019 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Additionally, Bill and I have brought three sons in to this world, but I guess we raised them to be independent and they are off doing life, and I am okay with that.

I am also honored to be blessed with the presence of The Honorable Linda Martin, the mayor of the great city of Euless. She is not only my boss, but also my friend. Her laugh is contagious, and we laugh a lot. Shed a few tears as well. She is the best! Thank you for making the trip down south to be with us tonight.

I would like to give a shout out to my home base: the North Texas Municipal Clerks who are with us tonight. I genuinely care for and love each and every one of you and I hope I make you proud, and a special shout out to one of my BFF's who could not make the trip to be with us, but she is where she needs to be—I love you, A!



2019 TMCA President Kim Sutter (*second from left*) with her husband Bill Sutter, Euless Mayor Linda Martin, and Kim's sister Kelly Ondras.

When I joined the City of Irving staff in 1997, I would have never have thought I would be standing before you tonight as the 67th incoming president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. I was a young 30-year-old wife and mother of three little boys just looking for a “job” that would pay the bills and keep me close to home.

So many questions come to mind when I ponder the thought of how I got here. Am I even qualified for this role? As I look across this room, I see many of you who have paved the way for so many in our

profession. You inspired me, you educated me, you guided me, and you helped mold me as a municipal clerk. I can only hope that I fill those shoes for others.

I have often said that, not unlike many of my peers, I stumbled into the city secretary world. I was fortunate that my entry into this profes-

2019 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

sion was not at full throttle as I know many of you have endured. Do not get me wrong, I have had my share of “experiences” over the past 21 years, and I am sure they just might be similar to what others have or will experience in their careers. However, looking back, I am grateful and can honestly say that I have never, ever felt like I was stuck on an island with no lifeboat, left to perish and wither away. The point I want to make is that these experiences, and more so the people we turn to that listen or help get us navigate through the experiences, are an extremely valuable component in our journey, not only professionally, but also personally. You know this. Be sure to take the time to recognize the role that your peers, TMCA staff, and the Association play in your journey.

As I prepared for tonight, I reflected on the advice given to me by my good friend and former TMCA president Art Camacho. He told me a year ago that I had better start writing my acceptance speech. Every time our paths crossed over the past year, he asked how the speech was coming. Well, it was not. Life took over and I realized I was turning into a pretty good procrastinator.

Well, just two weeks ago while attending the TML Annual Conference, I crossed paths with yet another former TMCA president, LeAnn Gallman. She asked if I was ready for Graduate Institute. I responded embarrassingly that I had yet to pen out my speech. She responded, “That is okay, you have plenty of time.” Now if I had said that I wrote it a year ago, I suspect she would have applauded me as well. LeAnn, thank you for your encouraging and supportive words. They conflicted with Art’s, but they certainly fit my situation better.



Photography by Paul Traves



2019 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Truthfully, I did jot down some comments for my speech—revised it several times—never really the idea just the order of the words. So tonight, my comments may not seem necessarily well thought out and rehearsed, but delivered from my heart, and as long as it comes from the heart, it cannot be wrong.

I am not here to talk to you tonight about the benefits and greatness of TMCA. Although maybe I am in a way. The character and determination of the members of the Association is one very critical component of what makes this Association great, and if you are sitting here tonight, you more than likely understand the value and importance of this Association.

In today's environment of political unrest and down and out hate and ugliness, where you cannot even post a picture of your dog without someone making it about politics, I want to encourage you to take positive action to lift up one another—whether family, friends, or strangers. It must start somewhere. Banded together we can start a wave that will have a positive impact beyond what we can imagine.

Anyone that knows me knows I love a good theme. So going into 2019, I am giving you the acronym SPOT. You are probably wondering what that means. Well I made it up. **SPOT means Sharing Positive Observations Today.**

The foundation of SPOT is the Power of Words, and as we leave here tonight I will leave you with a challenge that I hope you will carry into 2019 and beyond with the sole purpose of impacting someone in a powerful, positive way.

Anyone that knows me knows I love a good theme. So going into 2019, I am giving you the acronym SPOT.

***SPOT means
Sharing Positive
Observations Today.***

I want to challenge you to positively impact someone else by lifting them up by offering words of praise, appreciation, and encouragement.

Let us make this a great year by sharing positive observations that impact our daily lives.

2019 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

So, as you leave here tonight, I want to challenge you to positively impact someone else by lifting them up by offering words of praise, appreciation, and encouragement. Many of you are already pretty great at lifting others up. I do not think that I am and I want to work on being better at it.

Any time you observe something positive or that makes you feel happy or enlightened, acknowledge it or the person responsible. It could be the sunrise or sunset. Maybe a pumpkin spice latte. It could be a friend or a stranger that made your day or situation better. Anything that puts a smile on your face or impacts you or others positively in any way.

I want to challenge you to practice SPOT. I am going to get you started by having you leave here tonight with a few cards. You will see a

stack bundled at your place at the table. Scribe a note with the intent of lifting someone up. Tell them how amazing they are. What they mean to you. How great it was to see them and spend a little time with them, and feel free to share the impact of SPOT by using the hashtag #SPOT. I would love for you to **share your SPOT moments with me** as well so that I can share them in the quarterly newsletter.

In closing, I will share a quote from Margaret Cousins: "Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."

Let us make this a great year by sharing positive observations that impact our daily lives.

Thank you and have a good night.

2019 TMCA Executive Board

The TMCA officers were installed at the Annual Banquet on October 25

Photo by Paul Traves



Seated, from left to right:

Treasurer Maria Jackson, TRMC
City Secretary, Missouri City

Immediate Past President Marie Bathrop, TRMC
City Secretary, Wichita Falls

President Kim Sutter, TRMC
City Secretary, Euless

President Elect Shelley George, TRMC
City Secretary, Allen

Standing, from left to right:

Trustee Gretchen Mercer, TRMC
City Secretary, Canyon

Trustee Amanda Campos, TRMC
City Secretary, Burleson

Trustee Cara McPartland, TRMC
City Secretary, Salado

Secretary Christi Shivers, TRMC
City Secretary/Finance Director, Mexia

Trustee Lee Woodward, TRMC
City Secretary, Huntsville

Trustee Peggy Cimics, TRMC
City Secretary, Cibolo

Trustee Teresa Valdez, TRMC
City Secretary, Rockport

Trustee Jannette Goodall, TRMC
City Clerk, Austin

Inset:

Vice President Aimee Nemer, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

Trustee Alicia Richardson, TRMC
City Secretary, North Richland Hills



New Executive Board Trustees

Introducing Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, and Alicia Richardson, TRMC

Gretchen Mercer, TRMC

Gretchen Mercer has served as the city secretary of the City of Canyon since 2007. She previously served as Canyon's HR director from 2005-2007, and its public works administrative assistant from 1996-2005.

Professional Affiliations

Gretchen earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2013 (No. 683) and recertified in 2018.

Gretchen has held membership in TMCA since 2007 and has been active in the Association. She has served on the Nominating Committee and the Resolutions Committee, and chaired the Membership Committee. She served on the Certification Committee for three years. Gretchen has served as a convener at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar since 2014, and has also served as a volunteer for several years at the TMCCP booth at the annual TML Conference. Gretchen is a co-author of the 2018 edition of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

Gretchen is an active member of the Panhandle Chapter where she has held the offices of president, vice president, secretary, and historian. She has served on several chapter committees including Conference Committee, Bylaws, Nom-

ination Committee, and Chapter/TMCA Clerk of the Year Committee. The Panhandle Chapter nominated Gretchen for TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2016.

Gretchen is also a member of the Texas Human Resources Administration.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Gretchen has also volunteered with United Way, Boy Scouts, PTA, Chamber of Commerce, church, and has served on the Canyon Area Library Board. Her hobbies include spending time with her grandchildren and family. She enjoys traveling, baking and decorating cakes and cookies, working in the yard, and reading. She and her husband James have been married for 36 years; her son Brenden is married to Kimberly, and their daughter is Aerilynn; her son Jason is married to Erica; and her daughter Andrea is married to Travis, and their children are Archer and Zander.

Appointment to the TMCA Executive Board

On her appointment to the TMCA executive board, Gretchen says, "As with so many of us, the role of city secretary just fell into my lap. I was currently the HR director and had just begun the TMCA Certification Program when I came in



Gretchen Mercer, TRMC (far left), volunteers at the 2018 TMCCP Election Law Seminar registration table.

NEW TRUSTEES

one Monday morning and found a note on my desk saying ‘congratulations, you’re the new city secretary.’ I was very excited, but I wouldn’t have survived without the amazing wisdom and support shown to me by the Panhandle Chapter and municipal clerks across our great State of Texas. I am so honored to be appointed to the TMCA executive board and blessed to work for a city that supports me and our profession. I am dedicated to the goals and values of TMCA, and I will work hard to provide positive direction and support to help others achieve success in the very important role of city secretary just as it has been so freely given to me. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, for the professional education and networking TMCA provides, and for the forever friendships.”

Alicia Richardson, TRMC

Alicia Richardson has served as the city secretary of the City of North Richland Hills since 2014. Prior to joining the City of North Richland Hills she served in the same capacity for the cities of Southlake from 2011-2014 and Highland Village from 2006-2011. She also served as the assistant city secretary in North Richland Hills from 1998-2006.

Professional Affiliations

Alicia earned her TRMC Certification (No. 404) in 2002, and is currently working on her fourth recertification. She holds the Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

Alicia has held membership in TMCA since 1999. Her service with TMCA includes being a panelist at the August 2018 Records Seminar, “Capturing and Retaining Social

Media Records” and a co-presenter at the 2018 Election Law Seminar, “Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks.” She served on the Certification Committee in 2018 and on the Nominating Committee in 2015 and 2017. She was the chair of the 2017 Recognition Program for the Municipal Clerk’s Office Ad Hoc Committee. She is a co-author of the TMCA *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook* (Professional Etiquette and Protocol, 2014 edition, and Petitions, 2018 edition).

Alicia is a member of the TMCA North Texas Chapter and ARMA International. Her service with the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) includes holding the offices of president, vice president, secretary and historian. Her chapter committee service includes the Alyce Deering Scholarship (chair), Audit, Bylaws, Professional Seminar, Reception, and Technology/Communications. She worked on special projects (website and newsletter) to modernize the chapter. The chapter recognized her as NTMCA Clerk of the Year in 2013. This year, the chapter selected her as the North Texas Chapter’s nominee for Texas Municipal Clerks Association Clerk of the Year.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Alicia participates in the Salvation Army Mayoral Red Kettle Challenge. Her hobbies include working out (CG), reading, watching movies, traveling, and spending time with family. Her spouse is Rich, and her son is Randy, currently a junior in high school.



Alicia Richardson, TRMC (*far left*), with fellow North Texas Chapter members in August this year when they hosted the TMCCP Records Management Seminar.



Photography by Paul Traves

Scholarships

Congratulations to the TMCA members who applied for and were awarded scholarships for 2019! This year the TMCA Major Scholarship Awards included four Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship awards; four Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship awards; the Susan Rocha Scholarship (funded by the Bojorquez Law Firm); a Lila Fern Martin Scholarship; the new Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship; and individual scholarships from the following vendors: Ameri-

can Legal Publishing, Franklin Legal Publishing and Franklin Digital Solutions, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen (two scholarships), Municipal Code Corporation (two scholarships), Municipal Code Corporation Innovations (two scholarships), Olympia Consulting, and the Underwood Law Firm.

The TMCA Scholarship Committee awards scholarships annually amongst a pool of applicants based upon factors of eligibility.

At top, left to right: Theresa Bowe, TRMC, city clerk, Yoakum, was presented an MVBA Scholarship; Patricia Isaguirre, city secretary, Hale Center, was presented an MCCI Records Management Scholarship; Kimberly Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls, was presented a Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship; Heather Robertson-Caraway, city secretary, Breckenridge, was presented an American Legal Publishing Scholarship; Ivy Peterson, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Cleburne, was presented an Olympia Consulting Scholarship. Above, left to right: Traci Henderson, TRMC, asst. city secretary, North Richland Hills, was presented a Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship; Sharon McFadden, city secretary/fin. director, was presented an Underwood Law Scholarship; and Susan Hensley, city secretary, Montgomery, was presented a Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson Scholarship.



Photography by Paul Traves

Scholarships *(continued)*

*Top row, left to right: Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, executive assistant, Stephenville, was presented a **Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship**; Carole Vanzant, TRMC, asst. city manager, Fair Oaks Ranch, was presented an **MVBA Scholarship**; Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights, was presented a **Susan Rocha Scholarship** (funded by the Bojorquez Law Firm); Kristan Kahler, city secretary, Ore City, was presented a **Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship**; Lindy Forsyth, TRMC, city secretary, Lefors, was presented a **Franklin Digital Solutions Scholarship**. *Second row, left to right: Tara Brooks, city secretary, Grapevine, was presented an **MCCi Records Management Scholarship**; Gale Roberts, city secretary, Sulphur Springs, was presented a **Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship**; and Stefani Wright, finance supervisor, Horseshoe Bay, was presented a **Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship**.**

*Thank you to this year's **Scholarship Committee** for their service: Chair Beth Walls, TRMC, Levelland; Sara Copeland, TRMC, Andrews; Tanya Smith, TRMC, College Station; Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, Kingsville; Lisa Henderson, TRMC, Plano; Doris Speer, TRMC, Tomball; Rebecca L. Huerta, TRMC, Corpus Christi; Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, Odessa; and Brenda Shaw, TRMC, Morton.*

Recipients not pictured/present: Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship recipient Georgina Hernandez (Bertram); Lila Fern Martin Scholarship recipient Amber Fuller (Hubbard); Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship recipients Caryn Stephens (Red Oak), Mindi Parks (Everman), and Dana Nixon (Pottsboro).

Thank You To Our Scholarship Donors

Thank you to all those who donated toward 2018 TMCA scholarships!

American Legal Publishing

American Legal Publishing Scholarship

Bluebonnet Chapter

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund

Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship fund

Bojorquez Law Firm

Susan Rocha Scholarship

Central Texas Chapter

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund

Kirk Franklin

*Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship,
Franklin Digital Solutions Scholarship, &
Gold Seminar Sponsorship*

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship

Lone Star Chapter of TMCA

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund

McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen

*McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship (two)
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

Municipal Code Corporation

*Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship (two)
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

MCCi

*MCCi Records Management Scholarships (two)
& Silver Seminar Sponsorship*

North Texas Chapter of TMCA

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund

Olympia Consulting, LLC

Olympia Consulting Scholarship

Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund

Lila Fern Martin Scholarship fund

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund

Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship fund

South Plains Chapter of TMCA

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund

Lila Fern Martin Scholarship fund

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund

Underwood Law Firm

*Underwood Scholarship
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

2018 TML Conference

October 9-12, Fort Worth

TMCA had a great presence at the Annual Texas Municipal League Conference in Fort Worth this year!

Thank you to the **TMCA Yellow Rose Chapter** for hosting our **TMCA booth** at the conference, educating so many attendees about the city secretary profession and offering resources. We are also grateful to our excellent panel of speakers at TMCA’s session, **“Governance—Ethics in a World of Social Media”**: Richardson City Manager **Dan Johnson**; moderator **Alan Bojorquez**, Managing Attorney, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC; **Lora-Marie Bernard**, MuniMedia; and Huntsville City Secretary and Public Information Officer **Lee Woodward**, TRMC.



Photo courtesy Lee Woodward



At top: Lee Woodward’s speaker’s-view photo of the audience at TMCA’s session, “Governance—Ethics in a World of Social Media” at the TML Conference. Above: Session speakers (from left) Richardson City Manager Dan Johnson; moderator Alan Bojorquez, Managing Attorney, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC; Lora-Marie Bernard, MuniMedia; and Huntsville City Secretary and Public Information Officer Lee Woodward, TRMC. Inset: Booth Committee Chair Lori Cartwright, TRMC, City Secretary, Waxahachie, and Angie Wade, TRMC, City Secretary, Ennis, volunteering at the TMCA Booth.



Visit us on *Facebook* for coverage of events and the latest news!

IIMC Board of Directors Midyear Meeting

By IIMC Region IV Director **Leticia Vacek, TRMC**
City Clerk, San Antonio

My fellow Region IV Director Janice Almy, city clerk, Sand Springs, Oklahoma, and I attended the IIMC Board of Directors' Mid-Year Meeting on October 26-27 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Several items were approved by the board:

- Board awarded the 2023 IIMC Annual Conference to Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- A \$10.00 membership dues increase beginning with the January 2019 statement.
- A new board policy on elections and campaigning.
- The 2018 budget and the 2019 projected budget as presented by the Budget and Planning Committee.
- An additional 10% from the 2018 Conference Sponsorship revenue to the IIMC Foundation for Clerk Education.
- IIMC Past President Dyanne Reese, MMC, retired City Clerk, Savannah, Georgia, for Honorary Membership to be presented at the Birmingham Conference.
- Continuance of the development of growing Region X (Canada).
- Approval in concept to further develop the "Beyond the MMC Program."
- Suspension of the current Annual Conference scanning policy for the next two conferences in exchange for utilizing a new self-tracking method.
- New Athenian Leadership Society and Athenian Mentor/Mentee Dialogue Agreement policy.
- New policy regarding diversity and inclusivity, based on IIMC's Constitution.
- A new policy regarding use of the IIMC logo in campaign materials.



Above: Region IV directors Janice Almy and Leticia Vacek (center). Inset: Janice and Leticia with IIMC President Stephanie Kelly (center).

IIMC Bulletins

Congratulations to Cathy Duhart, TRMC, city secretary, Sinton; **Zolaina Parker, TRMC**, city secretary, Watauga; and **Christi Wynn, TRMC**, city secretary, Brownwood, on receiving the **Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC)** designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. To attain this designation, applicants must attend extensive education programs (often totaling over 120 educational hours) and have pertinent experience in a municipality.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Staci L. King, TRMC**
City Secretary, Stephenville

The Bluebonnet Chapter met on September 12 at the Brownwood City Hall Council Chambers. Guests were welcomed by Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood, and invocation was given by Cindy Stafford, city secretary (retired), Stephenville.

TMCA President Marie Balthrop was gracious enough to join us amid her busy schedule. She told us that typically she gives TMCA updates, but that day had been particularly challenging for her—and for many of us, it seemed. She felt that it was a sign that she should share her struggles as a reminder that everyone has those days where nothing seems to go right, and those days are the ones where we just need to take a deep breath and lean on each other. Even when we look at someone and think they have it all together, everyone has times when they feel as if it is all falling apart.

The Bluebonnet Chapter meets quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The meeting locations for 2018/2019 are: December 12, 2018, Stephenville; March 13, 2019, Coleman; June 12, Hamilton; September 11, TBD; and December 11, Early.

Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship! We would love for you to be a part of our chapter!



Back row: Christi Wynn, TRMC, City Secretary, Brownwood; Diane Latham, Deputy City Secretary, Breckenridge; Rexine Davis, City Secretary, Hawley; Johnna Snyder, City Secretary, Paducah; Karen Wilkerson, TRMC, Executive Assistant, Stephenville; Ryan Polster, City Secretary, Hamilton. *Front row:* Kim Bryant, City Secretary, Stamford; Staci King, TRMC, City Secretary, Stephenville; Marie Balthrop, TRMC, TMCA President, City Secretary, Wichita Falls; Shirley Stuart, City Secretary, Eastland; Karen Langley, City Secretary, Coleman; Cindy Stafford, City Secretary (retired), Stephenville; Linda Knight, TRMC, City Secretary (retired), Breckenridge.

Congratulations

Bluebonnet Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee

Christi Wynn, TRMC
 City Secretary, Brownwood



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **René Dowl, TRMC**
City Secretary, Garland

At the October 3 LSMC monthly meeting, the Pilot Point City Hall Chamber was filled to capacity with clerks from the area. The Lone Star Chapter is fully committed in 2019 to increasing membership participation and new enrollment. Members are contacting clerks in the area who are not currently members or actively involved, encouraging them to be join or participate in LSCMC and TMCA.

We were honored to have TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC, come and speak to our chapter on the subject: "Do Women Really Support One Another." Dr. Holt presented eye-opening facts about women in leadership roles and the need for women to be positive role models to assist in the success of other women at work.



Congratulations

Lone Star Chapter
 Municipal Clerk
 of the Year Nominee

Deborah Sorensen, TRMC
 City Secretary, Royse City



Lone Star Chapter
 Member of the Year

René Dowl, TRMC
 City Secretary, Garland



LONE STAR CHAPTER

Immediate Past President Shelley George, TRMC, was presented with a plaque and flowers for her service as the 2017-18 president. She presented a Character First Report on the word “Generosity” and encouraged members to volunteer for 2019 chapter committees.

TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, spoke about her motto “step out of your comfort zone” and encouraged the group to do so. She reported that the TMCA Board has appointed a new Strategic Plan Committee which will review the plan each year. She informed us that another scholarship was added: the Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship. She reaffirmed that this is our organization, and the board needs input from everyone.

LSCMC is looking forward to a busy and exciting year!



2017/2018 Chapter President Shelley George with 2018/2019 Chapter President René Dowl.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Norma Cantu, TRMC**
Executive Assistant for City Manager, Weslaco

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter sponsored a workshop for “Texas Notaries” training on September 19 in the City of Alton. The training was presented by Mr. Robert Summers from the Office of the Texas Secretary of State. Chapter members and attendees received informative presentation on new laws and best practices for Texas notaries.

Some of our chapter members attended the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar, “Growing Your Influence,” which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn at South Padre Island. Our chapter sponsored the mariachi music at the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet on October 25. After the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar, we held our chapter meeting with TMCA President Marie Balthrop. She gave us an update on TMCA executive board news such as travel stipends, seminar



The LRGV Chapter at their “Texas Notaries” training workshop in September.

Congratulations

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee

Baudelia Rojas, TRMC
 City Secretary, Alton



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

scholarships, strategic planning, and how the board is diligently working on ways to recognize clerks besides just one “Clerk of the Year” recipient. President Balthrop encourages each of us to “get out of our comfort zone” and to volunteer on a committee.

For those wishing to join the LRGV Chapter please contact President Ana M. Valdez at citysecretary@cityofpenitas.com. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Also be sure to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries.

LRGV CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CITIES:

Alamo, Alton, Brownsville, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elsa, Granjeno, Harlingen, Hidalgo, La Feria, La Joya, La Villa, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Los Indios, Lyford, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, Port Isabel, Palmhurst, Raymondville, Town of Rancho Viejo, San Benito, San Juan, South Padre, Sullivan City, Weslaco



At top: LRGV Chapter’s “Texas Notaries” training workshop in Alton in September. Above: TMCA President Marie Balthrop at the October meeting. At left: LRGV Chapter members with mariachis before the TMCA Annual Banquet in October.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Amy Shelley, TRMC**

Deputy City Secretary, Southlake

The NTMCA had a great FY 17-18 under the leadership of Sheila Morales who provided an unwavering commitment of professionalism over the last year as president. Sheila is a true servant leader! Author J. Carla Nortcutt states, "The goal of many leaders is to get people to think more highly of the leader. The goal of a great leader is to help people to think more highly of themselves." Sheila was always the first to show her appreciation to those of us who served with her and for that, we are very thankful.

Many thanks to Monica Solko for hosting our August meeting at the Lake Worth Multi-Purpose Facility. It was great hearing the history about Lake Worth provided in the welcome from Mayor Bowen. Our speaker for the luncheon was Theresa Ewing, Court Director of the Fort Worth Municipal Court. She spoke on "Municipal Court Overview & How



Sheila Morales, TRMC



Theresa Ewing

Congratulations

North Texas Chapter
Municipal Clerk
of the Year Nominee

Alicia Richardson, TRMC
City Secretary,
North Richland Hills



North Texas Chapter
Chapter Clerk
of the Year

Sheila Morales, TRMC
Town Secretary,
Copper Canyon



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Court Relates to Open Records Requests.” In addition to court open record requests, she also spoke about Fort Worth’s Warrant Forgiveness Month whereby the court was able to process thousands of warrants by offering community outreach court, extra court hours, etc. Many citizens were able to take care of their court business since the court was more accessible and customer-service oriented.

Thank you, too, to Kelly Ballard, City Secretary of Keller, for hosting our September meeting. The meeting was held in a beautiful banquet room at The Keller Pointe. Our guest speaker Angie Whitney helped us to better understand emotional intelligence by explaining how the data and information we receive is processed in our brain. Processing that information quickly becomes a reaction of the data dump; however, forcing yourself to pause facilitates a rational reaction of the data dump. Make sense?

Forcing yourself to pause allows you to take control of the situation, clearly explain decisions, and make rational responses. Angie challenged us to manage our pauses and realize no response is sometimes the best response.



Top left: Chapter Membership Committee members Laurie Garber and Amanda Jacobs. *Top right:* 2017-2018 President Sheila Morales with guest speaker Angie Whitney. *Above:* The NTMCA 2018-2019 Board includes President Amy Shelley (Southlake), Vice President Monica Solko (Lake Worth), Treasurer Traci Henderson (North Richland Hills), Secretary Christine Green (University Park), and Historian Erika McComis (Argyle).

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

FY 18-19 is starting out on a very strong note with membership involvement on committees. We plan for our upcoming year to have excellent educational opportunities. This year's board includes President Amy Shelley (Southlake), Vice President Monica Solko (Lake Worth), Treasurer Traci Henderson (North Richland Hills), Secretary Christine Green (University Park), and Historian Erika McComis (Argyle). We are looking forward to an amazing year!

Chapter committees do a lot more than just prepare for holiday parties or plan professional seminars. Oftentimes, committees are a way to get involved in important chapter business, such as bylaw review, budget draft and adoption, and advancing new technology. Working on a committee allows you to demonstrate leadership and stand out from the pack!

As always, we encourage our members to volunteer for one of our many committees so that we may showcase their individual talents in the service of our chapter. No job is too large when we work together!

In closing, I'd like to thank our board and committee members for their dedication to NTMCA!



Front row: Art Camacho (Haltom City), Monica Solko (Lake Worth), Amy Shelley (Southlake), Sheila Morales (Copper Canyon), Christine Green (University Park), Traci Henderson (North Richland Hills). Second row: Alicia Richardson (North Richland Hills), Kim Sutter (Euless), Tammy Dixon (Bartonville), Lindsay Wells (Euless), Kelly Edwards (Westlake), Erika McComis (Argyle), Lisa Cabrera (Joshua), Kelly Ballard (Keller), Andrea McDonald (Keller), Yael Forgey (Azle), Susie Hiles (Azle), Angela Miller (Highland Village), Ron Gonzales (Fort Worth).

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Doris Crockett**
 City Secretary, Bullard

The quarterly meeting of the Northeast Texas Chapter was held August 30 in Canton. City Secretary Debra Johnson hosted the chapter at Canton City Hall, arranged for free parking for Trades Day, and her city manager surprised us with taking care of the lunch at a local restaurant, Buttermilks!

We had the privilege of having our TMCA President Marie Balthrop as our guest speaker. My husband and I enjoyed hosting Marie at our home overnight. I am sure she was ready to be in her car by herself after we talked nonstop! We appreciate Marie taking the time from her busy work schedule at the City of Wichita



At top right: The Northeast Texas Chapter at their August meeting in Canton. Inset: During her visit TMCA President Marie Balthrop (left) was hosted by Chapter President Doris Crockett.

Congratulations

Northeast Texas Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee

Kathy Hoover, TRMC
 City Secretary, Gilmer
 In memoriam



NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Falls and time away from her family to drive the long distance to meet with us. Not only meeting with us, but a whole year of extra work and travel related to being TMCA president. Thank you, Marie. Thank your family also for sharing you.

Our chapter awarded the Deana McCasland Memorial Scholarship to Waskom City Secretary Tammy Lofton. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for the upcoming two-year term 2019-2020. The new officers will be President Kristan Kahler (Ore City), Vice President Sereca Huff-Huggins (Van), and Treasurer Jondra Hixon (Winnsboro). The officers will be installed at the December meeting, with terms to begin January 1, 2019.

The chapter recognized the approaching retirement of Debbie Dane as city secretary for the City of Kilgore. Debbie was not able to join us in Canton, but following the meeting Rachel Gafford personally de-

livered a retirement gift from the chapter.

Following our meeting and lunch, we were off to the famous “First Monday Trade Days” market. So many choices, so little time! Our picture at right is evidence that Marie scored!

Athens City Secretary Bonnie Hambrick will be hosting our next chapter meeting December 4 at The Texan in Athens. We invite members of our profession in our area to join our chapter. For information, please contact Chapter Secretary Kristan Kahler (Ore City) at cityoforecity@etex.net or Chapter President Doris Crockett (Bullard) at dcrockett@bullardtexas.net.

This will be my last report as chapter president. It has been my pleasure. Two years have really flown by. Fast but not quite as fast as my approaching 50th wedding anniversary on December 28. I have loved both but in different ways!



At top right: The chapter at their August meeting in Canton. *At near right:* Visiting the “First Mondays Trade Days” market.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Ellie Monteaux, TRMC**

City Secretary and Assistant City Manager, Livingston

Greetings from the Pineywoods Chapter! It's hard to believe we are already to the December issue of the *TMCA News*. As 2018 is coming to a close, I'd like to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to the membership and administration of TMCA. This group is an incredibly valuable resource for so much more than laws and regulations. The fellowship with men and women from across the great state of Texas is a priceless, immeasurable treasure!

The TMCA Pineywoods Chapter quarterly meeting was hosted by City of Lufkin City Secretary Kara Andrepont at Lufkin City Hall on October 17. Connie Brown, Election Administrator for Angelina County, was our guest speaker. Connie shared information about the role of the election administrator and

At right: Mitzi Thompson, City Secretary, Crockett; Debbie Wells, City Secretary, Lovelady; Waunesa Herrington, City Secretary, Zavalla; Ellie Monteaux, City Secretary/Assistant City Manager, Livingston; Kara Andrepont, City Secretary, Lufkin; and Connie Brown, Angelina County Elections Administrator.



Congratulations

Pineywoods Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee

Ellie Monteaux, TRMC
City Sec. & Asst. City Mgr., Livingston



PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

their interaction with elections. Members engaged in an informative discussion related to the uniqueness of our city elections.

The July minutes and third quarter 2018 financial report were approved. Chapter President Ellie Monteaux provided an update on the **Athenian Dialogue planned for Friday, February 15, 2019**, in Lufkin. Facilitator Mary Lynne Stratta is in the process of selecting the book and more details will be announced as they become available. The dialogue will be held at the Lufkin Civic Center.

Our next Pineywoods Chapter meeting will be held at noon on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at Ralph & Kacoo's Restaurant in Lufkin. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, February 15, 2019 – Pineywoods Chapter will be hosting an Athenian Dialogue in Lufkin. More details will be coming soon!

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year from the Pineywoods Chapter!



At the TMCA banquet in October: Pineywoods Chapter President Ellie Monteaux (*left*) and Chapter Vice President Laure Morgan (*right*) with 2018 TMCA Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By **Janelle Stahr, TRMC**

City Clerk, Burkburnett

The Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at Johnny Carino’s in Wichita Falls on September 19.

President Stahr called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Normal chapter business followed, with the approval of minutes and financials.

The chapter discussed plans to host an Athenian Dialogue in the November. The chosen book will be *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*. We were excited to be hosting again this year and looked forward to TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt being the facilitator.

The chapter reviewed the upcoming TMCCP seminar schedule. Vice President Anderson will be representing our chapter at the Graduate Institute

in October as a nominee for Clerk of the Year. We are very proud of her and wished her good luck.

Next we discussed our annual Christmas Project. Every year we have chosen to help those who are less fortunate than us. This year we will be providing a donation to Faith Refuge. Faith Refuge offers shelter and meals for women and mothers with children experiencing homelessness. This project always brings us great joy and reminds us that Christmas is about giving generously to others.

Our next meeting will be held December 12 at Johnny Carino’s. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings.

For more information about the chapter contact Janelle Stahr, City Clerk, Burkburnett, at jstahr@burkburnett.org or 940-569-2263.

- Members present at the September meeting:
- Sandy Page, City Secretary, Bowie
 - Janelle Stahr, City Clerk, Burkburnett
 - Sharon McFadden, City Secretary, Graham
 - Amy Anderson, City Secretary, Lakeside City
 - Tracy Smith, Administrative Assistant, Lakeside City
 - Tim Houston, City Secretary, Olney
 - Kim Hemmi, City Secretary, Scotland
 - Kia Weathersby, Deputy City Clerk, Wichita Falls.

Congratulations

Red River Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee

Amy Anderson, TRMC
City Secretary, Lakeside City



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Roxanne Benitez, TRMC**
City Secretary, Spring Valley Village

August Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held its August meeting at the Spring Valley Village City Hall. Spring Valley Village City Administrator Julie Robinson gave a training session on the preparation and drafting of ordinances and resolutions. Ms. Robinson also provided a training manual to all attendees.

September Meeting

The September meeting was held at the Stafford Centre, followed the chapter's 17th Annual Public Information Act Seminar. The seminar was attended by many. Proceeds from the seminar will go to the chapter's scholarship fund.



Salt Grass Chapter members in the council chambers of Spring Valley Village City Hall.

Congratulations

Salt Grass Chapter
Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee

Crystal Roan, TRMC
City Secretary, Webster



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

October Meeting

The October meeting was held at the Hunter's Creek Village City Hall. Tana Travis and Antoine Collins, Licensing Regional Supervisors for the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), gave a PowerPoint presentation on their processes and shed some light regarding alcoholic beverage permits and what the requirements are.

The next Salt Grass Chapter meeting was scheduled for November 14 at the Meadows Place Training/EOC Center with a presentation on millennials in the workplace, given by Diana Benitez, program manager for the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs.

Upcoming Events

Our Annual Installation Banquet and Holiday Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 12, at Arturo Boada Cuisine in Houston. At this event the officers of the 2019 Salt Grass Chapter executive board will be sworn in, the chapter's Municipal Clerk of the Year will be awarded, and the winners of the Patrice Fogarty and Deloris McKenzie scholarships will be announced. After the banquet is completed, the chapter attendees kick their shoes off and engage in a exciting white elephant gift exchange which is always a lot of fun and such a hoot!

Invitation

Salt Grass Chapter meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month, January through April and August through December—our meetings are open to anyone and we welcome all visitors. Join us!



At top: Attendees at the 17th Annual Public Information Act Seminar in Stafford. Above: President Marisela Garcia shown here with speakers Antoine Collins and Tana Travis.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Kim Perez, TRMC**

City Secretary, Ralls

Hello from the South Plains Chapter members!

The South Plains Chapter held our quarterly meeting on September 19 at Saltgrass in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Betty Conde, city secretary, Lamesa.

Chapter President Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal, called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker TMCA President Marie Balthrop. President Balthrop has served as city secretary for 17 years. She served the City of Holliday for over 16 years and is now with the City of Wichita Falls. President Balthrop likes to encourage individuals to step out of their comfort zone and take on a role they usually would not. Whether it be volunteering with a church, school, or TMCA organization, being a speaker at a seminar, or volunteering to serve on a TMCA committee; she would like to see everybody



Courtney Paz, deputy city secretary, Lubbock; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city manager, Morton; Chapter President Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city manager, Muleshoe; Toni Wilson, TRMC, retired, Sundown; Renee Wilson, city secretary, Idalou; Elena Quintanilla, TRMC, city manager, Ransom Canyon; Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock

Congratulations

South Plains Chapter
Municipal Clerk
of the Year Nominee

Toni Chrestman, TRMC
City Secretary, Slaton



South Plains Chapter
Chapter Clerk
of the Year

Zanea Carpenter, TRMC
City Secretary,
Muleshoe



SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

to try something different to better themselves and possibly become a mentor to another individual. President Balthrop spoke on the importance of applying for TMCA major scholarships, travel stipends, and seminar registration fee scholarships. These scholarships are helpful in assisting city clerks on receiving their TRMC certification or to recertify. They are beneficial for small towns with limited training budgets. She informed the chapter of a new scholarship—the Sandra Watkins Election Law Seminar Scholarship—that will be offered to a city clerk from a small town wishing to attend the TMCCP Election Law Seminar held every year in January. We were honored and excited to have TMCA President Marie Balthrop attend the South Plains Chapter meeting; what a pleasure!

Congratulations was given to Barbara Bessent, city manager assistant, Lubbock, for passing a TMCCP exam and coming one step closer to receiving her TRMC certification. It was also announced that Toni Chrestman, city secretary, Slaton, would be retiring on September 28 after 28 years of service. We all wish her the best. President Balthrop presented Toni with a gift in honor of her service and retirement.

The South Plains Chapter voted to donate a \$100.00 gift card to give away as a door prize at the TMCA Annual Banquet. The chapter will also donate \$250.00 to the TMCCP Dorothy Byrd, Lila Fern, and Joyce Snay Scholarships.

The next meeting will be held on December 19 and will be hosted by Janine Butler, city secretary, Littlefield. If you would like to join us please contact Kim Perez at kim@rallstx.org.

At top right: Toni Chrestman, TRMC (left), retiring city secretary of Slaton, with TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Wichita Falls. At near right, from left to right: Laura Adams, city secretary, Spur; Janine Butler, TRMC, Littlefield; and Lillian Atkinson, city secretary, Dickens.



SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER



October 25 at the TMCA Annual Banquet in South Padre Island. *Left to right:* Shelia Jennings, city secretary, Farwell; Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface; Chapter President Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Kathy Field, TRMC, city clerk, Slaton; Patricia Isaguirre, city secretary, Hale Center; Amanda Cummings, city secretary, Shallowater; Chapter Historian Beth Walls, TRMC, city secretary, Levelland; Chapter Secretary Kimberly Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls; Elena Quintanilla, TRMC, city manager, Ransom Canyon; Pam King, city secretary, Slaton; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city manager, Muleshoe; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city manager, Morton; Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing, and Dr. Lama Shoukffeh-Franklin, DDS.

Members in attendance at the September meeting:

Diana Garcia, City of Floydada

Becky Garza, TRMC, City of Lubbock

Lisa Hernandez, City of Lorenzo

Patricia Isaguirre, TRMC, City of Hale Center

Pam King, City of Slaton

Rosa Mendez, TRMC, City of Friona

Chasity Moore, City of Post

Magen Murchison, City of Lubbock

Courtney Paz, City of Lubbock

Kim Perez, TRMC, City of Ralls

Elena Quintanilla, TRMC, Ransom Canyon

Brenda Shaw, TRMC, City of Morton

Deana Smith, TRMC, City of Post

Belinda Terrell, City of Whiteface

Jaime Torres, City Smyer

Sharon Trumble, City of New Deal

Amy Wallace, City of Crosbyton

Beth Walls, TRMC, City of Levelland

Renée Wilbanks, City of Idalou

Toni Wilson, TRMC, Retired

Guests:

TMCA President Marie Balthrop

Sue Castles

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Diana Franco**
 City Secretary, Kermit

The West Texas Chapter held their quarterly meeting on September 20 at Ward County Event Center hosted by the City of Monahans. Chapter President Norma Grimaldo welcomed all chapter members as each of the ladies gave a little introduction of themselves, their families, jobs, and new beginnings. New member Celia Senoret of Odessa was welcomed into our group.

We had a special guest at our meeting: Mayor David Cutbirth who has served as mayor for 26 years for the City of Monahans. He welcomed everyone to the new Ward County Event Center. Mr. Cutbirth spoke about infrastructure, long term stability, housing, and how Monahans is growing, mentioning at this time they have six sand mines within the area. Mayor David Cutbirth will be retiring soon as mayor but will leave a lasting legacy for the City of Monahans.

Next, Chapter President Norma Grimaldo went over finance reports, minutes from previous meeting and agenda items. Our guest speaker was TMCA



Congratulations

West Texas Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee
 TMCA Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC
 City Secretary, Odessa



WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

President Marie Balthrop, city clerk, Wichita Falls, who has served on the TMCA executive board since 2012. Mrs. Balthrop spoke about the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, encouraging clerks to participate and stating it's a learning experience; you can be a mentor and reach out to others. She also gave an update on TMCA board activities: asking for input, ideas; continuing to promote strategic plans; accomplishing goals; making changes; and staying up-to-date.

New officers were sworn in at this meeting by outgoing President Norma Grimaldo. Our officers for 2018-2019 are: President SueAnn Lopez-Reyes, Midland; Vice President/Treasurer Sara Copeland, Andrews; Secretary Miriam Watson, Rankin; and Historian Syra Nichols, Pecos.

We would like to thank to Monahans City Secretary Lorena Marquez for giving us a tour of the new Ward County Event Center; it is a beautiful building which can be used for many different events from weddings, seminars, sports events, meetings, and anything that you might need for a gathering. It is amazing.

Also, thank you, Norma, for serving as our president, you have done a wonderful job.

Our next meeting has been set for November 14, which will be hosted by the City of Midland, and include the Christmas exchange party.



Guests at the September meeting: TMCA President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, and Monahans Mayor David Cutbirth.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President **Angie Wade, TRMC**
City Secretary, Waxahachie

The Yellow Rose Chapter continued to grow in 2018 with a membership of 46 beautiful ladies, and our favorite man—Jesse. As TMCA’s youngest chapter we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in our six short years, and of the professionalism and dedication to our field that our members have shown. We encourage our members to reach out to fellow city secretaries in some of our smaller surrounding cities, not just to encourage them to join our chapter, but to offer support and encouragement during trying times such as elections. We know that some of the hardest working city secretaries in our state come from our smallest cities!



Back row: Lori Cartwright, City Secretary, Waxahachie; Holly Owens, City Secretary, Keene; LeGerisyn Runnels, Deputy City Secretary, Cedar Hill; Belinda Berg, City Secretary, Cedar Hill; Ivy Peterson, Deputy City Secretary, Cleburne; Pam Woodall, City Secretary, Ovilla; Shelly Doty, City Secretary, Cleburne; Tracy Norr, City Secretary, Mansfield; Kristin Downs, City Secretary, Duncanville; Cynthia Olguin, City Secretary, Hutchins. Front row: Amber Villarreal, Deputy City Secretary, Waxahachie; Susana Marin, Deputy City Secretary, Mansfield; Cindy Gross, City Secretary, Keene; Cathy DiMaggio, City Secretary, Grand Prairie; Patsy Patten, City Secretary, Wilmer; Norma Zenk, Retiree; Angie Wade, City Secretary, Ennis; Mayra Rios, Deputy City Secretary, Lancaster.

Congratulations

Yellow Rose Chapter
 Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee

Lori Cartwright, TRMC
 City Secretary, Waxahachie



YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

The chapter held its October business meeting in the City of Keene at their beautiful new city hall. Discussion was held regarding a centralized location for chapter meetings in order to make it easier for all of our members to attend each meeting. Chapter officer nominations for a two-year period beginning October 2018 were taken from the floor and followed by a vote. New officers were sworn in by Chapter President Lori Cartwright. Congratulations to our new officers!

The chapter also congratulated members Belinda Berg, city secretary, Cedar Hill, and Ivy Peterson, deputy city secretary, Cleburne, for earning their Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. We are so proud of you!

Be sure to visit the [Yellow Rose Chapter](#) on our new Facebook page!



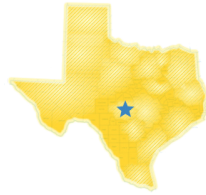
Left to right: President Angie Wade, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Ennis; Vice President Amber Villarreal, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, City of Waxahachie; Secretary Cindy Gross, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Balch Springs; Treasurer Mayra Rios, Deputy City Secretary, City of Lancaster; Historian Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Grand Prairie.

Yellow Rose Chapter

The Yellow Rose Chapter was honored this year to represent the Texas Municipal Clerks Association at the Texas Municipal League 2018 Annual Conference by staffing the association booth. Our chapter members stepped up to the plate and took turns manning the booth while sporting our new Yellow Rose Chapter shirts! A meat and cheese basket, which included wine and wineglasses, was provided by the chapter as the drawing gift. The winning ticket belonged to fellow City Secretary Ellis Monteaux from the City of Livingston.

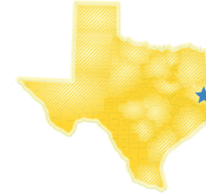


TMCA Chapters



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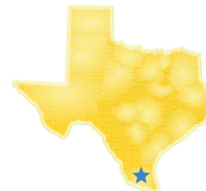
RED RIVER CHAPTER

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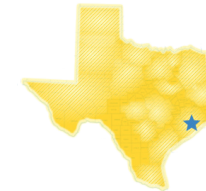
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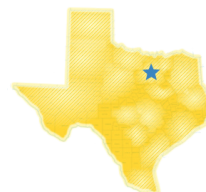
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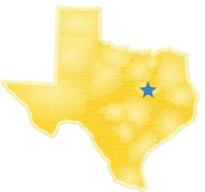
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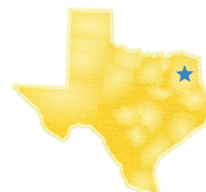
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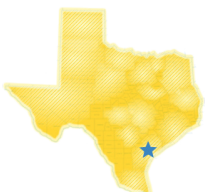
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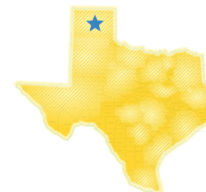
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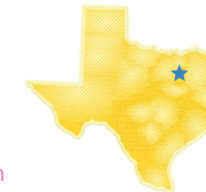
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Management Committee Chair Lydia Lopez, City Secretary, Hewitt; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

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Dr. Amy Holt, Education Director, TMCA/TMCCP
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *TMCA President Kim Sutter, President Elect Shelley George, and Immediate Past President Marie Balthrop*

Advisory Management Committee

Lydia Lopez, Hewitt, Past President, Chair

Kim Sutter, Euless, President

Marie Balthrop, Wichita Falls, Immediate Past President

Shelley George, Allen, President Elect

Melissa Brunner, Flatonia, Certification Committee Chair

Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director*

Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

**non-voting member*

Audit Committee

René Dowl, Garland, Chair

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa

Kristina Vega, Gonzales

Amanda Campos, Burleson, Board Liaison

Membership Committee

Amy Shelley, Southlake, Chair

Comprised of Chapter Presidents

Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills, Board Liaison

Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee

Jeana Bellinger, Brenham, Chair

Roxanne Benitez, Spring Valley

Myrna Rios, Austin

Tina Stewart, The Colony

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Board Liaison

Nominating Committee

Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights, Chair

Kerri Craig, Horseshoe Bay

Saundra Passailaigue, Leon Valley

Susie Quinn, Murphy

Alicia Smith, Willow Park

Kim Sutter, Euless, President

Shelley George, Allen, President Elect

Open Records Steering Committee

Jannette Goodall, Austin

Resolutions Committee

Doris Speer, Tomball, Chair

Tracy Norr, Mansfield

Angie Wade, Ennis

Beth Walls, Levelland

Christi Shivers, Mexia, Board Liaison

Retirement Committee

Stella Sauls, Borger, Chair

Lisa Henderson, Plano

Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi

Brenda Shaw, Morton

Deborah Sorenson, Royse City

Gretchen Mercer, Canyon, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee

Crystal Roan, Webster, Chair

Linda Asbell, Lakewood Village

Sara Copeland, Andrews

Erika McComis, Argyle

Tanya Smith, College Station

Janelle Stahr, Burkburnett

Bobbie Jo Taylor, Crandall

Jo Ann Touchstone, Lakeway

Maria Jackson, Missouri City, Board Liaison

Technology Committee

Melinda Welsh, Friendswood, Chair

Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview

Ana Valdez, Penitas

Lee Woodward, Huntsville, Board Liaison

TML Booth Committee

Alamo Chapter members

Peggy Cimics, Cibolo, Board Liaison

TML Representative

Aimee Nemer, Richardson