

TMCA NEWS



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TMCA President Kim Sutter, TRMC
City Secretary, Euless

President’s Message

What a year it has been! As this year comes to a close, I wish to take this opportunity to reflect and highlight a few of my memories for 2019 while serving as your president.

As an organization, we have celebrated many milestones and I am confident that the upcoming year will continue to reveal many more. First and foremost of great significance was the exceedance of our membership goal. Once we have confirmed the excess fund balance for the year, the board will be consider real-locating the funds toward scholarships and possibly other programs to benefit our membership. We also celebrated record attendance at our seminars and the rollout of a several new recognition awards, including the President’s Choice Awards for individual members and Chapter of the Year, as well as the **Municipal Clerks Office Award of Excellence**—be sure to submit your application by December 31!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At this year's annual awards banquet, I had the honor of recognizing Marcia Staff and Analeslie Muncy for their contributions to the Association. Their contributions and commitment to the Association help lay a solid foundation for the future of our program. As they enter retirement, their legacy will remain a part of our Association. Thank you, ladies!

Additionally, I enjoyed the distinct honor of selecting three individuals and one chapter to receive the 2019 President's Choice Awards. Congratulations to Sharon McFadden, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Graham; Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Lindsay Wells, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Euless, and the Alamo Chapter on their selections!

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the 2019 Municipal Clerk of the Year, Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt, and the numerous scholarship recipients announced at the banquet, including the membership milestone scholarship awarded to Shelia Morales, TRMC, town secretary, Copper Canyon.

I am confident your incoming president and executive board will continue to watch over and bring new programs and enhancements to the association that will benefit the membership in the upcoming year. The best is yet to come!

At top right: Attorney and association consultant and educator Marcia Staff (left) and attorney, educator, and author (*Texas Municipal Election Law Manual*) Analeslie Muncy were honored for their years of contributions to the Association.

At center right: President's Choice Award recipients Sharon McFadden, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Graham; Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Lindsay Wells, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Euless.

At near right: Representatives of the Alamo Chapter, winner of the President's Choice Award for Chapter of the Year.



Photo by Paul Traves



Photo by Paul Traves

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do I have disappointments about the past year? Absolutely. The biggest being that I was not able not make a personal visit to each chapter. Despite my intentions, life happened and prevented me accomplishing that goal. The members of this association have been very gracious and welcoming to me as I made my around the state. Thank you for your hospitality.

In closing, I vow to continue to serve this association and its members as we strive to elevate the municipal clerk profession and the association to greater heights.

President's Travels

Thank you to TMCA President Kim Sutter, TRMC, City Secretary, Euless, for representing TMCA in her travels across Texas—and to Alabama—this year! She visited many TMCA chapters and attended the TML and IIMC Conferences.

- Jan. 16 - Pineywoods Chapter
- Feb. 7 - Yellow Rose Chapter
- March 13 - Bluebonnet Chapter
- March 15 - Northeast Texas Chapter
- March 20 - Red River Chapter
- March 27 - Central Texas Chapter
- March 28 - Coastal Bend Chapter
- April 18 - Hill Country Chapter

- April 24 - Alamo Chapter
- May 19-22 - IIMC Conference (Alabama)
- July 18 - Lone Star Chapter
- Sept. 11 - North Texas Chapter
- Sept. 18 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
- Oct. 9-11 - TML Annual Conference
- Nov. 13 - West Texas Chapter





TMCA's Municipal Clerks Office Award of Excellence

Accepting applications Oct. 1–Dec. 31

On behalf of the TMCA Executive Board, I am proud to announce the **Municipal Clerk's Office Award of Excellence**. The award was designed to recognize excellence in the effective and efficient management of resources in a municipal clerk's office.

You might be wondering what this is all about. Well, we all like/love what we do, right? Some days we may question why that is true, and others outside our profession may wonder why as well and that is okay. I thoroughly enjoy visiting with our members and hearing everyone talk about the day-to-day experiences of a municipal clerk in Texas. I believe most would agree that while a number of our duties are cyclical in nature, i.e., elections, board appointments, budgets, records management, etc., we have the opportunity to experience new things and some old things with a new twist. As a municipal clerk, we have to remain on our toes and be on the lookout for changing legislation, advisories, and rulings that impact our roles and duties, as well as improved or new technologies that catapult us into the future all while continuing our development as a knowledgeable, efficient, effective and

responsive professional while imparting professional standards of quality and integrity and remaining above reproach, and keeping the public's confidence. Quite a level to rise to! How does your office measure up in the eyes of your mayor and city council? The public? For the most part, in my opinion, municipal clerks are the very last to toot their own horns and/or maybe even receive recognition for a job well done. We are simply proud to serve our communities behind the scenes, which include the mayor, city council, staff, and residents. As with most of you, I am extremely proud of the services and many contributions my office provides to those we serve.

So how do we share our passion and our accomplishments in our professional life? We should be doing it each and every day, but how? **One way you can achieve the visibility and recognition is by applying to receive the designation.** The application submittal period is **October 1 through December 31, 2019**, and recipients will be notified by March 30, 2020. Don't delay: review the **application** today and begin preparing your application for submittal.

— *President Kim Sutter, TRMC*

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2019 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominees

The following 16 TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2019 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!



TMCCP SEMINAR

Election Law Seminar

January 30-31, 2020, Frisco, Texas • Early Registration Deadline: January 15, 2020

Join us for the 48th 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 29, 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** (\$150 registration fee, includes box lunch and >500-page “Step by Step” handbook)

Thursday, January 30, and Friday, January 31, Election Law Seminar breakout session choices:

- Ballots
- Bond Elections
- Campaign Funding, Ethics, TEC Reports, Forms, & Regulations
- Candidate Orientation
- 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
- Legislative Update on Elections
- Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections
- Provisional Voting
- Recall Elections for Home Rule Cities, Referendum & Initiative
- Recruiting & Training Election Workers
- Residency of Candidates
- Runoffs, Vacancies, Recounts
- TML’s Role in the Legislative Process & Legislative Update of the 86th Legislature
- Vote Centers
- What Happens Before & After an Election



TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Education Director
Dr. Amy Holt

A city secretary's son reflects on his mother's life

The following newsletter article came about because I read an article in a newspaper out of Warwick Valley, New York (just north and west of New York

City). Jim Gilliam was the author of the brief article in the paper. Jim wrote to the paper to express his gratitude and appreciation for a water clerk who went above and beyond to help him remedy a situation that involved excessive water usage at his home. Part of his article is quoted here:

"I'm well versed in municipal administration—my single mom was the City Secretary (City Manager) of the city of Port Isabel, Texas... my heart goes out to someone who assumes the thankless and difficult job of city administration. Many is the night that I got my own supper while mom was busy in a city council meeting."

*I was intrigued to learn more about his mother who had worked for a Texas town, so I reached out to the paper. They put me in touch with Mr. Gilliam. Our exchange demonstrated to me the pride he had in his mother. **His mother, Gertrude Gilliam, served as the city secretary of Port Isabel from August of 1954 until her battle with cancer ended her career in November of 1968. After finding out that Mr. Gilliam is a book author, I asked him if he would be willing to write a newsletter article for our readers to enjoy. The following is what he wrote.***



Gertrude Gilliam

Everyday Unsung Selfless Acts Taken for Granted Every Day

By Jim Gilliam

We've all seen the bumper stickers: "If you can read this, thank a teacher" or "If you enjoy freedom, thank a vet." Safe in your car you say to yourself: "Thank you, Mrs. Johnson" or "Thank you, Cousin Bill—killed in Afghanistan last year; he was only nineteen." But what do you say to the person responsible for safe water whenever you turn on the tap, or the police who keep you safe, or the public works guys who

EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

make sure the drive to your kid's school is free of potholes? Perhaps you could put it all on a billboard: you could see that from your car like a giant bumper sticker—not large enough, you'd say—if you thought twice about it.

The farthest thing from Gertrude Burson's mind when she graduated from Texas State College for Women with a Master's Degree in Journalism and married James Gilliam and gave birth to her only son James Junior in 1942 was that she would become the city secretary of the City of Port Isabel, Texas. In doing so, joining the ranks of the unsung warriors of municipal governments all over Texas—who were at that time involved in desperately needed urban renewal projects in the post-WWII era of the 1950s.

My mother Gertrude Gilliam, a single mom raising a rebellious nine-year-old son while overcoming the stigma of divorce in a small Texas town, selflessly assumed the task (that no one else seemed to want, or have the slightest idea how to accomplish) of how to make this vital social trust a reality. She fought the battle for good and effective city administration for the citizens of Port Isabel every day, overcoming all obstacles—until her final battle, the one she could not win, the cancer that would take her life in 1969 at the age of 47. Through it all she served the people of Port Isabel until the very end. Port Isabel's mayor drove up to Galveston's John Sealey Hospital weekly seeking her wise counsel on matters of city business until she lapsed into a coma and was gone. I miss her every minute of every day.

The ancient Greeks said no one dies as long as their name is remembered here on earth, and perhaps this is the reason I've not returned to my boyhood home of Port Isabel since 1969. Maybe I thought if I never return she will still be as I remembered her: at her desk in Port Isabel's new city hall, a desk piled high with projects she has been diligently working on. And it's only because when she returns home late at night, exhausted from the day's business of city government, she promises herself: "Tomorrow; I'll get a letter off to my son Jim tomorrow, after the city council meeting." But then again, perhaps it is only a loving son's wishful dream.

I'm not one prone to tears, but I must say those last lines did bring a tear to my eye. I know many of you have children, co-workers, spouses, citizens who could say the same about you. You all work hard and are rarely noticed or rewarded for your hard work. But take heart: your efforts do not always go unnoticed. I'm one proud Education Director. ;)

If you are interested in learning more about Jim Gilliam the author, you can check out his newest book, Dark Side of the River. Jim said he usually works his mom into most of his books.

—Dr. Holt

TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Ethics



TMCCP Education Director
Dr. Amy Holt

In a 2013 editorial, the Wall Street Journal ran a story questioning the validity of teaching ethics, opining that ethics are innate and cannot be taught. While this is one side of the coin, the other side is supported by the late Harvard psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg who believed that the capacity for moral decision-making develops over time. Moreover, research demonstrates that a person's ability to respond to moral judgements is influenced by formal instruction of ethics. Ethics consists of knowing what we ought to do, and in this regard such knowledge can be taught. Just as there are stages of growth in other areas, the ability to think morally also develops in stages.

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association highlights ethical decision-making in many areas of our program. Our strategic plan stresses ethical conduct, our code of professional ethics is meant to guide our behavior, the homework necessary to complete the TMCCP presents college-level material related to responsible, ethical administration, and we have seminar trainers who offer topics related to ethics.

Texas city secretaries are highly ethical. However, it is always a good idea to review best practices for fostering a culture of sound ethics because our members do find themselves in tough ethical situations. Scholars who study the topic of ethics recommend providing ongoing training and resources on ethical decision-making, including ethics-related considerations in employee performance reviews: highlighting the importance of ethical behavior as early as the job interview and onboarding process; including ethics-related values in the organization's mission statement and strategic goals; and modeling values-based behavior by organization leaders.

To that end, in this final installment of the TMCA newsletter for 2019 I would like you to reflect over the TMCA Code of Ethics presented here.

Recognizing their responsibilities to the people, desiring to inspire public confidence and respect for government, and believing that honesty, integrity, loyalty and courtesy form the basis of ethical conduct, members of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., do hereby subscribe to the following principles and ethics which will govern the personal and professional conduct as a municipal clerk:

To uphold constitutional government and the laws of my community;

To conduct my public and private life as to be an example to fellow citizens and co-workers;

To never disclose confidential information gained by reason of my position nor use such information for personal gain;

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;

To impart to my profession those standards of quality and integrity that the conduct of the affairs of my office shall be above reproach and to merit public confidence in our community;

To record that which is true and preserve that which is entrusted to me as if it were my own; and

To strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of my office through independent study, courses, meetings and seminars, and through sound management practices to produce continued progress and so fulfill my responsibilities to my community.

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION'S Annual Banquet

TMCA had a wonderful annual banquet in Fort Worth in October! The festivities included presentation of **2019 TMCA Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year** award to **Lydia Lopez, TRMC**, city secretary, Hewitt; **new TMCA President's Choice Awards**; recognition of **Marcia Staff** and **Analeslie Muncy**; induction of the **2020 TMCA President Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen; presentation of **2020 scholarships**, recognition of **2019 retirees**, and more. **Thank you to TMCA chapters** for donating door prizes!



2020 TMCA President Shelley George (*left*) presented 2019 TMCA President Kim Sutter with an award of recognition on behalf of the TMCA membership for her year of exemplary service to the Association.

TMCA celebrated longtime Association supporters and educators Analeslie Muncy and Marcia Staff at the 2019 TMCA Awards Banquet.

Analeslie Muncy was recognized for her decades of dedication and service to the municipal clerks of Texas. Analeslie has presented numerous papers on municipal law topics at various conferences and seminars, has served as an instructor for TMCCP's Election Law Seminar, and has lectured for



President Kim Sutter presented engraved vases to Marcia Staff and Analeslie Muncy.

TMCCP's Legislative Update Seminars. **2019 marks the 23rd year that Analeslie has participated with TMCA in the preparation of the TMCA's *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual***, a vitally important resource for Texas election officials, administrators, and clerks. Analeslie has earned the admiration and highest regard of the municipal clerks with whom she has come in contact and the affection of her fellow public servants who are proud to call her friend.

Marcia Staff was recognized for her decades of dedication and commitment toward the education and professional development of Texas municipal clerks as exemplified by her devoted service to the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. Marcia has been a presenter and trainer for the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program since 1983, presenting information of vital importance related to ethics and personnel management. Also during her involvement with TMCA, she acted as a legal consultant and advisor for the Association, and was instrumental in creating and writing legal policies and procedures for the betterment of the organization. Marcia has earned the admiration and highest regard of the municipal clerks with whom she has come in contact and influenced through her teaching.

At this year's TMCA Annual Awards Banquet President Kim Sutter presented new awards: President's Choice Awards for individuals and for Chapter of the Year. President Sutter recognized Graham City Secretary /Finance Director **Sharon McFadden, TRMC** (pictured top left); Euless Deputy City Secretary **Lindsay Wells, TRMC** (pictured top right); and Lacy Lakeview City Secretary **Michelle Hicks, TRMC** (inset).

President Sutter selected the TMCA **Alamo Chapter** as the 2019 President's Choice Chapter of the Year. (Pictured at center left: Alamo Chapter representatives at the banquet accepting the award; at bottom left: the Alamo Chapter with their award.) She cited among the Alamo Chapter's accomplishments this year: their commitment to their fellow clerks, and reaching out to nearby cities to invite clerks to their chapter meetings and encouraging city secretary education through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program; the value the chapter places on all their chapter members--and their growth of three new chapter members this year; their highly successful scholarship fundraising campaign, with funds to be awarded to its members to ensure that resources are available to meet their educational goals—an especially important endeavor given that not all cities may have resources available for those needs; their excellent work this year on TMCA's booth at the TML Conference; and their generous donation to IIMC Region IV Director and San Antonio City Clerk Leticia Vacek on the IIMC Region IV Annual Meeting hosted by San Antonio this December.



Retired Deer Park City Secretary Sandra Watkins (second from right) presents the scholarship she endowed, the Sandra Watkins TMCCP Election Law Seminar Scholarship. This scholarship enables eligible applicants from small cities to attend the invaluable TMCCP Election Law Seminar.



2019 TMCA BANQUET



photo by Paul Traves

After the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet, friends of 2019 Kim Sutter held a soiree in celebration of Kim.



photo courtesy Alicia Richardson



photo courtesy Kim Sutter



photo by Paul Traves



photo courtesy Michelle Garcia



photo by Paul Traves



photo by Paul Traves



photo by Paul Traves



photo courtesy Alicia Smith

2019 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Lydia Lopez

Hewitt 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, Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as our 2019 honoree.



2019 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Lydia Lopez

Congratulations to 2019 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Lydia Lopez, TRMC, City Secretary, Hewitt, who was nominated by the Central Texas Chapter for this prestigious honor. TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Jeanna Bellinger, TRMC, made the official presentation to Lydia at the TMCA Annual Banquet.

In the chapter's nomination letter, Chapter President Michelle Hicks, TRMC, said, "Mrs. Lopez has been a mentor and role model to so many of us, not only in Central Texas, but across the state. Her character is electrifying to anyone she meets. She makes it her responsibility to make sure other fellow city secretaries are educated and excited about learning. Lydia is encouraging, enthusiastic, and passionate, and those traits are apparent to anyone who knows her."

2019 TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR LYDIA LOPEZ

Lydia has served as the city secretary of the City of Hewitt for over a decade. Her previous municipal experience includes serving as assistant city secretary of the City of Waco for nine years. Lydia has been a member of TMCA for 21 years and has held all TMCA offices including that of president (2017). She has over a decade of service on TMCA committees, including the Advisory Management Committee (member and chair) and the Certification Committee. She has been a volunteer at TMCA's booth at the TML Conference.

Lydia is active in the TMCA Central Texas Chapter where she has served on several committees and held all offices including chapter president (2008-2012). She is also active in Texas Municipal League, where her service has included TML Region 9 Secretary, service on



Committee Chair Jeana Bellinger presents the 2019 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Award to Hewitt City Secretary Lydia Lopez, TRMC.

the TML Board of Directors, and service on the TML Legislative Policy Committee on Revenue/Finance.

Lydia has volunteered as a speaker at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar for several years and also volunteered as a convener for the seminar. She has volunteered as a speaker for her chapter's educational events for many years. She is a co-author of the ninth, tenth, and eleventh editions of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

Lydia earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification in 2001 and has recertified three times. She received her Certified Municipal Clerk certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) in 2017.

Lydia Lopez: 2019 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Acceptance Speech

Good evening, I am truly honored to receive this prestigious award. Many of my proudest career moments were and continue to be in service to this outstanding Association. My service began at the local level through my local chapter. Thank you to the Central Texas Chapter of Texas Municipal Clerks. With your support and encouragement, I realized my potential to be a leader. To my mayor, council, and city manager, thank you for allowing me the time to serve. To my family, my beautiful sister Annette Gomez, and especially, my strongest supporter my husband Albert, thank you for the many sacrifices you made so that I could become a servant leader.

There are so many mentors who have positively influenced my career and I want to thank them as well. Present tonight: Patricia Ervin, Lydia Ozuna. Others include Nana Baugh, Patrice Fogarty, Sherry Mashburn, Sandra Watkins, the late Pauline Small, Mary Lynne Stratta, Mary Kayser, LeAnn Gallman, and Art Camacho... the list could go on and on. I am forever grateful that our paths crossed. By the way, all those named



Hewitt City Secretary Lydia Lopez with her husband Albert

are on the list of past Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Honorees.

In recent seminars, I have seen many new faces. For all new city secretaries/city clerks, mentorship makes our Association great. Our Education Director Dr. Amy Holt wrote a recent article in the September newsletter relative to mentoring.

It's a great read. Experienced clerks are willing to share their knowledge. Their assistance will make some of the difficult tasks that municipal clerks handle manageable. A word of wisdom... adopt a mentor! Or better yet, when you become an expert in some area, be a mentor.

I value our Association, as we are united, supportive, and continuously working towards promoting professionalism and excellence in our field. Our certification and education programs are top quality. I credit TMCA and our outstanding Certification Program for creating the professional that I am today. I encourage you to pursue your certification and maintain that certification throughout your career. Be the BEST that you can be!

TMCA's future is the responsibility of the membership. We all must take this responsibility to heart. Find a means to share your gifts, skills and talents in service to our Association. I guarantee that we all will be the better for it! Thank you for this wonderful honor!

WELCOME

2020 President Shelley George

2020 TMCA President Shelley George delivered her acceptance speech at the October 24 TMCA Awards Banquet in Fort Worth

Photos by Paul Traves



Good evening!

I am honored to serve as the 2020 Texas Municipal Clerks Association’s President. There is no greater honor than to be elected by your peers to serve in a leadership position for your profession.

Each day, I thank God for all the blessings in my life from my family, to the professionals that I work with, to all of you in the audience today.

My path in service to TMCA began back in 2009 when then President Patricia Ervin appointed me to serve on the Certification Committee. In 2012 Past President Pamela Schmidt asked me to serve alongside her in presenting at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Then in 2013, Past President Mary Kayser asked me to take her seat on the TMCCP “Step by Step: Conduct of an Election” panel at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. And that very next year, Past President Patrice Fogarty asked me if I would be willing to be considered for nomination as a trustee to the TMCA Executive Board.



Shelley George is administered the oath of office by 2019 TMCA President Kim Sutter.

2020 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The confidence these ladies and many others have had in me to serve in such important roles truly has humbled me. Since then, I have worked through my TMCA committee and board service with many great city secretaries across the State of Texas. Would all our TMCA past presidents please stand at this time. I hope you each know YOU are a very big reason that I stand here today. You are among the most encouraging, passionate leaders I know, and I am proud to be following in your footsteps. Thank you for paving the way for each of us as we pursue our professional paths as city secretaries.

I would not be here today without the support and confidence of the Allen city council and city manager. At this time, I would like to recognize them: the Honorable Steve Terrell, Mayor of the Great City of Allen; the Honorable Gary Caplinger, Mayor Pro

Tem; the Honorable Carl Clemencich; the Honorable Lauren Doherty; the Honorable Chris Schulmeister and his wife, Jeanie; and City Manager Eric Ellwanger.

Also, attending from my city are Assistant City Manager Tim Dentler, Public and Media Relations Director Teresa Warren, Human Resources Director Monika Kretchmer, and Executive Assistant Rocio Gonzalez.

And my team is here, the most amazing group of professionals dedicated to serving our citizens: Deputy City Secretary Lauren Field, Senior Administrative Assistant Michelle Holt, and Administrative Assistant Liz Lynch.

It means the world to me that my friends are here too. John and Tammy Paul, and Shelli and Scott Siemer.

I really appreciate and honored for each of my guests for attending to-



At top: Shelly George with her City of Allen mayor, councilmembers, colleagues, and team who were in attendance at the banquet to support her. Above: Shelly with her TMCA chapters' members.

Photography by Paul Traves

2020 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

night especially as they had to drive from Allen through the rain storm and traffic to be here.

And would the members of my chapters please stand, the Lone Star Chapter and North Texas Municipal Clerks Association. Thank you each for your support and encouragement.

Looking out and seeing my family here is truly meaningful. My sister, Mari, and my brother-in-law, Ray, and my niece, Megan Herndon. Mari and Ray drove here from Nederland this morning and I am so glad to have them here with Megan.

For over 25 years, my husband Chad has been my rock. When I accepted the position as city secretary, he never hesitated in support of me... the late nights and all the traveling, he was always supportive. We are truly partners in living this life and carrying for and raising our family. My children are here, too. My daughter, Emily, and my sons, Timothy and Bradley. These three keep me on my toes and make me better every day. I am so proud to be your mom.



Shelley with her mayor the Honorable Steve Terrell

This is a profession that just seems to find you. When I graduated high school, I went to work for the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission. This is when I first became familiar with the profession of city secretary, although I truly did not fully understand the importance of this position at that time. After moving to North Texas, I was blessed to have been selected to work for a great city secretary, Judy Morrison. She shared her passion for the position with me. When she retired 16 years ago, I was lucky to be chosen as the Allen city

secretary and honestly, I have never looked back.

Many people know the city secretary position is one of the oldest on record next to the tax assessor. When the early colonists arrived, the office of the city secretary was one of the first to be established. The Texas Legislature agreed in the important role the city secretary holds in their city, designating the position as an official of the city along with the mayor, council, city manager, city attorney, and several others.

We are often seen as an internal services department but much of what we do impacts our residents. I think what we do is the best kept secret of the city.

Professor William Bennett Munro, a political scientist, wrote in one of his first books on municipal administration, published in 1934, that "No other office in municipal service has so many contacts. It serves the mayor, the city council, the city manager (when there is one), and all administrative departments, without exception. All of them call upon it, almost daily, for some service or information. Its

2020 PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

work is not spectacular, but it demands versatility, alertness, accuracy, and no end of patience. The public does not realize how many loose ends of city administration this office pulls together.”

During my year as president I will serve to ensure a strong future for the Texas Municipal Clerks Association and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. It is important to continue the legacy of our profession that past members have demonstrated in their works. To build on that, I plan to focus on ways to promote our profession across the great State of Texas. It is important to share what we do and the impact we make in our communities and with our

citizens. I dream that one day, when a young person is planning their future, they will choose the path of the city secretary because they know the vital role we play in making our communities stronger and more accessible to all.

In closing, I want to congratulate President Sutter and the TMCA Executive Board for a very successful year. I would also like to congratulate the newly elected members of the Executive Board and I look forward to serving with you. I have already seen the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment that you bring to the board and it will only strengthen our association as we move forward. Thank you.



Shelley George delivers her acceptance speech at the TMCA Annual Banquet.

Photography by Paul Traves

2020 TMCA Executive Board

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

Photo by Paul Traves



Front row, from left to right:

- Vice President Maria Jackson, TRMC**
City Secretary, Missouri City
- President Elect Aimee Nemer, TRMC**
City Secretary, Richardson
- Immediate Past President Kim Sutter, TRMC**
City Secretary, Euless
- President Shelley George, TRMC**
City Secretary, Allen
- Secretary Amanda Campos, TRMC**
City Secretary, Burleson
- Treasurer Christi Shivers, TRMC**
City Secretary/Finance Director, Mexia

Second row:

- Trustee Melissa Brunner, TRMC**
City Secretary, Flatonia
- Trustee Cara McPartland, TRMC**
City Secretary, Salado
- Trustee Gretchen Mercer, TRMC**
City Secretary, Canyon
- Trustee Jenny Page, TRMC**
City Secretary, Humble
- Trustee Jannette Goodall, TRMC**
City Clerk, Austin
- Trustee Alicia Richardson, TRMC**
City Secretary, North Richland Hills
- Trustee Christi Wynn, TRMC**
City Secretary, Brownwood
- Trustee Lee Woodward, TRMC**
City Secretary, La Porte

Inset:

- Trustee Teresa Valdez, TRMC**
City Secretary, Rockport

New Executive Board Trustees

Introducing Melissa Brunner, TRMC, Jenny Page, TRMC, and Christi Wynn, TRMC

Melissa Brunner, TRMC

Melissa Brunner has served as the city secretary of the City of Flatonia for 20 years.

Professional Affiliations

Melissa earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2003 (No. 413) and has recertified three times.

Melissa has held membership in TMCA since 2000 and has been active in the Association. She has served on several committees: Certification (2012-2017, chair 2018-2019), Advisory Management (2018, 2019), Open Records Steering (2008-2011), Retirement (2011), Membership (2007 chair), TML Booth (2006 chair), and Municipal Clerk of the Year (2004, 2005 chair). Melissa has volunteered as a speaker at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar for several years, and also served as a convener for the seminar. She is a co-author of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*.

Melissa is an active member of the Capital Chapter where she has held the offices of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. She has served on several chapter committees including Membership, Municipal Clerk of the Year, Fundraising, and Salado Seminar (2003, 2007, 2009). Melissa has been honored as the Capital Chapter's Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Melissa is a member of and serves as the trustee for the Flatonia Methodist Church. She has two children, Bailey and Caleb. She has two pseudo-granddaughters and a third on the way—children of two of her daughter's closest friends. Melissa's hobbies include gardening, working in her yard, some sewing, reading, crocheting, and making baby blankets for friends' children (and now their children). Melissa loves to photograph friends and family, and has taken sports photos for the paper in recent years, as well as prom, senior, and wedding pictures.

Appointment to the TMCA Executive Board

On her appointment to the TMCA executive board, Melissa says, "I am so honored to be chosen to serve the city secretaries of Texas. I have had the honor of watching some of the best serve our association and hope that I am able to serve with the integrity and wisdom and class that those coming before me have."

Jenny Page, TRMC

Jenny Page has served as the city secretary of Humble since 2018. She has previously been city secretary of Frisco (2009-2018); city secretary of Dayton (2006-2009); executive assistant to the city manager in Jasper (2003-2006); fiscal services and budget administrative assistant in College Station (1998-2000); and utility billing manager in Woodville (1994-1998).



At the Annual Awards Banquet: new 2020 TMCA Executive Board trustees Christi Wynn, Jenny Page, and Melissa Brunner.

NEW TRUSTEES

Professional Affiliations

Jenny earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2009 (No. 563) and has recertified twice.

Jenny has held membership in TMCA since 2006 and has been active in the Association. She has served on the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee (2012, 2014, 2018, Chair 2015), the Scholarship Committee (2016), and the Municipal Clerks Office Award of Excellence Committee (2019).

Jenny is a longtime volunteer speaker at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. She is a co-author of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*. She has spoken for the Secretary of State Election Law Conference and she has spoken at the TMCA Lone Star Chapter's "Development Day."

Jenny has been a member of the TMCA North Texas Chapter, Lone Star Chapter, Pineywoods Chapter, and Salt Grass Chapter. This year she served on the Salt Grass Chapter's Nominating Committee. She has previously served as the Lone Star Chapter's President, Past President, President Elect, and Secretary. She served on many Lone Star Chapter committees including Clerk of the Year (2016, 2017 chair), Holiday (2009, 2013, 2014 chair), Nominating (2013, 2017, 2011 chair), Bylaw, Development Day, Election Law Seminar Reception, Audit, and Athenian Dialogue.

Jenny was honored as the Lone Star Chapter Member of the Year in 2014 and as the Lone Star Chapter Clerk of the Year and nominee for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2015.

Jenny has received IIMC's CMC designation and its Athenian Fellowship designation. She was also a member of

the team that received the IIMC Performance Excellence in Governance Award for Public Information Software implementation—City of Frisco Team (2017).

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Jenny is currently participating in the Leadership Lake Houston Class 9 sponsored by the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce. Jenny's husband is Bobby; together they have four grown children, eight grandchildren, and one very spoiled terrier named Levi. Jenny has been an antique dealer since age 24. She owned her own business for many years before becoming a public servant and now dabbles on weekends. In their spare time, she and her husband are headed to an auction or flea market. She also loves to do anything creative and enjoys working on and decorating their 1947 farmhouse.

Appointment to the TMCA Executive Board

On her appointment to the TMCA executive board, Jenny says, "The role of public servant came to me at a time when I least expected it, and needed it most. I had absolutely nothing to do with getting it, except to thank God for it! I have served in many roles in municipal government over the years and as with most clerks, found my niche as a city secretary. Without good mentors, this would have been impossible. Being nominated as a trustee is a great honor for me and a chance to give back to the organization that has helped me in so many ways. I am very excited and can't wait to get started."

Christi Wynn, TRMC

Christi Wynn has served as the city secretary of the City of Brownwood for 10 years; she previously served

as code enforcement secretary and deputy city secretary at Brownwood.

Professional Affiliations

Christi earned her TRMC in 2009 (No. 574) and has recertified twice.

She has held membership in TMCA since 2006 and has been active in the Association. She has served on the TMCA Certification, Nominating, Municipal Clerk of the Year, Retirement, and Scholarship Committees. Christi has convened at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. She holds IIMC's Certified Municipal Clerk designation.

Christi is an active member of the TMCA Bluebonnet Chapter, having served in all offices including that of President (2018-2019). Her chapter committee services include Clerk of the Year (2018) and Scholarship (2011, 2013, 2018). She was the Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2017 and the chapter's nominee for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2018 and 2019.

Community, Family, and Hobbies

Christi attends the High Mesa Cowboy Church. Her husband is Jerry, and her daughters are Hannah and Ella. Her hobbies include making jewelry, hunting, fishing, and being outdoors.

Appointment to the TMCA Executive Board

On her appointment to the TMCA executive board, Christi says, "I am looking forward to learning more about TMCA and feel very honored to have been chosen to serve on the board. I will strive to do my best at representing myself and other members of our organization."



Scholarships

Pictured from left to right, top row: Bandera City Secretary **Jill Shelton** was presented the **American Legal Publishing Scholarship**; Morton City Mgr./ Secretary **Brenda Shaw, TRMC,** was presented the **Franklin Digital Solutions Scholarship** and Muleshoe City Secretary **Zanea Carpenter, TRMC,** was presented the **Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship**; Hondo Assistant to City Secretary **Elsa Robles** was presented the General Code Scholarship; La Porte Deputy City Secretary **Sharon Harris, TRMC,** was presented the **Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson Scholarship**;

Pflugerville Deputy City Secretary **Trista Evans** was presented an **MCCi Records Management Scholarship.**

Second row: Richardson City Secretary **Aimee Nemer, TRMC,** was presented a **McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship**; Vernon City Secretary **Marsha Jo Stone** was presented a **McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship**; Wills Point City Secretary **Carla Oldacre** was presented a **Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship**; Haltom City Deputy City Secretary **Donna Pliska, TRMC,** was presented a **Municipal Code Corporation**

Scholarship; Brazoria City Secretary **Sheila Williams, TRMC,** was presented the **Susan Rocha Scholarship** (funded by the Bojorquez Law Firm).

Third row: Southside Place City Secretary **Olga Garza** was presented the **Underwood Law Firm Scholarship**; Memphis City Secretary **Cindy Woodard** was presented a **Sandra Watkins TMCCP Election Law Seminar Scholarship.**

(Continued on next page)

Congratulations to the TMCA members who applied for and were awarded scholarships for 2020! 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; two Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarships; and individual scholarships from the following vendors: American Legal Publishing, Franklin Legal Publishing and Franklin Digital Solutions, General Code, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen (two scholarships), Municipal Code Corporation (two scholarships), Municipal Code Corporation Innovations, and the Underwood Law Firm.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS (CONTINUED)



Clockwise from top left: Anson City Secretary **LeeAnn Blankenship** was presented a **Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship**; Runaway Bay City Secretary **Donna Raglin** was presented a **Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship**; Teague City Administrator/Secretary **Theresa Prasil** was presented a **Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship**; and Hearne City Secretary **Linda Pecina** was presented a **Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship**.

Not pictured: Alton City Secretary **Baudelia Rojas**, TRMC (*Lila Fern Martin Scholarship*); Mount Vernon City Secretary **Kathy Lovier** (*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship*); Granite Shoals City Sec./HR Mgr. **Elaine Simpson**, TRMC (*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship*); Rowlett Deputy City Secretary **Stacey Chadwick** (*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*); Anna City Secretary **Carrie Smith**, TRMC (*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship*); and Columbus City Secretary/Fin. Dir. **Bana Schneider** (*Sandra Watkins TMCCP Election Law Seminar Scholarship*).

Congratulations to our 2019 City Secretary Retirees

Charlotte Allen, City Secretary, Double Oak

Missy Bunch, TRMC, City Secretary, Katy

Dayl Cooksey, TRMC, City Secretary, Sealy

Shelly Doty, TRMC, City Secretary, Cleburne

Arcelia Felix, TRMC, City Secretary, Mercedes

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, City Secretary, La Porte

Pattie Grote, City Secretary, Mason

Glenda Gundermann, City Secretary, Sugar Land

Young Lorfing, TRMC, City Secretary, Pearland

Lisa Oltmann, City Secretary, La Grange

Sherry Reeves, TRMC, City Secretary/Finance Director, Grandview

Kim Rehkopf, City Secretary, Dumas

Shirley Stuart, City Secretary, Eastland

Jennifer Walters, City Secretary, Denton

Thank You To Our Scholarship Donors

Thank you to all those who donated toward 2019 TMCA scholarships!

American Legal Publishing

American Legal Publishing Scholarship

Bojorquez Law Firm

Susan Rocha Scholarship

Central Texas Chapter

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund

General Code

General Code Scholarship

Kirk Franklin

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

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship

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 Scholarship
& Silver Seminar Sponsorship*

Sandra Watkins

*Sandra Watkins TMCCP Election Law Seminar
Scholarship (two)*

Underwood Law Firm

*Underwood Scholarship
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*



2020 TMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Shelley George

City Secretary, Allen
214-509-4105
sgeorge@cityofallen.org

President Elect Aimee Nemer

City Secretary, Richardson
972-744-4290
aimee.nemer@cor.gov

Vice President Maria Jackson

City Secretary, Missouri City
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Treasurer Christi Shivers

City Secretary/Fin. Director, Mexia
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Secretary Amanda Campos

City Secretary, Burleson
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Immediate Past Pres. Kim Sutter

City Secretary, Euless
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ksutter@eulesstx.gov

Trustee Melissa Brunner

City Secretary, Flatonia
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Trustee Jannette Goodall

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Trustee Cara McPartland

City Secretary, Salado
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Trustee Gretchen Mercer

City Secretary, Canyon
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Trustee Jenny Page

City Secretary, Humble
281-446-3104
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Trustee Alicia Richardson

City Secretary, North Richland Hills
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Trustee Teresa Valdez

City Secretary, Rockport
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Trustee Lee Woodward

City Secretary, La Porte
281-471-5020
woodwardl@laportetx.gov

Trustee Christi Wynn

City Secretary, Brownwood
325-646-6299
cwynn@brownwoodtexas.gov

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Management Committee Chair Marie Balthrop, City Secretary, Wichita Falls; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

2020 TMCA COMMITTEES

Certification Committee

Chair Irma Parker, City Secretary, Addison
972-450-7071, iparker@addisontx.gov

Ellie Monteaux, City Sec. & Asst. City Mgr., Livingston
936-327-4311, citysecretary@livingston.net

Kimberly Sloat, City Secretary, Canadian
806-323-6473, citysecretary@cityofcanadiantexas.com

Dr. Amy Holt, Education Director, TMCA/TMCCP
940-565-3488, amy.holt@unt.edu

Thomas Harris III, City Secretary, Sugar Land
281-275-2241, tharris@sugarlandtx.gov

Kim Perez, City Secretary, Ralls
806-253-2558, kim@rallstx.org

Peggy Burnside, Admin. Director, TMCA/TMCCP
940-565-3488, peggy.burnside@unt.edu

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *TMCA President Shelley George, President Elect Aimee Nemer, and Immediate Past President Kim Sutter*

Advisory Management Committee

Marie Balthrop, Wichita Falls, Past President, Chair

Shelley George, Allen, President

Kim Sutter, Euless, Immediate Past President

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, President Elect

Irma Parker, Addison, Certification Committee Chair

Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director*

Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

**non-voting member*

Audit Committee

Doris Speer, Tomball, Chair

Art Camacho, Haltom City

Angie Wade, Ennis

Amanda Campos, Burleson, Board Liaison

Award of Excellence Committee

Thelma Gilliam, West University Place, Chair

Becky Garza, Lubbock

Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, Spearman

Jenny Page, Humble

Martha Velasquez, Luling

Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills, Board Liaison

Awards Committee

Jeana Bellinger, Brenham, Chair

Amy Casey, Belton

Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball

Sharon Harris, La Porte

Erika McComis, Argyle

Gretchen Mercer, Canyon, Board Liaison

Membership Committee

Kristi Morrow, Frisco, Chair

Comprised of Chapter Presidents

Maria Jackson, Missouri City, Board Liaison

Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee

Deborah Sorensen, Royse City, Chair

Lacie Hale, Hutto

Sandra Passailaigue, Leon Valley

Bobbie Jo Taylor, Crandall

Christi Wynn, Brownwood, Board Liaison

Nominating Committee

Lydia Lopez, Hewitt, Chair

Zanea Carpenter, Muleshoe

Kerri Craig, Horseshoe Bay

Susie Quinn, Murphy

Tina Stewart, The Colony

Shelley George, Allen, President

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, President Elect

Open Records Steering Committee

Jannette Goodall, Austin

Resolutions Committee

Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi, Chair

Belinda Berg, Cedar Hill

Laura Calcote, Wimberley

Catherine DiMaggio, Grand Prairie

Ivy Peterson, Cleburne

Jenny Page, Humble, Board Liaison

Retirement Committee

Lisa Henderson, Plano, Chair

Dianna Buchanan, Haslet

Ana Valdez, Peñitas

Melissa Brunner, Flatonia, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee

Tanya Smith, College Station, Chair

Frances Aguilar, Angleton

René Dowl, Garland

Sharon McFadden, Graham

Carrie Smith, Anna

Cara McPartland, Salado, Board Liaison

Strategic Planning Committee

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Chair

Ron Gonzales, Fort Worth

Jannette Goodall, Austin

Maria Jackson, Missouri City

Ellie Monteaux, Livingston

Kimberly Perez, Ralls

Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights

Lee Woodward, La Porte

Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director

Technology Committee

Melinda Welsh, Friendswood, Chair

Sara Copeland, Andrews

Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview

Jannette Goodall, Austin, Board Liaison

TML Booth Committee

Chapter President Monica Solko, Lake Worth

North Texas Chapter members

Teresa Valdez, Rockport, Board Liaison

TML Representative

Aimee Nemer, Richardson

Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Aimee Nemer, TRMC**

City Secretary, Richardson



TML Representative
Aimee Nemer, TRMC

The TML Board of Directors met on October 8 and 11 in San Antonio at the TML Annual Conference. The 2019 conference was a record for full-time registrants of 3,006, which is 503 more than the all-time attendance record in their 107-year history.

The board ratified the nomination committee's recommendation to nominate Eddie Daffern, Mayor of Staples, as TML President and Karen Hunt, Mayor of Coppell, as the President-Elect.

The board received and/or considered the following reports:

Legislative Update

Budget and Audit Report

Endorsing City Officials for Positions on the National League of Cities Board of Directors and Federal Advocacy Committees

- Mary Dennis, Mayor, Live Oak
- Rick Grady, Councilmember, Plano
- Carlie Jones, Councilmember, Forest Hill
- B. Adam McGough, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Dallas

TML Health Benefits Pool Report

TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool Report

Legal Update

Business Development Report

Communications Report

Membership Report - 1,161 cities

The next TML Board Meeting is February 28, 2020, in Austin.

2019 TML Conference

October 9-11, San Antonio

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

Thank you to the **TMCA Alamo Chapter** for hosting our **TMCA booth** at the conference, and thank you to all the booth volunteers who educated so many attendees about the city secretary profession and offered resources. We are also grateful to our excellent panel of speakers at TMCA's session, **"When is a Conversation Criminal? Open Meetings, Constitutionally-Protected Free Speech, and the New Law on Walking Quorums": Alan Bojorquez, Managing Attorney, Bojorquez Law Firm, PC; Randy Criswell, City Manager, City of Mineral Wells; and Mary Dennis, Mayor, City of Live Oak.**



Volunteers and staff at the TMCA booth at the TML Conference



At top: Volunteers at the TMCA booth at the TML Conference.
Above: Attendees of TMCA's Affiliate Session at the TML Conference.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter Vice President **Debby Goza, TRMC**
City Secretary, Live Oak

Alamo Chapter met on August 28 with Alamo Chapter President Peggy Cimics, TRMC, City of Cibolo, calling the meeting to order. In chapter business, the June 26 minutes and treasurer's report ending August 19 were approved by the chapter.

President Cimics proudly introduced the Alamo Chapter's nominee for the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year, Debra Howe, TRMC, City of Castroville.

Vice President Debby Goza, TRMC, introduced guest speaker Chief Todd Perna, Universal City Fire Marshall/Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Perna has 27 years in Emergency Services, and currently serves as the Universal City Fire Marshal/ Asst. Fire Chief. Chief Perna provided a presentation, and discussion centered on "Emergency Preparedness." He spoke about the steps that individuals and families would need to take and be ready to respond and survive during an emergency. In addition, he stressed the importance of an emergency action plan for families that included a meeting location, food and water



The Alamo Chapter was the recipient of TMCA's first President's Choice Award for Chapter of the Year. Inset at right: Chapter President Peggy Cimics with the award. Congratulations!

President Sutter's speech introducing this award begins at 26:11 in TMCA's video from the event: <http://bit.ly/TMCA-Awards-2019-video>



ALAMO CHAPTER

supplies, first-aid kits, and emergency telephone numbers.

President Peggy Cimics spoke about the Texas Municipal Clerks booth at the October TML Conference in San Antonio. President Cimics indicated that Assistant City Secretary Amanda Valdez would be sending out information to all members regarding shift sign up for dates and times for the TML Booth.

Lina Rodriguez, Executive Assistant to the City Clerk of San Antonio, spoke on the IIMC Region IV meeting in San Antonio to be held in December. Ms. Rodriguez spoke about the sponsors for the event, and Chapter Treasurer Christina Picioccio, City of Fair Oaks Ranch, quickly stepped up and agreed to accept the funding/donations that would be forthcoming (approximately \$10,000). She added that sponsorships were still needed, and this item would be on the upcoming October Alamo Chapter meeting. Ms. Rodriguez noted that the IIMC Region IV Meeting is scheduled for December 5-7 at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio Hotel.

President Cimics asked for input regarding the December 2019 Holiday Luncheon/Banquet and asked our committee to come up with some locations, dates, and times. An email regarding the December Holiday Luncheon would be distributed to request a vote for the date and location.

Present at the August meeting:

President Peggy Cimics, City of Cibolo

Vice President Debby Goza, City of Live Oak

Jennifer Reyna, City of Alamo Heights

Treasurer Christina Picioccio, City of Fair Oaks Ranch

Lisa Hernandez, City of Natalia

Secretary Kristin Mueller, City of Universal City

Amanda Valdez, City of Cibolo

Grace Tamez, Retiree

Robert Cardenas, City of Selma

Isa Gaytan, City of Live Oak

Lisa Hernandez, City of Natalia

Saundra Passailaigue, City of Leon Valley

Lina Rodriguez, City of San Antonio

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Myrna Rios, TRMC**

Deputy City Secretary, Austin

The Capital Chapter met on September 6 and was hosted by College Station City Secretary Tanya Smith.

The meeting was promptly called to order to allow the guest speaker sufficient time to provide the chapter with “Active Shooter Response Training” by a College Station Officer who is ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) certified. The training provided information around preparation and planning on how to proactively manage a potential threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter scenario. The presentation was very engaging and there was so much dialogue had that we were not able to discuss other business on the agenda. The items were postponed to the upcoming meeting.

The next Capital Chapter meeting will be held in December in Austin. Please contact Chapter President Jamie Lee Case, TRMC, City Clerk, San Marcos, at JCase@sanmarcostx.gov.



Top right: Capital Chapter attendees at the September 6 meeting.

Near right: #CapitalCuties representing at the August TMCCP Legislative Update in San Marcos.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Liz Caraway**

Assistant City Secretary, Waco

The Central Texas Chapter held a quarterly meeting on September 29 hosted by the City of Hewitt. The meeting was called to order and Hewitt City Manager Bo Thomas gave a welcome. A game of “Find Someone New Bingo” was played as an icebreaker and everyone enjoyed a wonderful catered meal.

Liz Caraway, assistant city secretary, Waco, provided a very informative presentation on the Open Records Act, including processing requests for public information.

Various business was discussed, including the nominations for the upcoming chapter officers and the final details for the upcoming Athenian Dialogue the chapter would host on October 4.

The meeting ended with a “What’s Happening in Your City” blurb from attendees. The December 2019 meeting will be the chapter’s annual Christmas party, held at the Tejun Cajun Restaurant in Robinson.

On October 4 the Central Texas Chapter hosted an Athenian Dialogue at the Cameron Park Clubhouse in Waco. Facilitator Mary Lynne Stratta led the group in a discussion of *Capital*



Central Texas Chapter members at their September meeting in Hewitt.

Chapter members present at the meeting:

Chapter President Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview
 Donna Barkley, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway
 Liz Caraway, assistant city secretary, Waco
 Amy Casey, TRMC, city clerk, Belton
 Alicia Chaney, city secretary, Crawford
 Michelle Garcia, TRMC, executive admin. asst. to the city manager, Belton
 Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC, city secretary, Waco
 Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Robinson
 Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy-Lakeview
 Sandie Polk, records coordinator, Waco
 Janet Sheguit, TRMC, director of client services, BSP Engineers
 Roshuna Wiley, deputy city secretary, Mexia

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Gaines: Smart Things I learned Doing Stupid Stuff by Chip Gaines. The group, consisting of participants from various Texas Cities and three different states, engaged in an interactive and lively discussion of the book and roles of municipal clerks.

Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings. Contact Chapter President Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview, at michelle.hicks@lacylakeview.org for more information.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Cathy Duhart, TRMC**

City Secretary, Sinton

Greetings from the Coastal Bend Chapter! Recently our chapter held its quarterly meeting in Beeville on September 26 at the Republik BBQ & Brew.

We enjoyed a delicious meal at the Republik BBQ & Brew and had a great time of fellowship, sharing, and catching up.

During our business meeting, an educational program presentation was given by Mr. John Metz of the National Weather Service. Mr. Metz gave a very thorough presentation on Hurricane Preparedness and the things to prepare for before the hurricane hits, and the steps to take during and after. He talked about the public perception of the hurricanes versus what the reality of the storm really is. He presented information regarding the differences between a tropical watch versus a tropical warning, and the time to take action. After the presentation, Mr. Metz answered questions from those present and gave some ideas and suggestions for dealing with hurricanes and mainly being prepared to leave time well in advance of the evacuation orders.



Front row, left to right: Ruby Beavens, Asst. City Secretary-Rockport; Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary-Kingsville; John Metz-National Weather Service; Liz Summer-Senior Forecaster.

Standing: Kimberly Henry, City Secretary-Ingleside; Kandi Hubert, City Secretary/Administrator-Golid; Jan Hill, City Secretary-Fulton; Gabriela Hernandez, City Secretary-Beeville; April Hilbrich, City Secretary-Victoria; Cathy Duhart, City Secretary-Sinton; Mary Gonzales, City Secretary-Mathis; and Teresa Valdez, City Secretary-Rockport.

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

The Coastal Bend Chapter new chapter logo, presented and developed by Rockport Assistant City Secretary Ruby Beaven, TRMC, is fast becoming a reality. Hopefully you all will get to see it soon and especially at the 2020 TMCA Graduate Institute Seminar, which is coming to Corpus Christi in 2020.

We are really excited about The TMCA Graduate Institute coming to Corpus Christi in 2020!!! We are getting closer to the time and are starting to finalize plans for the different entertainment events for

the attendees.

Our next meeting will be in Ingleside in December and we are looking forward to that being hosted by City Secretary Kimberly Sampson Henry.

Anyone interested in joining the Coastal Bend Chapter, or for general inquiries, can contact Chapter Secretary Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton, at 361-364-2381 or city1395@sintontexas.org.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Kerri Craig, TRMC**

City Secretary, Horseshoe Bay

The Hill Country Chapter met in Fredericksburg at Fredericksburg Brewing Company on October 17. We took care of the usual business related to approving minutes and financial reports, and quickly moved on to some exciting discussions. We celebrated the accomplishments of the following chapter members: Llano City Secretary Erica Berry, TRMC, who completed all requirements to graduate as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk in January 2020; Bandera City Secretary Jill Shelton, TRMC, who completed all requirements to graduate as a TRMC in January 2020 and also received a TMCA scholarship from American Legal at the 2019 TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar; Llano Assistant City Secretary Kim Wagner passed her TMCCP Course 1 exam at her very first TMCCP seminar; Wimberley City Secretary Laura Calcote, TRMC, received a scholarship to attend a Texas City Management Association's conference; and Granite Shoals City Secretary Elaine Simpson, TRMC, was awarded a TMCA Major Scholarship. Our little chapter is knocking it out of the park!

The Hill Country Chapter hosted its first IIMC Athenian Dialogue on September 13 at The Ruff Haus in Fredericksburg. Bryan City Secre-

tary Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, facilitated a fascinating discussion regarding the book *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II* by Denise Kiernan. Afterwards we toured the Nimitz Museum. The day was so successful we are planning to host another dialogue in 2020! We are planning the location and book choice as we speak.

We are also planning to include training opportunities during our chapter meetings in the next year on topics such as Records Management, the Public Information Act, and TABC Regulations.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for December 12. We always meet in Fredericksburg where the restaurants and shopping make it very hard to go back to work after the meeting! If you are interested in joining the Hill Country Chapter, please contact Chapter President Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals, at citysecretary@graniteshoals.org or 830-598-2424.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Monica Solko, TRMC**
City Secretary, Lake Worth

Greetings to our fellow chapters from the North Texas Chapter!

Winter is coming! As we prepare for the holidays, I wanted to reflect back on all the training opportunities and the great fellowship we have enjoyed in our organization. Thank you to our former chapter president Amy Shelley for her leadership, positive attitude and welcoming spirit in our FY 2018-2019 year.

Our August meeting was hosted by City of Saginaw. Thank you to City Secretary Janice England for serving as the host. The meeting was a big hit with our guest speaker Saginaw City Manager Gabe Reaume. He shared his compassion and experiences in his service with the Sister Cities Program. He provided the group with an informational handout about applying to become a host for the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program. “The International City County Management Association (ICMA), with funding from the U.S. Department of State, offers the program as an opportunity for young professionals from Southeast Asia to learn about good governance, economic development, environmental sustainability, and civic engagement through a four-week fellowship with a U.S. local government host. To inquire about becoming a host with ICMA, please contact the ICMA Fellows Team at fellows@icma.org.”



North Texas Chapter members at their August meeting.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

In September our meeting was hosted by the City of Euless. Thank you to City Secretary Kim Sutter and Deputy City Secretary Lindsay Wells for agreeing to host us. Mayor Linda Martin welcomed NTMCA to Euless and spoke highly of the city secretary position and the important role the city secretary has in municipal government. She referred to the city secretary as the “chief of staff,” as the city secretary is all-knowing.

Our host and guest speaker was TMCA President Kim Sutter. Her presentation included highlights of her current term as TMCA president and the challenge of reaching her goal to visit each chapter before the end of the year. She presented information about TMCA boards and committees and encouraged everyone to serve. She gave an overview of the new **Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award** program and application requirements. She recommended that everyone work to develop and strengthen relationships with peers by mentoring, being mentored, encouraging, supporting and networking with other members.

TMCA President Kim Sutter administered the oath of office to the chapter’s 2019-2020 board officers. This year’s board officers include President Monica Solko, TRMC, City Secretary, Lake Worth; Vice President Traci Henderson, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, North Richland Hills; Treasurer Erika McComis, TRMC, Town Secretary, Argyle; Secretary Dianna Buchanan, TRMC, City Secretary/Administrative Services Director, Haslet; and Historian Tammy Dixon, TRMC, Town Secretary, Bartonville.

At right from top: 2019-2020 NTMCA Chapter’s board officers take the oath of office.
NTMCA Chapter 2019-2020 board officers at the September meeting.
NTMCA Chapter members at the September meeting.



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

At the September meeting the membership approved the following business items: the August 15 meeting minutes, the treasurer's report for August 2019, the FY 2019-2020 budget, amendments to NTMCA bylaws and Alyce Deering Scholarship guidelines, 2019-2020 slate of officers, and the annual contribution of \$150 to each of the following scholarship fund: TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship, TMCA Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship, and the NTMCA Alyce Deering Scholarship.

Our October meeting was hosted by the City of Bedford. Thank you to City Secretary Michael Wells, and Assistant City Secretary Amanda Jacobs, for serving as the host. Mayor Pro Tem Michael Boyter welcomed NTMCA to Bedford and spoke to the members about the history of the city. Our guest speaker was Tana Travis, TABC Regional Licensing Supervisor, who provided a TABC update. She spoke on the importance of certifying an application and knowing all the information is correct before signing. Once signed, the process to rescind the application can be difficult, especially if it has already been issued (Sec. 101.01). She also spoke briefly on the local option election information, collection of state fees, and gave helpful tips that can be found on the TABC website such as the county wet/dry status listing spreadsheet and map. She also briefed everyone on the new legislation changes that affect the application process. For more questions on TABC permitting, please contact Tana Travis, Regional Licensing Supervisor at (817) 607-2417 or Tana.travis@tabc.texas.gov.



At top: The NTMCA Chapter at their October meeting. Above: Speaker Tana Travis, Chapter President Monica Solko, and Chapter Vice President Traci Henderson.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

The membership approved the following business items: the September 11 meeting minutes, the treasurer's report for September 2019, and the FY 2019 fourth quarter report. Also in the month October, the North Texas Chapter provided welcome goody bags to approximately 290 attendees at the TMCCP Graduate Institute held in Fort Worth and provided multiple door prizes during the banquet. Congratulations to chapter members Shelley George, Aimee Nemer, and Alicia Richardson who will serve on the 2020 TMCA board. Following the banquet, members helped with a reception honoring TMCA President Kim Sutter. Everyone enjoyed the food, laughter, and dancing at the reception. The chapter is grateful to have a dedicated leader and mentor such as Kim in our chapter.



The NTMCA is always looking to expand our membership and meet new clerks in our area. For anyone interested in attending our meetings or joining our chapter, please see our chapter website www.ntmca.org or contact Monica Solko at msolko@lakeworthtx.org or 817-237-1211

ext. 105. The NTMCA will meet on December 12 at Keller Pointe in Keller for our holiday celebration and then will kick off the new year with a new and exciting speaker, Julie Burch, on January 16 in Lewisville. She will be speaking on "Becoming a Change Leader in the New World of Work." We are very fortunate to be able to have amazing speakers to come to our meetings to share information and knowledge with us in order to enhance our leadership skills. We would love to share these opportunities for professional development with more of our colleagues. Please join us at an upcoming meeting to see what our chapter has to offer you.



Attendees at the reception hosted by friends of Kim Sutter celebrating Kim and her 2019 TMCA presidency.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Kristan Kahler**

City Secretary, Ore City

The Northeast Chapter met October 4 in Canton. We had a great meeting at Canton City Hall. We were treated by a dynamic motivational speaker named Debra D. Wood, who is the owner of PaperSack Promotions in Canton. She spoke on women in leadership. She left everyone with a few simple words of wisdom from John Maxwell, "Leadership is influence, nothing more... nothing less!"



The Northeast Texas Chapter at their October meeting in Canton.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Stella E. Sauls, TRMC**
City Secretary, Borger

Since the last newsletter the Panhandle Chapter met three times: June 20, August 15, and October 17 for our bi-monthly meetings. We met at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo with 14 members in attendance in June and 11 members in attendance in August and October.

The June meeting was called to order by President Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian, welcoming all in attendance. Our program was to be presented by the TMCA President Sutter, but her flight was cancelled.



Kim Rehkopf retired as city secretary of the City of Dumas in May, so we celebrated this new season in her life with cards and gifts.

President Sloat explained that it was time to nominate our Chapter Clerk of the Year and announced that Gretchen Mercer was chosen as the Panhandle Chapter's nominee for the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

At top right: The Panhandle Chapter at their June meeting. *At near right and inset:* The chapter celebrated retiring city secretary Kim Rehkopf.



PANHANDLE CHAPTER

The August meeting was called to order by President Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian, welcoming all attendees. In lieu of a program, we went through our chapter's Policies and Procedures manual. The group went through the manual to correct any errors and make final changes.

The chapter had the normal reading of the minutes and treasurer's report. The president explained that the officers and committees have been set forth in the new Policies and Procedures Manual.

Some of our chapter members attended an Amarillo Sod Poodles baseball game in Amarillo and a great time was had by all.

The October meeting was called to order by President Kimberly Sloat, city secretary, Canadian. The program was presented by Jenny Wood of Records Consultants, Inc. (RCI). Ms. Wood explained that RCI was started in 1985 and is a Texas-based company that serves local government entities. RCI helps with record retention and document imaging for cities, counties, school districts.

The chapter had their normal business meeting with the reading of the minutes and treasurer's report. The bylaws for the Panhandle Chapter were set forth and adopted and our new 2020 officers were approved.



The Panhandle Chapter at their August meeting.



PANHANDLE CHAPTER

Some Panhandle Chapter members attended the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in October.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 19.

Pictured at right: The Panhandle Chapter at their October meeting.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Ellie Monteaux, TRMC**

City Secretary & Assistant City Manager, Livingston



The Pineywoods Chapter met for their quarterly meeting in Lufkin on October 16. Members present included (*pictured left to right*) Julie Davis, city secretary, Huntington; Amanda Treat, city secretary, Tenaha; Laure Morgan, TRMC, city manager, Hemphill; Waunessa Herrington, city secretary, Zavalla; Wendy Bendy, city secretary, Colmesneil; Kelli Beall, city secretary/accountant, Hemphill; and Cinda Garner, TRMC, city secretary, San Augustine.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Sharon McFadden, TRMC**

City Secretary, City of Graham

The Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at Johnny Carinos in Wichita Falls on September 19. President Balthrop called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Normal chapter business followed, with the approval of minutes and financials. The chapter welcomed guest speaker Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham. Jeana provided extensive training on the “Public Information Act and the Processing of Open Records.” Chapter members appreciated Jeana traveling quite a distance from Brenham to Wichita Falls to provide the training.

Our chapter hosted an Athenian Dialogue on November 8 on the book *First Family* by Joseph J. Ellis. We were excited to welcome TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC, to facilitate.

Jo Stone, city secretary, Vernon, received a TMCA Seminar Registration Fee Scholarship, and Sharon McFadden, City of Graham, received an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk Institute Scholarship. Both ladies used their scholarships to financially assist them in attending the TMCCP Graduate Institute in Fort Worth October 24-25.

Marsha Jo Stone, city secretary, Vernon, passed the TMCCP Course 2 test she took on October 23. Marsha Jo Stone was awarded a major scholarship from McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen during the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet.

Chapter President Marie Balthrop represented the chapter at the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet as our chapter’s Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year candidate. TMCA President Kim Sutter presented our Chapter Secretary Sharon McFadden with her “President’s Choice Award.”



At top: Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, teaching Public Information Act and Open Records at the September chapter meeting. Above: Attendees listen to Jeana Bellinger’s presentation.

RED RIVER CHAPTER

Chapter President Marie Balthrop was a guest speaker at an event titled “Get Out and Vote” in Wichita Falls on October 19. Several students from Hirschi High School invited Marie to speak to 85 attendees on the importance of young adults voting. Marie also shared statistics on how low the young voter turnout has been in past elections.

On July 31 Sharon McFadden was a guest on radio station KLBY 100.5 FM. American Legion Post Commander Larry Hamilton interviewed Sharon on his program titled “Patriot’s Corner.” Sharon described her experiences in the Navy Reserve and transitioning when called for active duty during Operation Desert Storm. Sharon McFadden completed the program for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). She was sworn in by 90th Judicial District Judge Stephen Bristow on August 30 and has begun her voluntary quest as a “voice for the child.”

Our next meeting will be held on December 11th at 1:00 p.m. at El Tapatio in Wichita Falls. We will have our annual Christmas ornament exchange and submit donations for our chapter Christmas project. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings. For more information about the Red River Chapter contact Chapter President Marie Balthrop at marie.balthrop@wichitafallstx.gov.



Top: Chapter President Marie Balthrop congratulates Sharon McFadden on the President’s Choice Award received from TMCA President Kim Sutter. Above, left to right: Marsha Jo Stone was awarded a TMCA Major Scholarship at the TMCA banquet; Sharon McFadden earned her CASA certification. At left: Red River Chapter members at the TMCA Annual Awards Banquet.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Dixie Roberts, TRMC**
City Secretary, Alvin

August Meeting

On August 11 the Salt Grass Chapter held its monthly meeting in La Porte. Lee Woodward, TRMC, City Secretary, La Porte, gave a wonderful presentation to over 40 attendees on “Moving Parliamentary Procedures to the Dias.” Reports were received from the Scholarship and the Public Information Act Seminar Committees and amendments to Article 3 of the Chapter Bylaws were considered and approved.

September Meeting and Salt Grass Chapter’s 18th Annual Public Information Act Seminar

On September 11 the Salt Grass Chapter hosted its 18th annual “Public Information Act Seminar” at the Stafford Centre; over 100 were in attendance. Speakers Lee Woodward, TRMC, City Secretary, La Porte, and Olson and Olson, LLP, staff and attorneys presented the ABCs of the Public Information Act, open records policies, processing public information requests, calculating cost estimates, and social media records.

Immediately following the seminar the Salt Grass Chapter held its September meeting. Chapter President Crystal Dozier welcomed those in



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

attendance and thanked the City of Stafford for their gracious hospitality in hosting both the seminar and chapter meeting. A report from the Outreach Committee was received, and a brief discussion was had on amendments to the SGC Policy and Procedures Manual.



Pictures this page: The Salt Grass Chapter's 18th annual Public Information Act Seminar.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

October Meeting

On October 2 the chapter held its monthly meeting in Deer Park. Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, Consultant, City Hall Essentials, and Shannon Bennett, TRMC, City Secretary, Deer Park, gave a “City Secretary 101” presentation along with a round table discussion. A report from the Nominating Committee was received and the 2020 meeting calendar was set.

Invitation

The Salt Grass Chapter will hold its 2019 Annual Installation Banquet/Holiday Luncheon on December 11 at The Américas River Oaks Restaurant in Houston. Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of the month, January through April and August through December. Guests are always welcome. For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact President Crystal Dozier, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Hunters Creek Village, at crdozier@cityofhunterscreek.org.

Pauline Small, Our Mentor and Friend

We are heartbroken over the passing of our dear friend and mentor, Pauline Small. Pauline retired as the City Secretary of the City of Webster in 2015. She was a longtime mentor, teacher, leader, and friend to Texas city secretaries. Pauline was a member of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association for over two decades, and in that time served in leadership positions, as an instructor at the state and local levels, and as a good friend and mentor to her peers. She served on the TMCA Executive Board for 11 years and served on and chaired numerous TMCA committees. She held



At the October chapter meeting Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, Consultant, City Hall Essentials, and Shannon Bennett, TRMC, City Secretary, Deer Park, gave a “City Secretary 101” presentation along with a round table discussion.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

all offices in the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter, including that of president.

Her peers honored her as TMCA Salt Grass Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2001 and as the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2007.

Pauline will be dearly missed.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Zanea Carpenter, TRMC**
City Secretary, Muleshoe

The South Plains Chapter met on September 18 at Saltgrass Steak House in Lubbock for our quarterly meeting. The meeting was hosted by Sharon Trumble from New Deal.

Chapter President Belinda Terrell of Whiteface called the meeting to order and introductions of members and guests took place. Sharon Trumble of New Deal introduced guest speaker Arianna Webb. Arianna is a 2018 graduate of Andrews High School and a current student of Texas Tech University. Arianna spoke to the group on Generation Z and informed us of some of the highlights on her recent travels to Italy and Scotland.

President Terrell congratulated Sheila Jennings from Farwell, Patti Lowrance from Floydada, and Brad Overcash from Snyder for passing their latest exams at the last TMCCP seminar held in San Marcos. Belinda Terrell was also congratulated for passing her last exam.

We had a great group of members from the South Plains Chapter that attended the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar in August in San Marcos and the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in Forth Worth in October.

Our next meeting will be December 18. Brenda Shaw of Morton will host the meeting. If you would like to join us please contact Secretary Zanea Carpenter at zcarpenter@city-of-muleshoe.com for information.



The chapter at their September meeting and at the TMCA banquet.

Members and guests in attendance at the September chapter meeting:

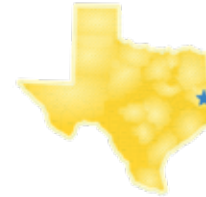
Zanea Carpenter, TRMC, City Secretary, Muleshoe; Jennifer Clements, TRMC, Assistant to City Secretary, Lubbock; Susan Collazo, Municipal Clerk, Post; Betty Conde, City Secretary, Lamesa; Andrea Corley, Executive Assistant, Levelland; Nikki Coronado, Assistant City Secretary, Shallowater; Amanda Cummings, TRMC, City Secretary, Shallowater; Kirk Franklin, Honorary Member, Franklin Legal Publishing; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, City Manager, Muleshoe; Lesley Gama, City Secretary, Bovina; Maria Hatchett, TRMC, Retired, Lamesa

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