

# TMCA NEWS



## President's Message

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TMCA President  
Shelley George, TRMC  
City Secretary, Allen

What a year 2020 has been! This is the perfect opportunity to congratulate you, our members, for all your accomplishments in 2020 and your ability to persevere through the obstacles that a worldwide pandemic brought to each of our front doors.

2020 is not the year we all imagined, but a year that provided many opportunities to learn and grow as professionals and as an organization. One of the biggest impacts this year has been learning to work and serve our customers in a safe and healthy way whether that is through social distancing and wearing masks or working remotely using technology as your mode of communication.

This year, your Executive Board has served you well during a time of uncertainty in our world. It has been my honor to navigate the 2020 maze and serve alongside each of these truly amazing professionals. I would like to take a moment to review a few of the highlights achieved by TMCA and TMCCP the past twelve months as the Executive Board continues to work towards achieving the Strategic Initiatives of the TMCA Strategic Plan.

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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

- Set a new record for membership with 1,035 members.
- In January, TMCCP graduated 43 first time graduates and recertified 49 TRMCs. There are currently 967 graduates and we will top 1,000 graduates in the 2021 class.
- Enrolled 83 new participants in TMCCP.
- Currently, there are 470 enrollees pursuing certification and 385 pursuing recertification.
- Awarded \$11,910 in seminar registration scholarships and travel stipends to 40 members.
- Awarded \$12,000 in major scholarships thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.
- Established the Legacy Scholarship and awarded a \$500 scholarship to Brenda Craig, retired from Kerrville; and Sherry Mashburn, retired from College Station.

- Named 19 cities as the inaugural recipients of the “Municipal Clerks Office Achievement of Excellence Award” which includes the following:

City of Allen	City of Hondo
City of Alton	City of La Porte
Town of Argyle	City of Livingston
City of Austin	City of Manor
Town of Bartonville	City of Plano
City of Bedford	City of Richardson
City of Euless	City of San Antonio
City of Farmers Branch	City of Stephenville
City of Fredericksburg	City of Wichita Falls
City of Graham	

- Celebrated Municipal Clerks Week and mailed posters to each member city to promote the profession of City Secretaries in Texas.
- Authorized the development of a TMCA/TMCCP app. This app will provide for easier interaction with our program including registering for seminars, accessing your membership information,

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

and many other options. This project will only grow and expand over the coming years.

- Established an Ad Hoc Committee to bring forward ideas to promote our profession by providing resources to our members. Mary Kayser is chairing this committee with Mary Lynne Stratta, LeAnn Gallman, and Sherry Mashburn.
- Adapted four of our 5 TMCCP Seminars to comply with Covid-19 health protocols to ensure the safety of 1,116 attendees.
- Moved the Graduate Institute to a 100% virtual learning environment with 250 attendees attending a new three-day format through their computers from their home or office.
- Starting 2021, the Graduate Institute will be known as the Advanced Institute. This new title better identifies the type of learning opportunities provided at this seminar along with aligning our program with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.
- Created an online educational learning platform to expand opportunities for our members to continue learning especially with so many facing travel restrictions. This year, we provided 14 different webinars with 533 attending live and 275 attending through video on demand.
- Adapted the Annual Meeting and Annual Awards Banquet to virtual gatherings which provided for more of our members, sponsors, colleagues and friends to join in on the celebration of our peers for their accomplishments and to witness the transfer of leadership for 2021.

This year, we honored those with significant leadership to our Association. While we were not able to present these awards in person at the Annual Awards Banquet, I did travel and visit every recipient in December except for two which we will recognize at upcoming seminars in 2021. Again, I am proud of these leaders and that TMCA was able to recognize the following:

- Honorary Membership Award  
*Alan Borjorquez, Principal, Attorney at Law, Borjorquez Law Firm, PC*
- President's Choice Awards  
*Kristan Kahler, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Ore City*  
*Mary Kayser, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Fort Worth*
- Distinguished Service Awards  
*Peggy Cimics, City Secretary, City of Cibolo*  
*LeAnn Gallman, retired, City of Muleshoe City Manager and former City Secretary*  
*Mary Lynne Stratta, City Secretary, City of Bryan*

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- Emerging Leader of the Year (Inaugural Recipient)  
*Heather Robertson-Caraway, City Secretary, City of Breckinridge*
- Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year  
*Jannette Goodall, City Clerk, City of Austin*
- TMCA Chapter of the Year  
*South Plains Chapter*

Last, I can think of no better way to end my presidency than to recognize those who have served before me. During my career as a city secretary, TMCA Past Presidents have inspired and shown me how to lead. Thank you each for the leadership and professionalism you have shown not only as a TMCA President, but as a City Secretary and Texas Registered Municipal Clerk.

One of the greatest honors I had this year was to administer the oath of office to 2021 President Aimee Nemer. I look forward to serving under her leadership as she continues to grow our Association in new and exciting ways.

As we end this year and prepare for 2021 I encourage you to renew your membership with TMCA if you have not done so yet. As a special incentive this year, those that renew by December 31, 2020, will be eligible to win one of two \$1,000 scholarships to be used towards TMCCP educational programs in 2021.

Before I close, I whole heartedly thank the staff of TMCA and TMCCP, Dr. Amy Holt, Peggy Burnside, Miriam Sheehan, Alexandra Burke, and Kathleen Spriggs, who have provided exceptional assistance to me. Thank you. What they do for our members goes above and beyond what is required, and they are a huge reason our members feel at home with our program.

As we are days from a new year, I am thankful for each and everyone one of you and the support you have provided me throughout my year serving at TMCA President. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. It truly has been my greatest privilege. I see a bright future ahead for our Association and profession.

I wish you each a very healthy, blessed, and happy 2021!

Sincerely,



Shelley George, TRMC  
2020 TMCA, Inc., President

## 2020 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominees

The following TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2020 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!



*Marie Balthrop*  
City Clerk, Wichita Falls  
Red River Chapter



*Brenda Dennis*  
City Secretary, Schertz  
nominated by Sheila Edmondson



*Rebecca Garza*  
City Secretary, Lubbock  
South Plains Chapter



*Jannette Goodall*  
City Clerk, Austin • Capital Chapter  
Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year



*Shelley Goodwin*  
City Secretary, Fredericksburg  
Hill Country Chapter



*Kristan Kahler*  
City Admin./Sec., Ore City  
Northeast Texas Chapter &  
also nominated by Lee Woodward



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



*Alicia Richardson*  
City Sec., North Richland Hills  
North Texas Chapter



*Christi Shivers*  
City Secretary/Fin. Dir., Mexia  
Central Texas Chapter



*Kimberly Sloat*  
City Secretary, Canadian  
Panhandle Chapter



*Tina Stewart*  
City Secretary, The Colony  
Lone Star Chapter



*Mary Valenzuela*  
City Secretary, Kingsville  
Coastal Bend Chapter



*Melinda Welsh*  
City Secretary, Friendswood  
Salt Grass Chapter



*Christi Wynn*  
City Secretary, Brownwood  
Bluebonnet Chapter

49<sup>th</sup> Annual

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

# ELECTION LAW seminar

January 28-29, 2021, Frisco, Texas • Early Registration Deadline: January 13 • [Learn more](#)

Join us for the 49<sup>th</sup> annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar! This year we are offering a **HYBRID** seminar: one may register to attend in-person or register to attend virtually live via Zoom.

**Our in-person seminar will still offer a selection of concurrent sessions. NOTE: Our new live virtual format offers a set of pre-selected sessions;** these were mindfully chosen as some of our most popular topics.

We look forward to seeing you in January!

*Wednesday, January 27, optional in-person Pre-Seminar Session:*

**10:00 a.m.-3:00 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)

*January 28-29, Election Law Seminar in-person breakout session choices:*

- Ballots
- Bonds & Tax Rate Ratifications
- Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks\*
- Election Contracts & Joint Elections\*
- From Candidate to Council Member
- ISD Elections: What You Need to Know
- Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections\*
- Polling Locations
- Recruiting & Training Election Workers
- Runoffs, Vacancies, Recounts
- Special Elections, Referendum & Initiative
- Update from the Secretary of State's Office\*
- What Did 2020 Teach Us About Elections?\*
- What Happens Before & After an Election\*

*\*Note: The virtual version of the seminar includes a set selection of sessions, indicated by an asterisk*

## TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Education Director Dr. Amy Holt, TRMC

*When an individual earns the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk designation there are benefits to both the municipality and the individual. The employer is able to validate the knowledge and skills of its employees, demonstrate decision-making among staff that is driven by rationality instead of emotion or outside influence, and witness greater efficiency through improved work methods. The individual experiences increased levels of esteem, higher levels of job satisfaction, and the ability to advance in his or her chosen career.*

*If you have put your certification on the back burner during the mayhem of 2020, I encourage you to re-focus your efforts in 2021. Our certification program is not an easy one, but it is well worth your time and energy.*

*At the time of publication of this newsletter, Nancy Sawyer, city secretary, City of Liberty Hill, will have just finished her requirements for her certification. She will be able to participate in the graduation exercises at the TMCCP Election Law seminar in January of 2021. I asked her to provide some words of encouragement to those of you pursuing certification. Here is what she had to say:*



Nancy Sawyer, TRMC

Howard Butt, Jr., of the HEB family has a saying I have loved and strived to adhere to for many years: “[Stay focused on] the high calling of our daily work.” The “high calling of your daily work” includes study time in the Texas Municipal Clerk Certification Program.

Life gets busy. There is no doubt about that, but like anything worthwhile in life, it helps to set priorities, goals, and time blocks. Reading the texts and doing the homework has to be a priority; skip that television show, order pizza, and get to work! I plan my evenings and weekends ahead so that I can block time for “school.” When it is beautiful outside, I take the learning outside so I can enjoy the weather AND still move toward my goal. Think of your evenings and weekends in terms of a healthy mix of fun and relaxation, catching up on chores, and, oh yeah, don’t forget the homework! Be creative in finding that extra nugget of time (a little or a lot) so that you can keep progressing towards your certification.

As you push closer to your goal, you will be so glad you did. Wishing you the best in achieving the high calling of *your* daily work.

*Is* **2021** *the year*  
*to finish your*  
*Certification?*

# Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year

*Austin City Clerk Jannette Goodall was awarded 2020 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year  
At the TMCA Annual Awards Ceremony on Oct. 28*



## What a Year!

By Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year  
Jannette Goodall, TRMC

Well, as 2020 comes to a close what can we say other than Wow, what a year! For me, what was a difficult year took a very positive turn in October when I was honored by being selected as Clerk of the Year. First, I want to thank my Capital Chapter members, it is truly an honor being nominated by this fabulous group of professionals. They are some of the most supportive, caring and transformative colleagues that anyone could dream about being associated with. Second, I want to thank the TMCA Clerk of the Year Committee Members for their work on reviewing all the nominations. I can't imagine how difficult of a task that must have been given the quality of municipal clerks within Texas. Most importantly I want to congratulate all the nominees: what a powerful group to be associated with and I know each and everyone of them were deserving of the award. It is truly an honor to be associated with such a professional, caring and fun group. This was definitely the highlight of 2020 for me.

During 2020 we have faced so many opportunities (a.k.a. challenges) and have consistently demonstrated that when it comes to overcoming challenges, municipal clerks rise above the occasion and excel. I encourage



Jannette Goodall is presented the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year award in person by TMCA President Shelley George during the November TMCA Executive Board meeting (the award was announced during the virtual TMCA Awards Ceremony in October).



## TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

everyone to reflect positively on 2020 and everything that we have faced and mastered. When the COVID-19 pandemic started, I would have never thought we would still be dealing with it into 2021. The impact it has had on many of our communities has been difficult to watch; loss of jobs, home-schooling, and most importantly the loss of family. Making the transition from in-person to remote meetings has been an exercise in patience. Not only teaching our Council and board and commission members how to use the technology but providing a method for our residents to participate remotely. I can only speak for myself in that I have learned that remote meetings are more work and bring more stress than any in-person meeting. If those challenges were not enough, we faced postponed elections and one of the most contentious November elections in recent history. I don't know about you, but I am so over 2020.

Girls (and guys), it is time we "Wash our Face" and embrace the chaos. It is important that we all remember that we are not always in control of our circumstances. I know that is hard for many of us, but it is true. This year has demonstrated that municipal clerks are essential employees. Please remember that your city depends on you. This means you really need to take care of yourself: pandemic fatigue is real, but please don't let that jeopardize your health. We need to stay strong because together we will overcome this challenge and come out stronger. If you need assistance, please remember you have a state-wide network for advice or sometimes just someone to vent or laugh over something happening. As always, I am confident that each of you will demonstrate to your community that municipal clerks are the glue that holds everything together at city hall. It is time that we acknowledge that we are the bombs and girls (and guys), remember: "We got this." Everyone stay safe and Happy Holidays.

### CONGRATULATIONS

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, Jannette Goodall, TRMC, city clerk, Austin, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as our 2020 honoree.

In nominating Jannette, the Capital Chapter's Myrna Rios said, "As a long-time member of the Capital Chapter and current trustee of TMCA, Jannette has made a huge impact not only for the City of Austin and our local chapter, but for the entire Texas municipal clerk community. Jannette takes on any and all challenges, gets the job done, and always looks for ways to improve processes. Most recently, at the TMCCP Records Management Seminar in San Antonio, Jannette was basically a one-woman show, leading engaging seminars and filling the room with laughter and excitement, and a little bit of chocolate. Through the recent challenges facing all of us in 2020, Jannette has led with extreme resilience, finding creative and flexible ways for her office to continue to provide a high level of service, managing virtual Council meetings with hundreds of citizen participants and gearing up for the 2020 election cycle. Every day has presented her with a new challenge, and every day she faces it head on with new resolve."

# Congratulations to all our 2020 TMCA award winners!

TMCA awards were announced during our virtual TMCA Awards Ceremony in October, and President George is traveling across Texas to deliver awards.

## President's Choice Award

At top left: **Mary Kayser** (right), City Secretary, Fort Worth, is presented with a 2020 President's Choice Award by President George.

Below left: 2020 President's Choice Award recipient **Kristan Kahler**, City Administrator/Secretary, Ore City.

## Chapter of the Year

Congratulations to the **TMCA South Plains Chapter** on their selection by President George as 2020 Chapter of the Year! Pictured here with Chapter President Belinda Terrell (right), President George presents chapter members with a commemorative mug celebrating their accomplishment.



## 2020 TMCA AWARD WINNERS



### *Distinguished Service Award*

*Top left:* Retired Muleshoe City Manager (and former Muleshoe City Secretary) **LeAnn Gallman** is presented a 2020 Distinguished Service Award by President George.

President George traveled to Cibolo to present Cibolo City Secretary **Peggy Cimics** with her 2020 Distinguished Service Award. *Pictured top center, left to right:* Cibolo City Manager Robert T. Herrera, TMCA President Shelley George, Cibolo City Secretary Peggy Cimics, and her husband Ed Cimics.

*Top right:* Bryan City Secretary **Mary Lynne Stratta** was selected as a 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipient.



### *Emerging Leader Award*

*Near left:* **Heather Robertson-Caraway**, City Secretary, Breckenridge, was presented the 2020 Emerging Leader Award.



## Alan Bojorquez Recognized with TMCA Honorary Membership

At the TMCA Annual Business Meeting, when placing Alan Bojorquez's name in nomination before the TMCA membership as a recipient of TMCA honorary membership, President Shelley George said, "Alan Bojorquez has over a 20 year relationship with our Association. We first met Alan when he joined TML as an assistant general counsel in 1997. He first began presenting at our TMCCP legislative seminars, eventually becoming organizer of the seminar. In 2004 he became the new author of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Law & Procedure Manual*.

"He is a longtime sponsor of our Association. Over the years he has been a counselor, a teacher, a supporter, a sponsor, and a friend to Texas clerks."

## 2021 Scholarships

Congratulations to our 2021 TMCCP scholarship award winners! And thank you to all who have sponsored these scholarships, including our TMCA chapters.

The TMCA Scholarship Committee awards scholarships annually amongst a pool of applicants based upon factors of eligibility. 2021 scholarships have been awarded to:

### American Legal Publishing Scholarship

Recipient: Tina J. Flores, City of San Antonio

### Franklin Digital Solutions Scholarship

Recipient: Susie Quinn, City of Murphy

### Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship

Recipient: Elanna Killian, City of Humble

### General Code, LLC Scholarship

Recipient: Sara Copeland, City of Andrews

### Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship

Recipient: Teresa Herrera, City of Palestine

### McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen (MVBA) Scholarship

Recipients: Shawna Atkinson, City of Abilene  
Belinda Terrell, City of Whiteface

### Municipal Code Corporation Innovations (MCCI) Records Management Scholarship

Recipients: Brenda Dennis, City of Schertz  
Staci King, City of Stephenville

### Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship

Recipients: Cindy Woodard, City of Memphis  
Amy Turner, City of Midland

### Susan Rocha Scholarship

(Bojorquez Law Firm, PC)

Recipient: Johna Childers, City of Lufkin

### LeAnn Gallman Scholarship

(Underwood Law Firm)

Recipients: Alice Holloway, City of Joshua  
Miguel Cantu, City of Hondo

### Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarships

Recipients: April Gilliland, City of Liberty  
Leah Brooks, City of White Oak  
Amy Shelley, City of Southlake  
Linda Asbell, City of Lakewood Village

### Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarships

Recipients: Gladis Sanchez, City of La Porte  
Julie Davidson, City of Frisco  
Deborah Sorensen, City of Royse City  
Asucena Garcia, City of Decatur

### Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarships

Recipients: Stephanie Mills, City of West Lake Hills  
Ashley Wayman, City of Rollingwood

### Legacy Scholarships

Recipients: Sherry Mashburn  
Brenda Glenn Craig

## WELCOME

# 2021 President Aimee Nemer

*President Nemer delivered her acceptance speech during the TMCA Awards Ceremony on Oct. 28 via Zoom.*

Good afternoon members, family, and special guests. Or... because this is a virtually accessible recording, maybe some of you are watching this as your after-dinner entertainment, or you can't sleep and are watching this at midnight; so good morning and good evening!

Well, once again, this is another first for all of us. 2020 just keeps on giving! I am here to give my acceptance speech in this virtual format. I was going to send my avatar in my place, but she couldn't find a dress! So, since she can't be here to deliver a flawless speech, let me introduce myself to you.

My name is Aimee Nemer and I am the City Secretary for the City of Richardson, which is located in both Dallas and Collin Counties. I was appointed in July 2012. Richardson is my third and final (fingers crossed) city to work for. I started my career in municipal government with the City of Wylie in 1997, where I worked as the administrative assistant for the Fire Chief and the City Secretary. I know: that is a little bit of a strange combo, but the Fire Chief was waiting for the station to be built so he could move into the administrative offices, so in the meantime, he was forced—I mean he had the *opportunity*—to work at City Hall. As the story goes, when it was time for him to move out to the station, I begged him to take me with him. He explained that he wouldn't need an admin at the station; I explained that I would lose my mind if I had to solely focus on city secretary functions. Records requests, council meetings, and



2021 President Aimee Nemer presenting her acceptance speech: **watch starting at 50:05**

elections? Oh my! Nevertheless, I was forced to stay, and that, of course, was the biggest professional opportunity of my life.

I owe that opportunity to my mother-in-law, Bev Nemer, who worked for the Wylie Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years. Speaking of family, if we were in person, now might be the time that I would introduce my special guests at the front table... but you know, COVID. So, instead, I'll introduce them to you through words and photographs.

Before we get to photos, I first want to thank my mom and dad. My mom has always instilled in me my faith in God and she is my first and last

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best friend. My dad instilled confidence and compassion and maybe a touch of his dry humor. And now on to my kids.

I'll start with my oldest son Jaimen, and his wife Amanda, and my two oldest grandbabies, who aren't babies anymore, Bryson and Penelope. *(Pictured at top left.)*

This is my second oldest son, Austin, and his wife Susie, and granddaughters Presley and Parker — with Parker being my youngest grandchild. *(Pictured second from top.)*

This is my daughter Rachel, and her husband Austin, and grandbabies Cameran and Hayes. *(Pictured near right.)*

These are my twins, who are about to be 20 and sophomores in college, Sawyer, and Daley. *(Pictured far left.)*

And then finally, I would not be here today if it weren't for the support of my husband and him feeding and taking care of the kids every Monday night during council meetings and various other required events, my husband Rodney of 22 years.

And I have to say, it is probably very fortuitous that I didn't have to introduce my family in person because I would have surely shed a tear or two.

Another opportunity I would have had in person is to recognize my special guests, which would have been my Mayor, Council, and City Manager's Office. I want to thank the Honorable Mayor Voelker and the entire City Council for their support and confidence in me. Their professionalism truly makes my job easy! I also want to thank City Manager Dan Johnson and Deputy City Manager Don Magner for the daily support they provide to me, my office, and my profession. And of course, let me recognize my staff who makes our office shine every day, Courtney Kelly, Records & Information Management Coordinator, and Vickie Schmid, Deputy City



The Honorable Mayor Voelker & the Richardson City Council

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Secretary. Richardson has always been known for their professional staff and I'm so proud to be a part of it.

Lastly, I want to recognize a special friend and mentor who would have also been sitting at my guest table. Shanae Jennings Conley, City Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer for the City of Irving (*pictured at left*). We go way back to my days at the City of Wylie. I'll always remember her accolades about my writing skills which inspired me to be confident in my abilities. She was also the one who spoke these words to me when I was considering a big career move, "You are way too young to be that comfortable." Those words have stuck in my head all these years and I have repeated them to others who were in my shoes.



I've also had other mentors along the way. Chief Shan English, former Wylie Fire Chief, who did not take me with him; Pam Schmidt, who was my predecessor in Richardson; Patrice Fogarty, retired city secretary, whom most of you know; Mary Kayser, Fort Worth city secretary, whom most of you also know; and a mentor to many in this room, Mary Lynne Stratta, City Secretary and Communications-Legislative Director for the City of Bryan. As they have mentored me, I hope that I can be a mentor to some of you, and hopefully, I already have been.

Now, let's do something we all want to do! Let's look forward to 2021! Don't you know the countdown to 2021 on New Year's Eve is no doubt one of the most anticipated moments of the year? Wherever you are, make plans to be awake for that midnight toast! Even if it has to be on Zoom!

Besides just a new year and getting us out of 2020, 2021 brings us something exciting to look forward to. TMCA will celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation. I'm very excited to lead you in this important year as we commemorate this milestone in our Association's history. As with anything worth celebrating, we should look ahead and be hopeful, but we cannot do that without

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knowing where we've been. So, with that, let me introduce a theme for the year, with a little play on words and a slight twist of historical meaning: "Hindsight is 2020!"

First, you will notice, I mean 20/20—as in perfect vision; but I also mean the year 2020 and the lessons learned. Second, you might know the definition of the phrase to be a look back to see where we went wrong, but I challenge us to look back and see where we went right. And I'm not just talking about our Association, our cities, our profession: I'm talking about you personally. How many times did you hear the word "essential" this year? Essential services, essential supplies, essential workers. Did you count yourself as essential? I hope that you did. Maybe you were one of the only employees to run your city. Maybe you were the one left to figure out how your council was going to conduct business, or maybe you were essential at home as your child experienced virtual learning. And likely, many of you did all of the above and more. When you look back at 2020, what did you do right? Did you learn a new skill? I think we

all learned Zoom... and I think we're all over it. (Except for today's presentation of course!) My sister-in-law perfected pie making—and I mean the kind with gorgeous intricately decorated crusts. My mom learned to make masks with material perfectly matched to any personality. I listened to new books and new podcasts on my commute—which quickly became much shorter with no traffic! I also binged watched old and new shows... from *I Love Lucy* episodes to *Parenthood* to *Ozark*. I learned not only how to say the word, but how to make a charcuterie board. I also learned that nothing we fill our lives with can replace the relationships—the in-person relationships—we have with our family, friends, and co-workers. We need the human touch, the human experience; these are essential and can't be achieved on a screen. We are essential. I am essential. You are essential. You are essential at home, in your community, at work, and to this Association. You are essential to this profession.

City Secretary, City Clerk, Municipal Clerk. These are our titles. But also emerging are

many functional titles: Chief Compliance Officer, Chief Governance Officer, and others that are being developed across the state. I applaud these efforts and encourage our Association to lead these discussions. Our profession is also often referred to as the "heart of our cities," the "stars of local government," the "hub of our towns" to name a few. And these are all true! See, I told you we are essential. And as said by many others before me, but specifically, former TMCA President, Mary Lynne Stratta, it is up to us to tell our story if we want it told right. Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "Study the past if you would define the future." So as we look back, whether it's 2020, or back to 1986 when TMCA was incorporated, let us learn from our challenges, focus on the positives, and define our own future—both personally and professionally.

When I started drafting this speech, I went through the traditional outline process and started developing my main points. But as I started writing, I started thinking: nuggets. I just want to give you little nuggets. In this



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world of soundbites, it just seems more contemporary. Or maybe that's just my excuse for not developing a main point. Either way, I hope you found a little nugget that you will remember.

If you didn't, let me leave you with this.

As a nod to my Greek heritage, and borrowing a favorite from my City Manager, Dan Johnson, I want to share with you the words of the Athenian Oath.

*"We will never bring disgrace on this our city by an act of dishonesty or cowardice.*

*We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city both alone and with many.*

*We will revere and obey the city's laws and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them at naught.*

*We will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.*

*Thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this city not only, not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."*

As city officials, our profession is the embodiment of this oath. We strive for and achieve these tenets every day.



President Shelley George administers the oath of office to 2021 President Aimee Nemer.

In closing, I want to recognize President George and thank her for her service during this challenging year. Thank you to our board; I look forward to serving with you. And we could not do what we do without the TMCA staff, Education Director, Dr. Amy Holt; Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, Assistant Director Miriam Sheehan, Communications Specialist Alexandra Burke, and Kathleen Spriggs, Office Support. And to you, our members, thank you for your involvement in TMCA. This is your association!

Let's look forward to 2021 and remember that Hindsight is 2020!

# 2021 TMCA Executive Board

*The Board was administered the oath of office on October 28*



President Aimee Nemer, TRMC  
City Secretary, Richardson

President-elect Maria Jackson, TRMC  
City Secretary, Missouri City

Secretary Amanda Campos, TRMC  
City Secretary, Burleson

Treasurer Jannette Goodall, TRMC  
City Clerk, Austin

Secretary Lee Woodward, TRMC  
City Secretary, La Porte



Immediate Past Pres. Shelley George, TRMC  
City Secretary, Allen

Trustee Jeana Bellinger, TRMC  
City Secretary, Brenham

Trustee Michelle Hicks, TRMC  
City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview

Trustee Cara McPartland, TRMC  
City Secretary, Salado



Trustee Gretchen Mercer, TRMC  
City Secretary, Canyon

Trustee Jenny Page, TRMC  
City Secretary, Humble

Trustee Alicia Richardson, TRMC  
City Secretary, North Richland Hills

Trustee Teresa Valdez, TRMC  
City Secretary, Rockport

Trustee Christi Wynn, TRMC  
City Secretary, Brownwood

# Introducing New Executive Board Trustees Jeana Bellinger and Michelle Hicks

## *Jeana Bellinger, TRMC*

*Jeana Bellinger has served as the city secretary of the City of Brenham since 2008. She previously served as the City of Brenham's administrative assistant to the city manager, Brenham (2006-2008). She served as the City of Waller's deputy city secretary from 2004-2006.*

### **Professional Affiliations**

Jeana earned her TRMC certification in 2010 (No. 576) and recertified in 2015 and 2020.

Jeana has held membership in TMCA since 2005 and has been active in the Association. She has served on several committees: Audit Committee (2013, 2014); Scholarship Committee (2015); Nominating Committee (2017); Municipal Clerk of the Year (2018, 2019-Chair); and Awards Committee (2020-Chair). Jeana was a presenter for TMCCP's 2020 "Records Management" webinar. She was a co-instructor for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar on "Charter Elections, Poll Watchers and Inspectors" in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Jeana is an active member of the Captial Chapter, where she has held the offices of President (2015, 2016, 2017); Treasurer (2013, 2014); and Secretary (2012). Her chapter committee service includes the Nominating Committee, Bylaws Committee, Belton Conference Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Salado Conference Committee.

Jeana has been a presenter on "Public Information—The Basics" for the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter, and a presenter on "Public Information—Confusing Issues" for the TMCA Red River Chapter and the TMCA Capital Chapter.

Jeana is a Certified Municipal Clerk through International Institute of Municipal Clerks (2016). She holds a BS in Business Management from LeTourneau University.

### **Community, Family, and Hobbies**

Jeana is a Graduate of Washington County Leadership Program. She is a member of Grace Community Fellowship Church in Brenham, and a Convoy of Hope volunteer.



## *Michelle Hicks, TRMC*

*Michelle Hicks has served as the city secretary of the City of Lacy Lakeview for 11 years. She was previously the HR administrator (2006-2009) and utility clerk (2003-2006) for the City of Lacy Lakeview.*

### **Professional Affiliations**

Michelle earned her TRMC certification in 2015 (No. 749) and recertified in 2020.

Michelle has held membership in TMCA since 2008 and has been active in the Association. She has served on several committees: Resolutions (2016); Retirement (2017); Scholarship (2018, 2019); Award of Excellence (2019 chair); and Technology (2018, 2019, 2020). She has served as a convener for TMCCP seminars.

Michelle is an active member of the TMCA Central Texas Chapter, where she has held the offices of President, Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary. Her chapter committee service includes the Program Committee, Planning Committee, Membership Outreach Committee, and Nominating Committee. During her presidency she created the chapter newsletter (2018-2020). In 2014 Michelle was honored as the Central Texas Clerk of the Year.

Michelle is a Texas Certified Public Manager (William P. Hobby Center for Public Service).

### **Community, Family, and Hobbies**

Michelle is a chamber of Commerce Board Member. She is also a Texas Sports Hall of Fame Committee Member. She serves as finance administrator for her church.

Michelle has a daughter, DeAijha, who is currently a high school teacher, and a grandson, Bentley (one year old), who loves to play basketball. Michelle's

*Introducing Trustee Jeana Bellinger (continued)*

Jeana and her husband, Eric, have been married for 30 years and have four children and four grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading and playing golf.

**Appointment to the TMCA Executive Board**

On her appointment to the TMCA Executive Board, Jeana says, “I have been blessed to work for a city that supports me and the profession of municipal clerks; so serving on TMCA’s executive board is truly an honor! I am dedicated to the vision and mission of TMCA and will work tirelessly to ensure that TMCA continues to be a lifeline for city secretaries throughout this great state! I am honored and humbled to have been selected by the committee to serve TMCA and am looking forward to mentoring other city secretaries as they walk their journey through a profession that is ever-changing!”

*Introducing Trustee Michelle Hicks (continued)*

hobbies include spending time with family and friends, traveling—and the most important hobby is shopping.

**Appointment to the TMCA Executive Board**

On her appointment to the TMCA Executive Board, Michelle says, “What an honor? I have been involved with TMCA for many years now and I have meet some wonderful people along the way. To be appointed to the board is special to me because I want to become a better City Secretary and at the same time help others be great as well. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with some amazing people and I hope I will make them proud.”

*Congratulations to our 2020 City Secretary Retirees*

*Congratulations to TMCA members who have let us know of their 2020 retirements! These members represent over 230 years of service to their communities.*

Lacy Borgeson, City Secretary, Temple

Barbara Boyd, City Secretary, Center

Alma Deckard, City Secretary, Laguna Vista

Cathy DiMaggio, Grand Prairie

LeAnn Gallman, City Manager (previously City Secretary),  
Muleshoe

Melba Hart, Asst. City Manager/City Secretary/Finance Director/  
HR Director, White Oak

Susan Hill-Manning, City Secretary, South Padre Island

Gayle Kirby, Town Secretary, Highland Park

Alesia Mayne, City Secretary, Grand Saline

Kelly McDonald, City Manager/City Secretary, Cleveland

Kim Pence, City Secretary, Corinth

Kathy Phillips, Little Elm

Sharon Trumble, City Secretary, New Deal

Beth Walls, City Secretary/HR Director, Levelland

Rhonda Williams, City Secretary, Dublin

Linda Zartler, Asst. City Manager  
(previously Admin. Services Director & City Secretary), Boerne



# Thank You To Our Scholarship Donors & Seminar Sponsors

*Thank you to all those who donated in 2020 toward 2021 TMCA scholarships and seminar sponsorships!*

## *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*

## *Lone Star Chapter*

*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 Scholarship*

## *North Texas Chapter*

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund*

*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

## *South Plains Chapter*

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund*

*Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

## *Underwood Law Firm*

*LeAnn Gallman Scholarship (two)*

# Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative **Aimee Nemer, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Richardson*

The TML Board of Directors met on October 15 via Zoom.

The board confirmed the nomination committee's report and approved Karen Hunt, Mayor of Coppell, as TML President; and Martha Castex-Tatum, Vice Mayor Pro Tem, Houston, as President-elect.

TML staff provided an update on the virtual conference and informed the board that the virtual format will allow more accurate statistics on session attendance and feedback to be collected.

TML staff provided an update on legislative services with a schedule of virtual regional roundtables that will provide engagement between city officials and lawmakers around issues of importance in the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

TML staff provided a legal update on the Coronavirus Response, reporting 135 daily updates that are categorized and cataloged on the TML website.

TML staff provided a membership update stating 1,160 members with no decline due to COVID-19.

TML Conference Schedule/Locations

2021 – Houston, October 6-8

2022 – San Antonio, October 5-6

2023 – Dallas

2024 – Houston

2025 – Grapevine

The next TML Board Meeting was scheduled for December 4 in Austin.

# TML Conference

The TML Conference went virtual this year, and TMCA participated with its session “The Key to Your Success”:

*“Municipal clerks serve and assist elected officials so that cities can responsibly adhere to statute and best practices. Clerks’ resilience and quick responses this year especially aided local leaders to quickly convert to remote participation and new guidelines for elections, public information, and myriad policies. Your clerk is the key to your continued success in upholding the law and conserving resources.”*

**TMCA President Shelley George, TRMC,** City Secretary, Allen, served as the moderator for the panel:

**Alan Bojorquez, Managing Attorney,**  
**Bojorquez Law Firm, PC**

**Chris Coffman, City Manager, Granbury**  
**Shanae Jennings, TRMC, City Secretary/**  
**Chief Compliance Officer, Irving**

**The Honorable Oscar Trevino, Mayor,**  
**North Richland Hills**

*Thank you to TML Conference Session Committee members Lee Woodward and Gretchen Mercer on all their hard work!*

## TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

# Focus on Ethics



TMCCP Education Director  
**Dr. Amy Holt**

Part of the TMCA Code of Ethics states that members will

*“record that which is true and preserve that which is entrusted to me as if it were my own.”*

Record keeping and preservation are important parts of the municipal clerk profession.

Even if your municipality has a separate office or individual devoted to records

management, the importance of accurate public records cannot be overstated. Our democracy only works when the public is informed about how decisions are made that govern them. Public records are the foundation of public trust.

As a custodian of public records, municipal clerks must act with integrity as he or she promotes best practices for creation, distribution, preservation, protection, retention, and disposal of public records. The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators points out that “trust in records can only be ensured if the processes for management and decision-making are concisely and plainly articulated.”

Each year the Texas Municipal Clerks Association provides training related to records management. We also offer a fantastic **webinar** that can be purchased at any time for training purposes.

## TMCCP Certificates Earned

*Congratulations to the following enrollees who recently 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

Susan Acosta, Deer Park  
Leah Brooks, White Oak  
Susan Collazo, Post  
Leslie Galloway, Kennedale  
Lily Gama, Garland  
Belinda Gaytan, Jonestown  
Connie Gibbens, Hays  
Natasha Hinton, League City  
Teresa Johnson, Gordon  
Jennifer Krummel, Orange  
Patti Lowrance, Floydada  
Stephanie Mills, West Lake Hills  
Marsha Jo Stone, Vernon  
Judy Van Houten, Gladewater  
Lisa Wilson, Copperas Cove

### Course 2

Tracy Allmendinger, Garland  
LeeAnn Blankenship, Anson  
Katherine Cenicola, Cedar Hill  
Andrea Gardner, Watauga  
Allene Gilmore, Kemp  
Stephanie Guerrero, Seabrook  
Elizabeth Harrell, Oak Ridge North  
Jennifer Krummel, Orange  
Patti Lowrance, Floydada  
Jennifer Lynch, Smithville  
Stacie Miller, Stinnett  
Stephanie Mills, West Lake Hills  
Jacqueline Moya, Los Fresnos  
Michael Muscarello, Webster  
Syra Nichols, Pecos  
Jennifer Reyna, Navasota  
Misty Richardson, Fairfield  
Rachel Rowe, Kilgore  
Amber Rowe, Briarcliff  
Terry Ruiz  
Sorayda Sanchez, Uvalde  
Marisa Spencer, Garden Ridge  
Karen Stack, Brenham  
Jessica Tucker, Luling  
Judy Van Houten, Glade Water  
Kimberly Wagner, Llano  
Christine Wallentine, Denison

### Course 3

Theresa Bell, Teague  
Fred Blanco, Rancho Viejo  
Leah Brooks, White Oak  
Leslie Galloway, Kennedale  
Allene Gilmore, Kemp  
Elinka Harper  
Julie Harvill, Anahuac  
Jennifer Krummel, Orange  
Patti Lowrance, Floydada  
Stacie Miller, Stinnett  
Tracy Miller, Kirby  
Stephanie Mills, West Lake Hills  
Jacqueline Moya, Los Fresnos  
Christina Piciocci, Fair Oaks Ranch  
Jennifer Reyna, Navasota  
Misty Richardson, Fairfield  
Terry Ruiz  
Nancy Sawyer, Liberty Hill  
Caryn Stevens, Red Oak  
Marsha Jo Stone, Vernon  
Judy Van Houten, Gladewater  
Sally Villarreal, Lake Jackson

### Course 4

Joselynn Castillo, Mercedes  
Olga Garza, Southside Place  
Allene Gilmore, Kemp  
Elinka Harper  
Julie Harvill, Anahuac  
Kimberly Morris, Jones Creek  
Brenda Poe, Huntsville  
Carma Potter, Garland  
Misty Richardson, Fairfield  
Gladis Sanchez, La Porte  
Celia Senoret, Odessa



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Alamo Chapter

By Chapter Vice President **Debby Goza, TRMC**

*City Secretary, Live Oak*

Our Alamo Chapter members have met twice this quarter, August 26 and October 21, despite COVID-19 and with the assistance of Brenda Dennis, city secretary, City of Schertz, who offered the chapter a venue within their municipality. I will add that the room was spacious with plenty of room for social distancing and of course the use of face masks. As always, the coordination between President Cimics and City Secretary Dennis is solid.

### Congratulations

During the October Virtual TMCA Awards Ceremony our wonderful Chapter President Peggy Cimics was nominated and awarded one of the three Distinguished Service Awards. Peggy is a very modest and unpretentious individual, who never seeks the limelight and will always share her knowledge and sincerity to those who ask. As I mentioned in my nomination letter, “She is my mentor and friend, and I will always be grateful to her for being my sounding board for issues and dragging me to our Alamo Chapter meetings when I was tired and forcing me to become her vice president.” That being said, congratulations, Peggy Cimics, on a well-deserved award!



Cibolo City Secretary Peggy Cimics, TRMC (center), is presented her 2020 Distinguished Service Award by TMCA President Shelley George, TRMC.

## ALAMO CHAPTER

Congratulations to Assistant City Secretary **Amanda Valdez** from the City of Fair Oaks Ranch! She has completed the requirements for her TMCCP Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification and will be graduating in January 2021. We are all proud of her!

Congratulations to **Gayle Wilkinson**, Deputy City Secretary from the City of Schertz: she is scheduled to graduate and receive her certification in January. Gayle is very clever and a joy to be around!

Congratulations to the City of Hondo's City Secretary **Miguel Cantu**. He finished his last test and will be receiving his certification and graduating in January. In addition, he received the TMCCP LeAnn Gallman Scholarship. This is awesome news and brings a smile to everyone; again, congratulations!

Congratulations to the City of Cibolo's **Sheila Edmondson**, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police. She completed her requirements for TMCCP recertification and will be walking the stage in January 2021. Sheila is always on the go, quick-witted, and always involved.

Congratulations to the City of Cibolo's **Valerie Chapman**, Deputy City Secretary, who is diligently working to complete her homework for her TMCCP Certification and will be applying to take her first exam soon. Valerie is another of the City of Cibolo's finest, who will be a great asset for TMCCP.

The City of Live Oak's Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police **Isaura "Isa" Gaytan** will be taking her second test for certification in January. When she took her first test she was a bundle of nerves, but she passed with flying colors, and now she is ready to go forward and make her chapter proud!

City of Fair Oaks Ranch Assistant City Manager **Carole Vanzant**, TRMC, wears many hats and that makes her a busy woman. She is in the process of working towards her third TRMC recertification.



Congratulations to Alamo Chapter rising stars! *At top:* the City of Live Oak's Donna Lowder, Jocelyn Schneider, and Isa Gaytan. *Above:* the City of Cibolo's Valerie Chapman (left) and Sheila Edmondson.

## ALAMO CHAPTER

City of Jourdanton’s city secretary **Debbie Molina** has completed two courses toward her TRMC certification and is a recipient of an Alamo Chapter Scholarship. She is studying for her upcoming TMCCP tests as she is diligent and hardworking!

The City of Live Oak’s Executive Secretary/EDC Administrative **Donna Lowder** is currently studying for her TMCCP certification and expects to test after she completes her final homework module. To conquer the Metrocom!

The City of Live Oak’s **Jocelyn Schneider**, utility representative, is our newest Alamo Chapter member. She has wanted a career as a city secretary. Jocelyn will be attending her first conference in January, the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. Jocelyn is funny and a real go-getter.

The City of Live Oak’s **Debby Goza**, City Secretary and current Vice President of the Alamo Chapter, has begun the process of her third recertification; “I love book reports!”

### Other Business

- The Alamo Chapter hosted an in-person holiday meeting December 9 with the City of Schertz hosting at Schertz Civic Center.
- Upcoming Seminar: TMCCP Election Law Seminar, January 28-29, 2021, available to attend in-person in Frisco and virtually via Zoom.

### Food for Thought

*“The difference between winning and losing is often not quitting.”*

— Walt Disney



Halloween celebrations at the City of Fair Oaks Ranch! Carole Vanzant, Amanda Valdez, and Christina Picioccio.

#### Alamo Chapter members:

President Peggy Cimics, City of Cibolo  
 Vice President Debby Goza, City of Live Oak  
 Sheila Edmondson, City of Cibolo  
 Treas. Christina Picioccio, City of Fair Oaks Ranch  
 Secretary Kristin Mueller, City of Universal City  
 Sorayda Sanchez, City of Uvalde

Valerie Chapman, City of Cibolo  
 Gayle Wilkinson, City of Schertz  
 Amanda Valdez, City of Fair Oaks Ranch  
 Lisa Hernandez, City of Converse  
 Brenda Dennis, City of Schertz  
 Yolanda Benitez, Retired  
 Carole Vanzant, City of Fair Oaks Ranch  
 Isa Gayton, City of Live Oak

Debra Howe, City of Castroville  
 Trudy Whitfield, City of Live Oak  
 Sandra Passailaigue, City of Leon Valley  
 Samantha Lee, City of Converse  
 Joannette Huggins, City of Hollywood Park  
 Jocelyn Schneider, City of Live Oak  
 Ana Federico, City of Leon Valley  
 Jennifer Reyna, City of Alamo Heights

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Bluebonnet Chapter

By **Shawna Atkinson**

*City Secretary, Abilene*

The Bluebonnet Chapter met on September 9 in Brownwood at the Depot Civic and Cultural Center.

The meeting began with a welcome from Brownwood City Secretary Christi Wynn. The invocation was delivered by Ryan Polston, City Administrator of Hamilton. A box lunch from Schlotzsky's was provided by Margaret Somereve from the Texas Coalition of Affordable Housing, who gave a brief overview of what TCAP does. Ms. Somereve was even gracious enough to deliver the lunch in the pouring rain!

TMCA President Shelley George was the guest speaker for the day. She spoke about all the changes going on at TMCA in light of the current pandemic, from virtual board meetings to the new webinar series, and even the TMCCP Graduate Institute being virtual in October. She also spoke about all the various committees members can serve on, as well as TMCCP scholarships and TMCA awards, and encouraged everyone to apply!

A nominating committee for Bluebonnet Municipal Clerk of the Year was appointed, future meeting dates were set, and a scholarship committee was also appointed after members decided to give out two scholarships next year. The results of the silent auction were announced at the end of the meeting: \$91 was raised for the scholarship fund.

The Bluebonnet Chapter meets quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The next meeting was scheduled for December 9 in the City of Stamford.



Pictured from left to right: Shelley George, TMCA President and City Secretary of Allen; Ryan Polster, City Administrator, Hamilton; Misty Boatwright, City Secretary, Hamilton; Christi Wynn, City Secretary, Brownwood; Staci King, City Secretary, Stephenville; Nan Billings, City Secretary, Bangs; Karen Langley, City Secretary, Coleman; Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary, Abilene; Kim Bryan, City Secretary, Stamford; Roma Holley, City Secretary, Eastland; Brenda Kilgo, City Secretary, Early; Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City Secretary, Abilene.

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

### Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter President **Shelley Goodwin, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Fredericksburg

The Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association met via Zoom on October 14. The Zoom meeting was hosted by Erica Berry and the City of Llano. Those in attendance approved minutes and the financial report. They also made the announcements of the new chapter officers:

*President Shelley Goodwin, City of Fredericksburg*

*Vice President Erica Berry, City of Llano*

*Secretary Margie Riviera, City of Fredericksburg*

*Treasurer Laura Calcote, City of Wimberley*

Elaine Simpson announced the next chapter meeting, and upcoming conferences and webinars. Those in attendance discussed happening in their cities. There was also a short question and answer session regarding handling issues with your job duties.

With the change in seasons came the officers' changes at the December ninth meeting and our annual gift exchange. This year Laura Calcote, City of Wimberley, hosted our December meeting at the Wimberley Community Center.

The chapter would like to thank Elaine Simpson, Kelly Dix, and Kerri Craig for all their hard work in leading our chapter through this unpredictable time.

Here is to 2020: *There cannot be a crisis next year. My schedule is already full.*

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Traci Henderson, TRMC**

*Assistant City Secretary, North Richland Hills*

Greetings TMCA Members!

Hello from North Texas! Wow! Has this been a ride or what? I'm hoping this quick hello finds our TMCA membership staying well and healthy.

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) is continuing to navigate the ever changing COVID waters. We held our October meeting via WebEx video conference.



Speaker Kelley Moore

Our speaker Kelley Moore shared with us how to achieve confidence, credibility and composure during crucial conversations; beginning with understanding the three voices in our heads during a crucial conversation or confrontation: (1) our own voice; (2) the voices of people in our lives past or present, like family, friends, a boss, teacher that may have said something that resonated or stayed with you over time; and (3) the voice in the present moment; the other person that is part of the conversation.



She stated “if you sense it or feel it, deal with it” (SFD), and part of this process is not to have off-line conversations with yourself. “All progress begins with telling the truth,” and she gave the three steps to “perception checking”: (1) state your observation, (2) share your interpretation, and (3) ask if you are correct. With Kelley’s military background she said “there is a fine line between combat and curiosity.” That is probably a good thing to remember, right? Are we asking to be combative, to get our way or are we asking for a better understanding? Kelley reminded us that the person on the other side of the table is not the enemy. Look at them as a human being and stop picking apart the threat (other people). Everyone has a contribution and perspective to bring to the table. Connect human to human with an

## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

open heart. Listen to others with the intention to understand, not to immediately respond.

I know we have all heard this before, but Kelley shared again so let's end with this:

We judge others by their actions, words, impacts.

We judge ourselves by our intentions.

NTMCA usually has a meeting in November and like all of us our May elections were moved to November, so as usual our member-

ship stepped up to support each other inside and outside of our chapter.

We want to congratulate our members on just a few accomplishments and accolades:

*Aimee Nemer, TMCA 2021 President*

*Alicia Richardson, TMCA 2021 Board Trustee*

*Shelley George – TMCA 2021 Immediate Past President*

*Peggy Burnside – Recognition of outstanding service of the TMCA/Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program*

*Amy Arnold – Becoming a Fellow in the Athenian Leadership Society*

*Mary Kayser – Becoming a Fellow in the Athenian Leadership Society*

*Mary Kayser – TMCA 2020 President's Choice Award*

Lastly, I would like to leave you with a little kindness from the Kindness Korner...

**“You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”**

**—Ralph Waldo Emerson**


 TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

## Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Ellie Monteaux, TRMC**

*City Secretary & Assistant City Manager, Livingston*

Happy Holidays from the Pineywoods Chapter!

The TMCA Pineywoods Chapter held their quarterly meeting in Lufkin at Lufkin B-B-Q on October 21. Members in attendance were Johnna Childers, Julie Davis, Wendy Bendy, Kara Andrepont, Mitzi Thompson, Barbara Boyd, and Ellie Monteaux.

The minutes and the financial reports were approved. It was approved to provide four door prize gift cards from the Pineywoods Chapter for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. The Audit Committee was appointed to perform the audit of 2020 year. Thank you to those who are serving in this area. Tentative dates were set for our quarterly meetings for 2021: the third Wednesday of January, April, July, and October.

Nominations for chapter officers for the term beginning January 2021 were received. Nominations were accepted as follows: Kara Andrepont for Chapter President, Wendy Bendy for Chapter Vice President and Julie Davis for Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Members approved the chapter officers as presented. Congratulations to our 2021 officers. We appreciate all you do for our chapter.

2021 chapter dues are being accepted. Anyone who pays their chapter dues prior to, or at, the January 2021 meeting will be eligible for a gift basket drawing of yummy treats. The drawing will be held at the January 20 meeting in Lufkin.

The deadline for submission of chapter scholarship applications was extended to November 15 for this year. Hopefully, this will allow the scholarship to be awarded during 2020. The scholarship is in the amount of \$300 to be used during calendar year 2021.

We hope to see everyone at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco in January 2021. It is sure to be another excellent seminar and wonderful networking opportunity. We will be there to celebrate our chapter members who will be receiving their TRMC designations at the graduation ceremony. We will be cheering—LOUDLY!!!

Barbara Boyd, City Secretary for Center, will be retiring very soon. The Pineywoods Chapter would like to wish her a wonderful retirement. We will miss you, Barb!

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2021 from the Pineywoods Chapter!



## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Red River Chapter

By Chapter President **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**

*City Clerk, Wichita Falls*

The Red River Chapter met on September 20 at the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce. We met in the new conference room at the Chamber of Commerce to assist with social distancing and truly enjoyed getting to see everyone in person. Henry Florsheim, President/CEO of the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce, was our guest speaker, along with TMCA President Shelley George who attended virtually. Mr. Florsheim shared his experiences with the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce and discussed future economic development plans for Wichita Falls. President George encouraged members to apply for travel stipends and scholarship seminars, and encouraged everyone to participate in the new webinars offered by TMCCP. President George discussed the new awards that will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet and encouraged everyone to plan to participate in both the TMCCP Graduate Institute and the TMCA Awards Banquet that will both be virtual this year.

Sharon McFadden, City Secretary, Graham, was recognized as the Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year, and Marie Balthrop, City Clerk, City of Wichita Falls was recognized as the Red River Chapter Nominee for TMCA Clerk of the Year. Certificates were presented to both individuals.

We held our first Virtual Athenian Dialogue on November 19 and it was a great success. Our thanks to Jannette Goodall for facilitating. There



*Red River Chapter members, left to right: Theodore Stoll, Gerri Ayres, Marsha Jo Stone, Margie Poole, Marie Balthrop, President George (pictured on the laptop), Alison Sanders, Kim Hemmi, Tim Houston, and Sandy Page.*

## RED RIVER CHAPTER

were eight states represented and it was so cool to be able to connect with clerks we would normally never get to meet. The dialogue was over the book *Upstairs in the White House* and most of the attendees truly enjoyed the book. We all agreed that the job of Chief Usher of the White House was quite similar to the duties of a City Secretary/City Clerk.

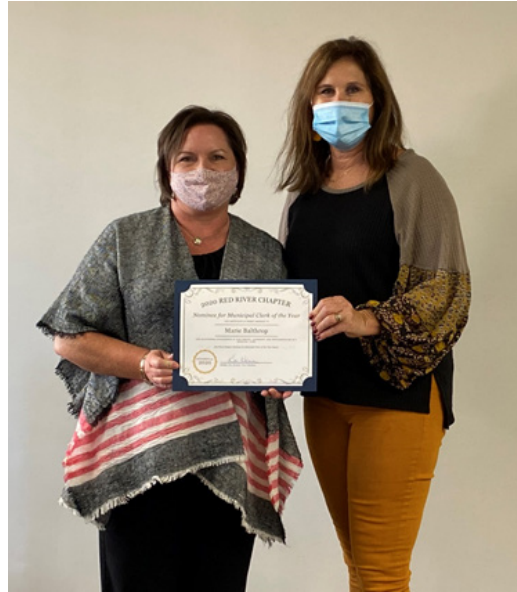
Our next meeting was scheduled for December 8, and included our donations for our yearly Christmas Project and our Christmas Ornament Exchange. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings.

For more information about the Red River Chapter contact Chapter President Marie Balthrop (Wichita Falls) at [marie.balthrop@wichitafallstx.gov](mailto:marie.balthrop@wichitafallstx.gov).

### *Officers:*

*President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, MMC, City Clerk, Wichita Falls*

*Vice President/Treasurer Kim Hemmi, TRMC, City Secretary, Scotland Secretary, Sharon McFadden, TRMC, City Secretary, Graham*



*Above left: Marie Balthrop (left), City Clerk, City of Wichita Falls, being presented with the certificate for Red River Chapter's Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Nominee by Kim Hemmi, City Secretary, City of Scotland. Above right: Marie Balthrop, City Clerk, City of Wichita Falls, presenting the certificate for Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year to Sharon McFadden, City Secretary, City of Graham.*

## TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Tracylynn Garcia, TRMC**

*Assistant City Secretary, Tomball*

On August 12, after a summer hiatus, the Salt Grass Chapter held their monthly meeting virtually. Attendees were given a presentation on TABC Procedures. The facilitator was TABC Regional Licensing Supervisor Michael Gallardo.

On September 9 the Salt Grass Chapter held their first virtual Public Information Act (PIA) Seminar. The Salt Grass Chapter PIA Seminar Committee was Frances Aguilar (Chair), City Secretary, Angleton; Lee Woodward (Co-chair), City Secretary, La Porte; Rhomari Leigh, City Secretary, Texas City; Heather Van Dine, Office Manager, Friendswood; Brenda Poe, City Secretary, Huntsville; Crystal Dozier, City Secretary, Hunters Creek; Dixie Roberts, City Secretary, Alvin; Tomika Lewis, City Secretary, Stafford; and Tracylynn Garcia, Assistant City Secretary, Tomball. The seminar had over 65 attendees, most from our area, but some from the Dallas/Fort Worth area as well!

The presenters were (listed in chronological order):

Jeana Bellinger, City Secretary, Brenham

Eric Farrar, Attorney, Olson & Olson, LLP

Laura Mueller, City Attorney, Dripping Springs

Upon conclusion of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual PIA Seminar, the chapter held their monthly meeting.



The Salt Grass Chapter's Public Information Act speakers: Jeana Bellinger, Eric Farrar, and Laura Mueller.

## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

### **October Salt Grass Chapter Meeting (held virtually)**

On October 7 the chapter held their monthly meeting with a presentation given by William Penson and Martha Morales with Laserfiche regarding tools for using Laserfiche.

### **November Salt Grass Chapter Meeting (hybrid)**

On Wednesday, November 18, the Chapter will hold their first hybrid meeting in Humble with some attendees participating in person and others virtually. The presentation topic will be Human Resources and will be facilitated by Arquella Hargrove, HR Strategist.

### **December Annual Installation Banquet and Holiday Luncheon**

This event was held on December 9 at Carrabba's on Kirby in Houston, Texas. It included swearing in the officers of 2021 Salt Grass Chapter

Executive Board, awarding the Chapter's Municipal Clerk of the Year, and announcing the winners of the Patrice Fogarty and Deloris McKenzie scholarships. After the banquet the chapter attendees had an exciting white elephant gift exchange, which is always a lot of fun!

### **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!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

# South Plains Chapter

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

The South Plains Chapter met on September 16 at Olive Garden in Lubbock for our quarterly meeting. The meeting was hosted by Kim Perez from the City of Ralls.

Chapter President Belinda Terrell of Whiteface called the meeting to order and introductions of members and guests took place.

President Terrell made announcements that included:

- TMCA President Shelly George will be attending our December Chapter meeting.
- The chapter received a thank you card from Miguel Cantu thanking us for the door prize we had donated at the Lubbock seminar that he had won.
- Congratulations to chapter members who recently passed exams at the latest TMCCP seminars: Nikki Coronado, Shallowater; Pattie Lowrance, Floydada; Andrea Corley, Levelland; and Susan Collazo, Post.

The chapter voted to donate \$375 each to the Dorothy F. Byrd and the Dr. Joyce Snay scholarships.

The 2021-2022 slate of officers were presented to the chapter and the motion was passed to accept the slate as presented:

- President Kim Perez, Ralls
- Vice President Zanea Carpenter, Muleshoe
- Treasurer Elena Quintanilla, Ransom Canyon
- Secretary Veronica Olguin, Morton
- Historian Courtney Paz-Rivera, Lubbock
- Director Patricia Isaguirre, Hale Center

Our next meeting was scheduled for December 16. Debbie Gressett, City of Seminole, will host the meeting. If you would like to join us please contact Secretary Zanea Carpenter at [zcarpenter@muleshoetx.org](mailto:zcarpenter@muleshoetx.org) for information.

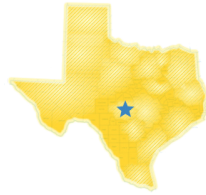
**Members and guests at the September meeting:**

Lillian Atkinson, City Secretary, Dickens  
 Zanea Carpenter, TRMC, City Secretary, Muleshoe  
 Susan Collazo, TRMC, Assistant City Secretary, Post  
 Andrea Corley, City Secretary, Levelland  
 Nikki Coronado, TRMC, Asst. City Secretary, Shallowater  
 Amanda Cummings, TRMC, City Secretary, Shallowater  
 Melissa Fields-Allgeyer, Human Resources, Levelland  
 LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, Retired City Manager, Muleshoe

Lisa Hernandez, City Secretary, Lorenzo  
 Isabel Martinez, Utility/Court Clerk, Lorenzo  
 Jimmy Maynard, Mgmt Asst to City Secretary, Lubbock  
 Brittney Moore, City Secretary, New Deal  
 Meg Nelson, City Secretary, Post  
 Veronica Olguin, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Morton  
 Courtney Paz-Rivera, Deputy City Secretary, Lubbock  
 Kim Perez, TRMC, City Administrator, Ralls  
 Elena Quintanilla, TRMC, City Manager, Ransom Canyon

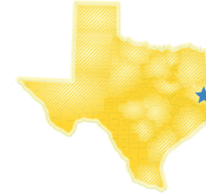
Leslie Randolph, Executive Assistant, Ransom Canyon  
 Becky Rodriguez, Public Works Director, Dickens  
 Brenda Shaw, TRMC, City Manager/Secretary, Morton  
 Deana Smith, TRMC, City Manager, Post  
 Belinda Terrell, TRMC, City Manager/Secretary, Whiteface  
 Sharon Trumble, Ret City Secretary, New Deal  
 Amy Wallace, TRMC, City Administrator, Crosbyton  
 Beth Walls, TRMC, Ret City Secretary, Levelland  
 Johnna Ware, City Secretary, Ralls

# TMCA Chapters



## HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

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## PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

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## ALAMO CHAPTER

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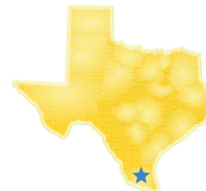
## RED RIVER CHAPTER

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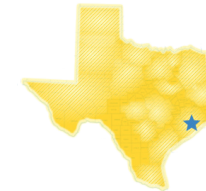
## BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

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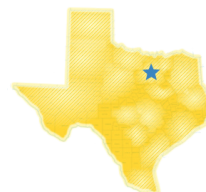
## SALT GRASS CHAPTER

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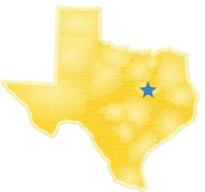
## NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

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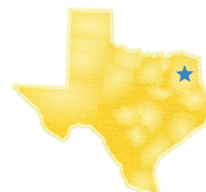
## SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

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## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

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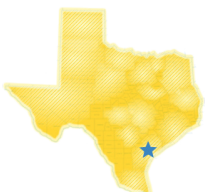
## NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

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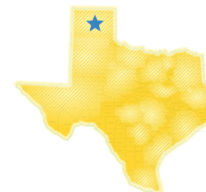
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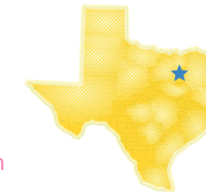
## COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

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