

TMCA NEWS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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TMCA President
Aimee Nemer, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

Hindsight is 20/20 and 2021—It's a Wrap! (With a Bow on Top!)

Members and Friends,

Wow! What an exciting and eventful year 2021 has been! I'm sad that my year as president is coming to an end. But also grateful and proud of the accomplishments and events we achieved this year. I've learned so much and met so many of our members. Visiting you in your home chapters has been my favorite part of my presidential duties!

As you may recall, my year started off with a virtual presentation of my acceptance speech at a virtual awards ceremony in a year of continued virtual . . . everything! Fortunately, in 2021 we were able to conduct business and education at many in-person venues throughout the year, while also continuing to offer virtual options when feasible.

We also celebrated! I was happy to have TMCA's 35th anniversary as a focal point for the year. Thank you for helping me commemorate this milestone in our Association's history.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had fun, but we worked hard too! This year we made significant changes to our Certification Program, offering additional educational opportunities for our members to get certified and recertified.

I tried to remember all of our accomplishments this year, but below are just a few highlights from 2021 as well as some important recognitions that made this year special and successful.

TMCA 2021 Highlights!

- Presidential Chapter visits to all 17 TMCA Chapters
- Conducted 4 in-person educational seminars (including a virtual option for Election Law)
- Conducted 1 live virtual educational seminar and 6 live educational webinars
- Acknowledged the retirement and 35 years of service of Administrative Director Peggy Burnside
- Welcomed the promotion of Miriam Sheehan to Administrative Director
- Celebrated 59 graduates and 62 recertified graduates
- Awarded 25 Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Awards
- Commended clerks across Texas during Municipal Clerks Week
- Engaged with members through Facebook Live and 80's Trivia
- Successfully transitioned from Yahoo! Groups to Google Groups
- Implemented certification/recertification credit for webinars
- Increased webinar offerings to over 20 webinars
- Dispersed \$6,260 in scholarships and travel stipends
- Received a state resolution acknowledging TMCA's 35 years of incorporation
- Approved virtual seminar options for certification/recertification
- Commemorated TMCA's 35th Anniversary with many celebrations throughout the year
- Achieved a record number of TMCA members—1,100!

Congratulations—Well Deserved!

Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year: Marie Balthrop, City Secretary, Wichita Falls

Emerging Leader: Kristi Morrow, City Secretary, Frisco

President's Choice Award: Elsa Robles, City Secretary, Alamo Heights, and **Stephanie Storm**, City Secretary, Wylie

President's Choice Chapter of the Year: Yellow Rose Chapter

Honorary Membership: Peggy Burnside

2021 Retirees (*see page 21*)

2021 Scholarship Recipients (*list starting page 34*)

And thank you to our many scholarship donors. We deeply appreciate your assistance in helping us to educate clerks and members across the state of Texas!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank You 2021 Committees!

I appreciate the work of all 60+ committee members that were appointed this year, but I would like to call out the committee chairs for coordinating the important work of their committees. Our association business could not be done without you!

*Advisory Management Committee Chair **Kim Sutter**, City Secretary, Euless*

*Audit Committee Chair **Angie Wade**, City Secretary, Ennis*

*Awards Committee Chair **Kerri Craig**, City Secretary, Horseshoe Bay*

*Certification Committee Chair **Irma Parker**, City Secretary, Addison*

*Award of Excellence Committee Chair **Thelma Gilliam**, City Secretary, West University Place*

*Award of Excellence Committee Vice Chair **Becky Garza**, City Secretary, Lubbock*

*Legislative Committee Chair **Lee Woodward**, City secretary, La Porte*

*Membership Committee Chair **Brenda Dennis**, City Secretary, Schertz*

*Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair **Saundra Passailaigue**, City Secretary, Leon Valley*

*Nominating Committee Chair **Marie Balthrop**, City Secretary, Wichita Falls*

*Resolutions Committee Chair **Ivy Peterson**, City Secretary, Cleburne*

*Retirement Committee Chair **Sharon McFadden**, City Secretary, Graham*

*Scholarship Committee Chair **Frances Aguilar**, City Secretary, Angleton*

*Strategic Planning Committee Chair **Amanda Campos**, City Secretary, Burseson*

*Technology Committee Chair **Stephanie Storm**, City Secretary, Wylie*

*TML Booth Committee Chair **Dixie Roberts**, City Secretary, Alvin*

*TML Session Committee Chair **Gretchen Mercer**, City Secretary, Canyon*

I also want to thank the 2021 Executive Board, our TMCA staff, and you—our members! As I told you in my acceptance speech, you are all essential. You are essential to this Association and to this profession. This year was special and successful because of you.

So, to circle back to “Hindsight is 2020,” instead of referencing the year 2020 as I did in that acceptance speech, I’m going to say that a look back on 2021 was 20/20—perfect, in my eyes!

Thank you all for a wonderful year!

Your 2021 TMCA President,

Aimee Nemer, TMCA President

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September Newsletter Trivia Winner: Kathleen Rice, Interim City Secretary, City of Haslet

Trivia Question: What was the original name of our Association? Answer: Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas.

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Bluebonnet Chapter



Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter



West Texas Chapter



PRESIDENT'S TRAVELS

By the end of the year, after visiting all 17 chapters, President Nemer will have traveled 6,990 miles to the following cities:

- Lufkin, Pineywoods Chapter
- Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend Chapter
- Mexia, Central Texas Chapter
- Richardson, North Texas and Lone Star Chapters
- Kingsland, Hill Country Chapter
- Leon Valley, Alamo Chapter
- Brownwood, Bluebonnet Chapter
- Wichita Falls, Red River Chapter
- Canton, Northeast Chapter
- Mansfield, Yellow Rose Chapter
- McAllen, Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter
- Midland, West Texas Chapter
- Houston, Salt Grass Chapter
- Lubbock, South Plains Chapter
- Amarillo, Panhandle Chapter
- Georgetown, Capital Chapter

6,990 miles!



Red River Chapter



Salt Grass Chapter



Yellow Rose Chapter



TMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

By President **Aimee Nemer, TRMC**

City Secretary, Richardson

The TMCA board met in Galveston on October 27. All board members were present. 2022 incoming officers-elect were invited to attend as guests. President Nemer introduced the following new 2022 TMCA trustees: Deborah Sorensen, City of Royse City; Ellie Monteaux, City of Livingston; Roxanne Benitez, City of Spring Valley Village; Sharon McFadden, City of Graham; Irma Parker, City of Addison; Laure Morgan, City of Brownsville; Rebecca Huerta, City of Corpus Christi. 2022 TMCA Trustee Crystal Roan, City of Pearland, was unable to attend.

The Board received the directors' reports and TMCCP statistics reporting 1,026 graduates to date, 59 2021 graduates, 62 2021 recertification graduates, over 600 active enrollees, and 1,100 members

The Board reviewed the Association financials, August seminar and webinar surveys, and approved the Board Minutes

The Board heard reports from the following committees:

Membership Committee, noting the committee's efforts to achieve 1,100 members for 2021

Technology Committee, noting the committee's contributions to increased membership due to the Google Group requirement of active membership

TML Booth and Session Committee, providing an update on the TML Annual Conference/TMCA Session and booth activity

Certification Committee on upcoming revisions to the Municipal Clerks Handbook, recommended changes to the Certification/Recertification requirements, and a report of scholarships and substitution requests

The board received a report from TML Board Liaison Amanda Campos regarding TML's continued focus on local participation by elected/appointed municipal officials, and the success of the 2021 Annual Conference

The board reviewed the 2022 Board Meeting Schedule and Board Retreat and Training dates.

The TMCA board met in Dallas on November 12. All board members attended except Trustee Gretchen Mercer, Canyon; Trustee Cara McPartland, Salado; and Trustee Teresa Valdez, Rockport.

The Board reviewed the October seminar/webinar attendee surveys

The Board reviewed the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Report and approved the revising the point allocation in the following categories:

- Decreasing points for Board Service
- Increasing points for TMCA Committee and Committee Chair service
- Increasing points for Chapter service
- Decreasing points related to IIMC service

Additionally, the board directed the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee in conjunction with the Past Presidents Commission to review the award in its entirety, with a reporting timeline

EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

The Board approved changes to the Board Attendance Policy to define attendance and clarify circumstances for virtual attendance at Board meetings.

The Board approved the 2022 TMCA and TMCCP budgets

The Board approved the 2022 Committee Appointments

The Board considered nominations for the 2022 IIMC Quill Award

The Board approved a membership incentive offer to allow all members who have paid 2022 dues by the end of 2021 be entered into a drawing for a one-time seminar registration

The Board approved bylaw and policy changes to allow associate members to serve as members of TMCA committees

The Board approved establishing a Bylaws Committee

The Board approved the following changes to the Certification Committee Policies and Procedures:

TMCCP Travel Stipend and Seminar Registration Eligibility Requirements

1. Applicant must be currently employed by a municipality in Texas.
2. Applicant must be a paid member of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.
 - a. Applicant must be actively pursuing certification or recertification in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, and the seminar/webinar(s) for which application is made must be necessary to complete certification or recertification requirements.
 - b. Applicant pursuing first time certification must have completed one course of homework and successfully passed one exam.



Why I Love
TMCA, INC.

“Why I LOVE TMCA? TMCA provides participants with educational opportunities, knowledge, and skills to deal with people—our citizens, co-workers, and elected officials - effectively. Annual educational seminars consist of up-to-date information on new Senate and House Bills affecting all aspects of municipal government. With knowledge acquired with membership and participation in TMCA we become confident, prepared, effective leaders, and exceptional public servants. Learning can be FUN—and with the assistance of Mentors we all have built life-long friendships that will last a lifetime.”

**—Irma Parker, TRMC
City Secretary, Addison**



2021 TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Congratulations to the following TMCA members who were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2021 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!



Kara Andrepont
City Secretary,
Lufkin
Pineywoods Chapter



Marie Balthrop
City Clerk,
Wichita Falls
Red River Chapter
**2021 Texas Municipal
Clerk of the Year**



Amanda Campos
City Secretary,
Burleson
Yellow Rose Chapter



Peggy Cimics
City Secretary,
Cibolo
Alamo Chapter



Kerri Craig
City Secretary,
Horseshoe Bay
Hill Country Chapter



Charlene Gardner
Dep. City Secretary,
Pampa (now retired)
Panhandle Chapter



Becky Garza
City Secretary,
Lubbock
South Plains Chapter



Bonnie Hambrick
City Secretary,
Athens
Northeast Texas
Chapter



Kristi Morrow
City Secretary,
Frisco
Lone Star Chapter



Hilda Pedraza
City Clerk,
Pharr
Lower Rio Grande
Valley Chapter



Christi Shivers
City Sec./Fin. Director,
Mexia
Central Texas Chapter



Tanya Smith
City Secretary,
College Station
Capital Chapter



Doris Speer
City Secretary,
Tomball
Salt Grass Chapter



Kim Sutter
City Secretary,
Eules
North Texas Chapter



Mary Valenzuela
City Secretary,
Kingsville
Coastal Bend Chapter



Christi Wynn
City Secretary,
Brownwood
Bluebonnet Chapter

ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

January 13-14, Denton

We are excited to invite you to our **50th Annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar** in a new location—Denton! Our host hotel is the new Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center. Rich in culture and history, Denton features one-of-a-kind restaurants and a lively downtown with unique shops. **Read a local's guide on the city.** Our seminar hotel is located directly off I-35 and is just a short drive from DFW International Airport and the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex ([map](#)).



Prior to our Jan. 13-14 seminar is our Jan. 12 optional pre-seminar session, “Step by Step: Conduct of an Election for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections”; registration is separate for this event.

Learn more and register now!

SEMINAR TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Candidate Packets and Orientation
- Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks
- Election Contracts and Joint Elections
- ISD Elections
- Legislative Update from TML
- Legislative Update from Secretary of State—Elections
- Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections
- Poll Watchers and Inspectors
- Polling Locations and Ballots
- Recall Elections for Home Rule Cities, Referendum & Initiative
- Recruiting and Training Election Workers
- Runoffs, Vacancies, and Recounts
- Special Elections
- What Happens Before and After an Election



WELCOME TO DENTON

WHAT'S IN A NAME



By **Shanae Jennings, TRMC**
City Secretary/Chief Compliance
Officer, Irving

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet.” Shakespeare is saying that it doesn’t matter what you call something, it is what it is; or to put it another way, just because you give something a different name doesn’t change what it is... *Or does it?*

I’ve worked for federal, state, and local government, and local government is my favorite. Being a Child Protective Investigator was tough, but the work was rewarding. Most folks knew what the work entailed because the title is pretty descriptive of the work. Working for FEMA’s Office of National Security as a Program Analyst was boring. The title was supposed to throw a curveball to everyone, or else it wouldn’t have been the Office of National Security. Then came local government, and this is where I found my home. First as a Neighborhood Revitalization Specialist, then as a Public Information Officer (PIO) (commonly known now as a Communications Director), and finally as a City Secretary (CS). All these titles are self-explanatory, except for that of the City Secretary. I’d never given titles much thought before I became a CS. After obtaining my master’s degree in public administration I wanted to go into city management.

A close friend of mine, who was a city manager, told me to go the route of a CS because it worked closely with the city manager’s office.

I was all of 25 years old and that sounded good to me, so I did!

Fast forward 20 years, and I am still a CS, only one with an additional title, that of City Secretary/Chief Compliance Officer for the City of Irving. I won’t lie, I never truly understood the title CS, which likely in part contributed to my dislike of the title. Having worked for several different sizes of cities as a CS—Prosper, Bedford and now Irving—I began to grow frustrated with the title. However noble and historical the title is—and it *IS* both of those things—I do fundamentally believe the implication of the word “secretary” or “secretarial work” in and of itself is debatable as to whether or not it’s slightly demeaning in today’s society. To me—and that’s why this is an opinion article—I would argue 60/40 that it is demeaning. Stewardesses are now flight attendants, legal secretaries are now administrative assistants, and office staff for CEO’s are now executive assistants. One could argue, and I am making the argu-



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ment, that advancement must occur within our association to begin to move beyond the word “secretary.”

Secretary is defined in Merriam-Webster Dictionary as one employed to handle correspondence and manage routine and detailed work for a superior. It is also defined as an officer of state who superintends a government administrative department (i.e., Secretary of Labor).

Being a CS is an awesome responsibility with a lot of accountability. But after a few years, you may begin to take notice of the nuances that exist within this strange world that is called the “City Secretary’s Office.” Sooner or later, most CS’s, if they are being honest with themselves, have made a few observations. First is the observation that your colleagues are predominately female; where are all the males? Don’t look at me, I hired one that is now a CS in his own right! Second, no matter how hard you work—it can be as hard if not harder than the next department head—you are still likely one of the lowest-paid department heads on staff, yet you do the *crème de la crème* of hard work for the governing body

with all your responsibilities. And finally, after making both of those observations, you may realize some CM’s, if not most of the council, don’t know what you are trained to do. There is this lack of understanding about what your job responsibilities are, coupled with the word “secretary,” which inevitably equates into the lack of parity in compensation.

And then you ask yourself, what is the problem with this picture? For me, the only noticeable or clearly identifiable thing I can come up with in all these years is the word “secretary.” The one single word that is so traditionally woven into the fabric of our profession, I believe is the one word that is holding our profession back. The fact of the matter is that we are not the Secretary of State, and we are not the Secretary of Defense. We are “City Secretaries” and that is not, by the masses, a well-known title. Therefore, I sought a title change.

The process began by me redoing my job description with the assistance of the City Attorney’s Office and Human Resources. At the same time, I had been benchmarking, me

specifically—not HR, various cities within my metropolitan area and outside of it as well—to see if anyone else had a different title. One that wouldn’t marginalize what a CS is or does, but would describe it in such a way that the position didn’t have to be defended as mission-critical to the city operations. I garnered information on what other CS offices’ job duties were, their responsibilities, job titles, whether their offices were decentralized or centralized in open records requests, and the same with their records programs. I asked about their reporting structure, who conducted the CS performance evaluation, the city’s population, salaries, tenure, education level, number of staff (both CS and records), and any additional duties not widely known to be a CSO duty.

After I attained all that information my staff assisted me in organizing it in such a way that I had talking points and graphs/tables that clearly defended my request for both my merit increase and for my additional title. The additional title was going to be the difficult one to sell and I knew it, because I had

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already been told “no” one year. The next year I was told, “we will look at that next year,” and finally I was told, “benchmark and bring whatever you benchmark back next year.” I had done so much work coming up to my review, that for me, it was now or never. Speaking to my Council openly, honestly, and frankly was difficult but necessary; I told them that even after I had attained my master’s degree, I didn’t know what a city secretary was until the third city I worked at, and also how insulting it was for me to report to the governing body just like the city manager, and have numerous staff members reporting to me, yet residents would call me by phone to try and set up a meeting between them and the city manager, just, because my title had the word “secretary” in it. I explained to them how this job was not just for women, and how the word “secretary” was not always inclusive of both men

and women in modern society, and helping to change the title is one way to be more inclusive of both genders.

It was, for me, starting to feel suffocating. Changing my title was not an easy road, I’m not going to act like it was, but I am hopeful it will be an easier road for those of you requesting a title change now. I knew, even before I walked into the room that day, that I was going to receive some massive resistance...and I did. Some of the resistance was discouraging, and some of it was outright disrespectful; however, there were thankfully a few outliers. One of my council members made the case for it not being a big deal because I wasn’t asking to get rid of the title city secretary; he said it would perhaps clear up some of the misconceptions of what the CS does. Another councilman said this, while very boisterously slamming his hands down on the table after listening to the others basically be split on

the issue. He said, I have two daughters, and I want them be successful.

If one of them called me and said, “Dad, I have two job offers: one is for a city secretary, and one is for a chief governance office/ chief compliance officer— which should I choose?” I would tell her to choose the CGO/CCO every time, because I think the title city secretary is demeaning, disrespectful, outdated, and does nothing for the future of my daughter.” The room was silent. After that, two more of them said okay, I’m fine with it, and it was a 5/4 vote to give me the title.

They let me choose between the two titles that were proposed. How did I come up with those two titles? I give all that credit to my

“[I told my council] how insulting it was for me to report to the governing body just like the city manager, and have numerous staff members reporting to me, yet residents would call me by phone to try and set up a meeting between them and the city manager, just because my title had the word ‘secretary’ in it.”

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staff: they came up with them. Then our City Attorney vetted that there was no City Charter conflicts with either title, and based on numerous factors, I elected to go with Chief Compliance Officer over Chief Governance Officer.

What would I tell you if you desire to take the route of trying to attain an additional title, a functional title, or replace your existing title? First, I would say be proud of the title CS. My goal was NOT to get rid of it. The title CS is ingrained in all the legal codes that exist (i.e., election code, local govt. code, tax code, etc.). I believe there SHOULD be a CS in the organization, at least or until we, as a body, want to begin the bigger discussion of addressing the legislature on a sweeping change to the title. That said, my advice to conquering the title change is as follows: 1) Do your homework, whatever that homework looks like to you, because only you know your organization best. Is that homework to benchmark other CS duties/responsibilities, or to benchmark titles only, or to benchmark titles and pay? Whatever it is, do it. 2) Anticipate your audi-

ence and what will be asked by that audience... what will your CM ask you or your Mayor/Council? Will they ask you questions based on their own biases...which could be gender, demographics, age, socioeconomic status, etc.?

“Prepare to answer the most basic of the questions, ‘Why do you want this change, and how does it benefit the organization and not just you personally?’”

Be prepared for discomfort from them and for you. Some who have gone through this journey had an easy ride; mine was not one of them. 3) Prepare to answer the most basic of the questions, “Why do you want this change, and how does it benefit the organization and not just you personally?” Elaborate on that response and justify it such that it does benefit not just your organization and you, but TMCA as a whole. All these things are important.

Finally, I realize change comes about in small steps most of the time. For me, this was a change that I was passionate about. I do believe it must be done one-by-one, city-by-city, at the grassroots level first, so that other city councils and other city managers can begin taking notice. A path must be paved, then another, then another in order to build the road. Conversely, I believe we as CSs cannot move forward if we are not willing to do it as a group of one in the end—as a whole who can get behind this idea of changing our titles. Grassroots first, then more globally begin moving toward a permanent title change within the legislature.

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet.” I don’t entirely agree with this. Perhaps names DO make a difference, and perhaps titles DO add to relevance without having to explain and justify what that title is or does. City Secretaries ARE ROSES; maybe we are stuck, and we know it, we feel it, and just don’t know what to do about it or don’t have the initiative to try and do something about it. All it takes is

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one foot in front of the other. Be smart. Be bold. Be brave. Be respectful. If you want a different title or working/functional title, begin asking the question, be told “no” or “come back next year” again and again, but keep asking. That’s how we create change, that’s how we move forward, that’s how we become unstuck, that’s when our future begins to evolve and we no longer must explain what our worth is based on a title, that while historical and incredibly worthy, has outlived its historical relevance. Otherwise, a rose is just another flower in the gene pool of flowers, when it should be more significant than the daisy, pansy, or daffodil in its relevance to the huge garden of city government. *Be a Rose!*

MUNICIPAL CLERK’S OFFICE ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Apply Jan. 1–March 15 for 2022

TMCA’s Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award application is **now available on our website**. **The deadline to submit a completed application has changed.** Please note that the submittal period is now January 1–March 15. Completed applications are due to Dr. Amy C. Holt (amy.holt@unt.edu) no later than March 15, 2022.

The **Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award** was designed to recognize excellence in the effective and efficient management of resources in a municipal clerk’s office.



Goals of the Award program include:

- Recognizing Municipal Clerk’s Offices that meet certain professional requirements.
- Promotion of the Municipal Clerk’s Office within the community.
- Recognizing the Municipal Clerk’s Office’s engagement with its citizens, elected officials, and staff.
- Recognizing the efficient management of resources by the Municipal Clerk’s Office.
- Recognizing demonstrated compliance with local, state, and Federal standards implemented by the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

The Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award is open to all offices of Texas Registered Municipal Clerks and the municipality they represent.

TMCCP GRADUATE*Christina Picioccio*

Well, I finally made it—I've completed my TMCCP certification! I started the program in August 2017, and I don't mind telling you that I started to get concerned that I might actually need those 10 years to complete the entire program. When I first started out as a newbie city secretary, I was the only person in my office, I came to work early, stayed late, AND brought work home. It seemed as if I had no free time to work the program as life and work got in the way. Thankfully, I opted to pre-pay for all of the sessions which allowed me the flexibility to attend seminars as they came available and to study for and to test on the topics that seemed the most pertinent to me at the time. For me, the best way to move forward was to just focus on one item at a time.

The beauty of the way that the program is laid out is that as you are working as a city secretary, you are being exposed to the situations that you are reading about in the study material. You gain insight and knowledge on a variety of situations that you will come across at work. The seminars, study material, and exams build off each other to give you the knowledge you need as you progress through your training and to perform your work. Even if you do not retain all of the specific information, you at least know where to find it!

In addition to the knowledge I gained, one of the added bonuses of the program was how this boosted my confidence level. This has led to me taking on more responsibility and to receive more acknowledgement from my city manager, council, and citizens as well. Becoming involved with my local chapter has also been a positive experience—enriching my professional and personal life. So, let me whole-heartedly encourage you to keep on with the program. Keep pushing forward, one homework session and seminar at a time. Join your local chapter. Get involved. One day you'll realize you only have one more seminar, or one more test to take. The funny thing is, from the beginning we know that this is only the first step in the journey as recertification is part of the program. So now I stand on the brink of the next phase of the process, thankful for the support I've received so far and looking forward to continuing to learn and to grow and to strengthen the friendships I've made thus far.

Fair Oaks Ranch City Secretary Christina Picioccio, TRMC, graduates with the TMCCP Class of 2022 on January 13.

TMCA/TMCCP EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CORNER

FOCUS ON ETHICS



TMCCP Education
Director

Amy C. Holt, PhD

“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”

Public service codes of ethics are put in place to strengthen values and the intrinsic motivation of public servants. The **Code of Professional Ethics** of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., was adopted in the very early days of the Association. The quote above is part of the Code of Professional Ethics that you subscribe to as a member of TMCA. Neutrality and impartiality are essential to our system of government at every level.

The idea of neutrality presupposes a loyalty to our system of government above self or individual. As city clerks your commitment to neutrality demands that you fully support and implement the decisions made in your municipality irrespective of your personal preferences. Additionally, you must provide advice which is objective, independent, nonpartisan, and just. Impartiality involves avoiding conflicts of interest, seeking inclusion, maintaining objectivity, and pursuing the public interest. Moreover, actions and behaviors must be more than impartial—even the appearance of bias is a critical misstep.

As Texas municipal clerks you have every opportunity to influence the public’s opinion of local government in a positive way. And you do! As a group and as a profession, municipal clerks are dedicated to the fair and precise implementation of the law and local codes. Our Code of Professional Ethics acts as your guide. Your peers act as your support system. You serve Texas well.



Why I Love
TMCA, INC.

“I Love TMCA for the opportunities to better myself through education and networking, for the lifelong friendships and for TMCA’s promotion of the profession of Municipal Clerks roles in their cities.”

**—Gretchen Mercer, TRMC
City Secretary, Canyon**



REFLECTIONS

AMANDA C. ELIZONDO

Prior to 1983, I was working as a secretary for the Public Works Dept. for the City of Weslaco. The assistant city secretary position opened and I decided to apply for the position. The interviewer happened to be the Texas Municipal Clerks Association President, Mrs. Hilda Adame, City Secretary. Mrs. Adame informed me that the new assistant city secretary would immediately enroll in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program to become a Texas Registered City Secretary.

In my early years as City Secretary, there was so much to learn such as city policies, agenda procedures, minutes taking, understanding the operation of local government, working with the Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager and the public. I had no idea of the City Secretary's duties. Mrs. Adame was a good mentor, leader, and a great promoter of the TMCA Program. Through her leadership and encouragement, I was able to take on the responsibilities of the Assistant City Secretary and eventually the role as City Secretary for the City of Weslaco in November 6, 1984.

Times were different in the 1980's; we didn't have computers or cell phones. The office had an electric typewriter and everything was manually filed away. The evolution of computers enhanced the functions of the City Secretary in many ways such the storing and processing of data to simplify complicated tasks, the use of floppy disks, and later into the future, agenda and public information softwares, scanning of documents, storing information on the cloud, use of the internet to provide information to the public, computer terminal devices for voting, cell phones, iPads,



**Harlingen City Secretary
Amanda C. Elizondo
earned her TRMC certification in 1986,
the year TMCA incorporated.**

**She has been a member of TMCA
since the early 1980s.**



1989 City of Weslaco staff photo

and the ability to conduct Zoom meeting, not only with our organization, but through the whole world.

I have worked for almost 46 years in public service, of which 37 years as a City Secretary. I have seen the growth of the (TMCA) institution from the idea of a small group of pioneer women into a vast network of support, training, education, as it relates to public service. I am proud to be a member of the TMCA. I have grown to be a professional, gained a greater sense of confidence and self-esteem.

To the previous administrations and current administration, thank you for your dedication and commitment to make this organization one of the very best in the state, nation and internationally.

REFLECTIONS

ALICE HOLLOWAY



**Joshua City Secretary
Alice Holloway, TRMC,
has been a member
of TMCA since 2001.**

I started with Texas Municipal Clerks Association a few years into my career as City Secretary. Still, I wish I had engaged in membership earlier, as it was a missed opportunity to have the support and training that TMCA and local chapters offer. However, I did eventually start my membership experience, and I have not regretted it ever since. In fact, I have felt a sense of collegiality, friendship, and mentorship that I will forever cherish.

What I like most about my membership experience and what TMCA brings to me and my daily advocacy is that valued shared experience and support that I cannot get anywhere else. As a current member of TMCA, I can say that it is my City Secretary colleagues—not just the state professionals, but international—I turn to for help, assistance, and support.

TMCA has taught me not to look for or at titles but rather to value experience and tenure—it is not just with age

comes wisdom. Still, the battle scars that my colleagues have shared in legislative and municipality encounters have allowed me to grow and prosper as a City Secretary.

I have learned along the way that the best education is often a result of missteps or mistakes. Still, it doesn't have to be the mistakes that you make, and in fact, it is often the experiences of others that teach more than the successful implementation of an action. Of course, copying or emulating a colleague's success is not only the most extraordinary form of flattery; it helps you better excel in this profession, so I have learned to not only borrow but take the great ideas of my colleagues and work to implement them with my leadership.

I have also significantly valued the personal support of colleagues when times have been tough, when family or friends have suffered, or when tragedy has struck. TMCA and my local

chapters have been like a family to me and one in which we may not always agree. Still, we always seem to laugh together—because of shared experiences, a willingness to cooperate and collaborate and share what has worked and what hasn't so that we can best serve and represent our municipalities as professionals.

My last comment is that TMCA and local chapters are what you make of it. You can simply read the newsletters or attend seminars and likely get by, but if you engage, truly engage, in many of the value learning initiatives and programs, you will find and foster lifelong relationships and friendships that will help you grow as a professional and a person. So my suggestion, my recommendation, to everyone who bothers to read this message, is to be a “doer,” be engaged, don't sit on the sidelines waiting for information, knowledge, and skill to come your way, go to it and go to TMCA and local chapter events. Don't miss the opportunity.

REFLECTIONS

BETTY BROWN

I think the main change for us and our position is the way that our position is considered. In 1978 when I became city secretary I thought I was taking a clerical position. After joining TMCA and entering the certification courses I realized that it was really a professional position. After 1985 law change, many councils and managers seemed to shift to this point of view, but there are still some cities/towns that have not accepted this conclusion. The members of TMCA are making strides each year on this problem and I know the current members will continue the fight. I thank the members past and present of TMCA for making this organization GREAT.



2001: Deputy City Clerk Betty Brown with fellow TMCCP seminar instructors Friendswood City Secretary Deloris McKenzie and Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta at a TMCCP seminar.

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

Tenitrus Bethel, Fairview
 Joselynn J. Castillo, Mercedes
 Jillian Cloud, Arlington
 Andréa Corley, Levelland
 Belinda Gaytan, Jonestown
 Stephanie Hall, Austin
 Franchesca Jimenez, Hereford
 Rhomari Leigh, Texas City
 Donna Lowder, Live Oak
 Lisa McCracken, College Station
 Michael Muscarello, Webster
 Christina Picioccio, Fair Oaks Ranch
 Margie Poole, Burkburnett
 Carma Potter, Garland
 Linda Proskey, Watauga
 Chloe Sawatzky, Carrollton
 Bana Schneider, Columbus
 Karen Stack, Brenham
 Jessica Tucker, Luling

Course 2

Jennifer Cloud, Arlington
 Stephanie Hall, Austin
 Donna Lowder, Live Oak
 Carma Potter, Garland
 Bana Schneider, Columbus
 Janet Stehling, Horseshoe Bay

Course 3

Tracy Allmendinger, Garland
 Tenitrus Bethel, Fairview
 Joselynn Castillo, Mercedes
 Andréa Corley, Levelland
 Misty Cryer, Robinson
 Mason Florus, Schulenburg
 Stephanie Hall, Austin
 Diane Helms, Keene
 Donna Lowder, Live Oak
 Sasha Luna, Tomball
 Kierra Nance, La Marque
 Amber Rowe, Briarcliff
 Denise Taylor, Springtown

Course 4

Kelly Belmore, Roman Forest
 Misty Cryer, Robinson
 Stephanie Hall, Austin
 Christina Picioccio, Fair Oaks Ranch
 Amber Rowe, Briarcliff
 Denise Taylor, Springtown



Photography by Paul Traves

Awards Banquet

GALVESTON, OCT. 28

TMCA's annual banquet was a wonderful success. Festivities included award presentations, induction of the 2022 TMCA President Amanda Campos, presentation of scholarships, recognition of 2021 retirees, and more. Thank you to TMCA chapters for generously donating door prizes!



At left: TMCA Past Presidents Pam Schmidt (retired Richardson city secretary) and Lila Fuller (retired Nacogdoches city secretary). Above: Canadian City Secretary Kim Sloat, Canyon City Secretary Gretchen Mercer, and Canyon Onboarding and Recruitment Manager Vivienne Sutton.

Photography by Paul Traves



Clockwise from top left: Wichita Falls City Clerk **Marie Balthrop** is presented the award for **2021 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year** by Committee Chair Sandra Passailaigue.

Frisco City Secretary **Kristi Morrow** is presented the **2021 Emerging Leader Award** by Committee Chair Kerri Craig.

Wylie City Secretary **Stephanie Storm** is presented a **2021 President's Choice Award** by President Aimee Nemer. (Not present: Alamo Heights City Secretary **Elsa T. Robles** was also awarded a **2021 President's Choice Award**.)

At the TMCA Annual Business Meeting earlier that day, the membership voted to bestow **Honorary TMCA Membership** on retired TMCA Administrative Director **Peggy Burnside**.

Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award recipients 2020-2021: City of Allen, City of Alton, Town of Argyle, City of Austin, Town of Bartonville, City of Bedford, City of Euless, City of Farmers Branch, City of Fredericksburg, City of Graham, City of Hondo, City of La Porte, City of Livingston, City of Manor, City of Plano, City of Richardson, City of San Antonio, City of Stephenville, and City of Wichita Falls.

Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award recipients 2021-2022: City of Abilene, City of Angleton, City of Anna, City of Azle, City of Brownsville, City of Buda, City of Canadian, City of Carrollton, City of Coppell, City of Corpus Christi, City of Duncanville, City of Forest Hill, City of Garden Ridge, City of Greenville, City of Haslet, City of Irving, City of North Richland Hills, City of Quinlan, City of Rockport, City of Schertz, City of Shady Shores, City of Southlake, City of Victoria, City of Weatherford, and City of Wylie.



TMCA Yellow Rose Chapter member Amanda Campos accepts the first of a set of commemorative mugs for the **Yellow Rose Chapter**, recipients of the **President's Choice Award: 2021 Chapter of the Year**.



At left, from top to bottom: 2022 TMCA President **Amanda Campos** presents an award of appreciation to outgoing 2021 TMCA President **Aimee Nemer** on behalf of the Association members.

Aimee Nemer administers the oath of office to **Amanda Campos**.

Amanda Campos is presented flowers at the banquet.



CONGRATULATIONS TO 2021 RETIREES

**Best wishes to all our TMCA members
who retired in 2021**

Lori Cartwright, Waxahachie

Diane Cockrell, Decatur

Sara Copeland, Andrews

Lora Dockery, Sundown

Charlene Gardner, Pampa

Cinda Garner, San Augustine

Frances Hibbs, Amarillo

Kandi Hubert, Goliad

Mary Kayser, Fort Worth

Bob London, St. Paul

Kisha Morris-Perkins, DeSoto

Jenny Page, Humble

Hilda Pedraza, Pharr

Karen Price, Pampa

Gale Roberts, Sulphur Springs

John Rounsavall, Terrell

Brenda Shaw, Morton

Vicki Watson, Vidor

Melinda Welsh, Friendswood

Sara White, Round Rock



2021 Municipal Clerk of the Year Marie Balthrop

2021 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR MARIE BALTHROP

Congratulations to 2021 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Marie Balthrop, TRMC, City Clerk, Wichita Falls, who was nominated by the Red River Chapter for this prestigious honor. TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, made the official presentation to Marie at the TMCA Annual Banquet.

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 being an invaluable mentor and advocate for city secretaries and for her outstanding service to her peers, Marie Balthrop, TRMC, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as our 2021 honoree.

In the chapter's nomination letter, Sharon McFadden, TRMC, said, "Marie has a serving heart and outstanding leadership abilities. She always makes herself available to

MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR MARIE BALTHROP

assist other municipal clerks in time of need. I have called on Marie many times and she has always provided direction or offered a resolution.”

Marie is the current president of the TMCA Red River Chapter. She served as 2018 president of TMCA and has served in all positions on the TMCA Executive Board. Marie has volunteered extensively to serve on and chair TMCA committees. She has over ten years of committee service to her chapter and has held multiple offices in her chapter. Marie has also served as a speaker for TMCCP, co-authored the TMCA *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*, and convened and coordinated at multiple educational events.

Sharon McFadden said, “Her accomplishments speak volumes to her contributions in the municipal clerk profession. Marie is very well respected amongst her peers and always displays a high level of professionalism.”



Marie Balthrop is presented the 2021 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year Award by Committee Chair Sandra Passailaigue.

2022 TMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Seated in front row chairs, from left to right: **Secretary Gretchen Mercer, TRMC**, City Secretary, Canyon; **President-elect Jannette Goodall, TRMC**, City Secretary, Fort Worth; **President Amanda Campos, TRMC**, City Secretary, Burleson; **Vice President Lee Woodward, TRMC**, City Secretary, La Porte; and **Treasurer Alicia Richardson, TRMC**, City Secretary/Chief Governance Officer, North Richland Hills.

Second row: **Trustee Rebecca Huerta, TRMC**, City Secretary, Corpus Christi; **Trustee Sharon McFadden, TRMC**, City Secretary/CFO, Graham; **Trustee Deborah Sorensen, TRMC**, City Secretary, Royse City; **Trustee Michelle Hicks, TRMC**, Assistant City Manager/City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview; **Trustee Irma Parker, TRMC**, City Secretary, Addison; **Trustee Laure Morgan, TRMC**, City Secretary, Brownsville; **Trustee Crystal Roan, TRMC**, City Secretary, Pearland; **Trustee Jeana Bellinger, TRMC**, City Secretary, Brenham; **Immediate Past President Aimee Nemer, TRMC**, City Secretary, Richardson; **Trustee Ellie Monteaux, TRMC**, City Secretary and Asst. City Manager, Livingston; **Trustee Roxanne Benitez, TRMC**, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village; and **Trustee Christi Wynn, TRMC**, City Secretary, Brownwood.



2022 TMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Amanda Campos

City Secretary, Burleson
817-426-9661 | acampos@burlesontx.com

President-elect Jannette Goodall

City Secretary, Fort Worth
817-392-6161 | jannette.goodall@fortworthtexas.gov

Vice President Lee Woodward

City Secretary, La Porte
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Treasurer Alicia Richardson

City Secretary, North Richland Hills
817-427-6061 | arichardson@nrhtx.com

Secretary Gretchen Mercer

City Secretary, Canyon
806-655-5000 | gmercer@canyontx.com

Immediate Past President Aimee Nemer

City Secretary, Richardson
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Trustee Jeana Bellinger

City Secretary, Brenham
979-337-7567 | jbellinger@cityofbrenham.org

Trustee Roxanne Benitez

City Secretary, Spring Valley Village
713-465-8308 | rbenitez@springvalleytx.com

Trustee Michelle Hicks

Asst. City Mgr./City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview
254-799-2458 | michelle.hicks@lacylakeview.org

Trustee Rebecca Huerta

City Secretary, Corpus Christi
361-826-3105 | rebecca@ccctexas.com

Trustee Sharon McFadden

City Secretary/CFO, Graham
940-549-3322 | smcfadden@grahamtexas.net

Trustee Ellie Monteaux

City Secretary & Assistant City Manager, Livingston
936-327-4311 | citysecretary@livingston.net

Trustee Laure Morgan

City Secretary, Brownsville
956-548-6054 | laure.morgan@brownsvilletx.gov

Trustee Irma Parker

City Secretary, Addison
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Trustee Crystal Roan

City Secretary, Pearland
281-652-1653 | croan@pearlandtx.gov

Trustee Deborah Sorensen

City Secretary, Royse City
972-524-4825 | deborah.sorensen@roysecity.com

Trustee Christi Wynn

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *Advisory Management Committee Chair Shelley George, City Secretary, Allen; Miriam Sheehan, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director; Amy C. Holt, PhD, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

2022 TMCA COMMITTEES

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Chair Lisa Henderson, City Secretary, Plano
972-941-7551 | lisah@plano.gov

Amanda Davenport, City Sec./Treas., Surfside Beach
979-233-1531 | amanda@surfside.tx.gov

René Dowl, City Secretary, Garland
972-205-2404 | rdowl@garlandtx.gov

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

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

Miriam Sheehan, Administrative Director, TMCA/TMCCP
940-565-3488 | miriam.sheehan@unt.edu

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: *TMCA President Amanda Campos, President-elect Jannette Goodall, and Immediate Past President Aimee Nemer*

ADVISORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Shelley George, Allen, Past President, Chair

Amanda Campos, Burleson, President

Jannette Goodall, Fort Worth, President-elect

Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Immediate Past President

Lisa Henderson, Plano, Certification Committee Chair

Miriam Sheehan, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director*

Amy C. Holt, PhD, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director*

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Laura Calcote, Wimberley, Chair

Cynthia Olguin, Hutchins

Heather Robertson-Caraway, Breckenridge

Christi Wynn, Brownwood, Board Liaison

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

Tina Stewart, The Colony, Chair

Shawna Atkinson, Abilene

Deborah Hale, Collinsville

Leticia Vacek, Trophy Club

Mary Valenzuela, Kingsville

Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi, Board Liaison

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Doris Speer, Tomball, Chair

Jennifer Holm, Kyle

Shamarie Hull, Collinsville

Kristi Morrow, Frisco

Irma Parker, Addison, Board Liaison

ELECTION LAW SEMINAR ADVISORY

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Amy C. Holt, PhD, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director, Chair

Jannette Goodall, Fort Worth, President-elect

Shelley Goodwin, Fredericksburg

Becky McGrew, Katy

Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills, Treasurer

Theresa Scott, Flower Mound

Teresa Valdez, Rockport

LEGISLATIVE AD HOC COMMITTEE

Lee Woodward, La Porte, Vice President, Chair

Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan, Past President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Brenda Dennis, Schertz, Chair

Comprised of Chapter Presidents or Designee

Sharon McFadden, Graham, Board Liaison

MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

Susie Quinn, Murphy, Chair

Miguel Cantu, Grey Forest

Kerri Craig, Horseshoe Bay

Ivy Peterson, Cleburne

Ellie Monteaux, Livingston, Board Liaison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kim Sutter, Euless, Past President, Chair

Frances Aguilar, Angleton

Mona Lisa Galicia, Grand Prairie

Monica Solko, Burleson

*Amanda Campos, Burleson, President**

*Jannette Goodall, President-elect**

PAST PRESIDENTS' COMMISSION

Shelley George, Allen, Past President, Chair

All Past Presidents

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Robin Lenio, Seabrook, Chair

Carla Oldacre, Greenville

Caryn Stevens, Red Oak

Amanda Valdez, Fair Oaks Ranch

Roxanne Benitez, Spring Valley Village, Board Liaison

RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

Christine Green, University Park, Chair

Nyla Flatau, Kaufman

Tracylynn Garcia, Tomball

Deborah Sorensen, Royse City, Board Liaison

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Staci King, Stephenville, Chair

Carrie Land, Anna

Amber Villarreal, Waxahachie

Michael Muscarello, Webster

Jeana Bellinger, Brenham, Board Liaison

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jannette Goodall, Fort Worth, Pres.-elect, Chair

Marie Balthrop, Wichita Falls, Past President

Ruby Beavan, Kenedy

Christina Cabrera, Bryan

Amy C. Holt, PhD, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director

Ellie Monteaux, Livingston, Trustee

Deborah Sorensen, Royse City, Trustee

Angie Wade, Ennis

Lee Woodward, La Porte, Vice President

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Stephanie Storm, Wylie, Chair

Susan Collazo, Post

Alice Holloway, Joshua

Angie Wade, Ennis

Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview, Board Liaison

TML BOOTH COMMITTEE

Brenda Dennis, Schertz, Alamo Chapter Pres., Chair

Alamo Chapter members

Laure Morgan, Brownsville, Board Liaison

TML REPRESENTATIVE

Amanda Campos, Burleson

TML SESSION COMMITTEE

Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview, Trustee, Chair

Irma Parker, Addison, Trustee

Roxanne Benitez, Spring Valley Village, Trustee

*non-voting member

WELCOME

2022 TMCA PRESIDENT AMANDA CAMPOS

President Campos delivered her acceptance speech at the October 28 TMCA Awards Ceremony



Amanda Campos

As I considered my speech it became a little overwhelming. Not the speaking in public, I think most of you know that I'm comfortable with that, but the message I want to pass along to all of you. When I was writing this speech, I found myself stuck on what do I want to say, what do I wanted to communicate. I was stuck in my own head because I was overthinking it. I relaxed, closed my eyes—took a little nap not on purpose by the way—and what came to me was: **BE BOLD.**

Be hold, push yourself, and get comfortable with being uncomfortable. That's not an easy thing to do but we don't do the easy things. We all chose, or in some cases it chose us, a profession that requires us to constantly be the center of a city organization. It is not always in the forefront of everyone's mind but each of us daily are bold.

Be bold do what the ordinary fear—we do that every day. We walk in and tackle the day. We talk to that citizen who is not happy and needs to be heard. Others may fear this but we take that conversation and turn it into a new process or research the answer for them. The only thing we don't do is run from the conversation. The ending may not always be what the citizen wants, but it is what is

available and true, and for that reason we are not fearful.

Being bold is not always being the loudest in the room. You don't have to bust into the room make your announcements and leave. Sometimes being bold in listening to everything, coming up a solution and passing that along, quietly and confidently. Standing firm to your point of view is bold—in the face of what everyone wants, that is in direct contradiction of what can be done, we stand firm. Not ugly or even mad, but firm in our view of what we know to be true. **We are bold.** Our profession is not for the faint of heart. Times require us to step outside our comfort zone, to accomplish what must be accomplished.



Amanda Campos at the banquet with the Yellow Rose Chapter.

PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Accepting others' point of view as valid or even stronger than your own is bold—this is hard most of the time. It will take a minute to fully appreciate this ability. Be bold in yourself and know that it does not mean you are invalid or less than; in fact the ability to do this makes you the strongest person in city.

Be bold enough to design your future—look to where you want to be professionally. If there is a certification, degree, or title you want, make your plan and be bold take the steps to accomplish it. Push forward; stumbles are breathers: these are the times to review the plan and adjust. Your future can be just as you are now. In this case, design your legacy. What will be left behind for the others to use as a guide?

Helping others is bold—lastly, don't keep your boldness to yourself. Help others achieve their goals, help others by giving them your time and your knowledge. Reach



out to your fellow professional. Strive for them to be better, bolder. I am fortunate enough to have many mentors that made me bold. Working for the city of Burleson

lead me to a profession I love. I was fortunate enough to have two direct mentors that also happen to be former TMCA presidents. Jean Crawley 1993 and Mary Kayser 2011. My first position with the City of Burleson was working for both in a split position. How fortunate was I? I didn't realize it until later on the opportunity I was given. They that

came into my life and brought their own boldness to show me.

This all would not be possible without my true north star and the boldest person I know, Mary Kayser. She is bold. She will not allow you not to be bold. She brings out the best in everyone she touches. I am bold because she is bold.

Be Bold.



Mary Kayser with Amanda Campos

WELCOME

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD TRUSTEES

Introducing TMCA's eight new trustees to the Executive Board in 2022



Roxanne Benitez, TRMC

"I am deeply honored to serve on the Board. It will be a privilege to represent TMCA, the Salt Grass Chapter, and the municipal clerk profession."

Roxanne has served as the city secretary of Spring Valley Village since 2014. She previously served the city as administrative assistant/administration & customer service; administrative assistant/permit—customer service; account manager; and municipal court clerk.

She earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) certification in 2014 (No. 703) and recertified in 2019. She is a longtime member of

TMCA. She has served on the TMCA Scholarship Committee, Awards Committee, and Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee.

Roxanne is also active in the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter where she has held the offices of president, vice president, secretary, and historian. She has served on several chapter committees: Bylaws Review, Scholarship, Policy & Procedures Manual Review, Nominating, Outreach, Banquet & Holiday, Annual Public Information Act Seminar, and Honorary Member.

In addition to earning her TRMC, Roxanne is a Texas Certified Public Manager (William P. Hobby Center for Public Service); a Texas Certified Municipal Court Clerk (Texas State University); and an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk. Roxanne is a member of International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA), Gulf Coast Chapter of Texas Women Leading Government (TX-

WLG), and Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA).

Roxanne says, "Currently, I have two children, Brandon and Shelby, and a granddaughter who is due in February 2022. In my spare time, I enjoy baking for friends and family."



Rebecca Huerta, TRMC

"I'm honored and excited to serve on the TMCA Executive Board. I look forward to collaborating with my fellow board members to move our organization forward. As a Coastal Bend chapter member, I plan on voicing the unique perspectives and interests of our chapter. It's important that the board consider multiple perspectives when making decisions that affect our entire

membership. Our organization is in stellar shape thanks to the competent and dynamic leadership of our board and our administration. Working together, we will take the goals and the vision of TMCA to the next level. I'm so proud to be a part of it!"

Rebecca is the city secretary of the City of Corpus Christi. She earned her TRMC certification in 2017 (No. 823) and recertifies this January.

Rebecca is a longtime member of TMCA. She has served on the 35th Anniversary ad hoc Committee, the Resolutions Committee, the Retirement Committee, and the Scholarship Committee.

She is active in the TMCA Coastal Bend Chapter where she holds the office of president (2021-2022). She has also served as the chapter's vice president and secretary and she has served on the Nominations Committee.

Rebecca has been a co-instructor on "Runoffs, Recounts and Vacan-

INTRODUCTION: NEW TRUSTEES

cies” for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar from 2017 through 2019. She was a panelist for the “Transparency: The Force Awakens with Technology!” session at the 2017 IIMC Annual Conference.

Rebecca was the 2017 Coastal Bend Chapter’s TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Award nominee. The City of Corpus Christi City Secretary’s office was a recipient of TMCA Municipal Clerk’s Office Achievement of Excellence Award in 2021. Rebecca was a CITGO Hispanic Heritage Month honoree (October 2018). She has been a Laserfiche Pioneer Award recipient (2017).

Rebecca received the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from IIMC.

Rebecca is an active member of League of Women Voters—Corpus Christi, Association of Hispanic Municipal Officials (AHMO)—Secretary, South Texas Women Leading in Government, and Hispanic Women’s Network—Corpus Christi Chapter. She served as an IIMC 2021/2022 Conference Committee member.

Rebecca says, “I’ve been married for 26 years to my husband Carlos Huerta. We have two daughters, Isabela and Susana. Isabela is working as a legislative aide for our local state representative; Susana is a freshman at University of Texas at San Antonio. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking, and attending community events with my husband and friends.”



Sharon McFadden, TRMC

“Appreciation and recognition is owed to my coworkers that cover my duties whenever necessary because I know without their support, serving TMCA would not be possible. I am so thankful to have the support of our City Manager, City Council, and Mayor. It is such an honor and I am excited to serve on TMCA’s Executive Board. Having a positive impact on other City Secretaries

and contributing to our profession is a privilege I will not take lightly.”

Sharon has served as City Secretary/CFO of Graham since 2016. Previously she was Graham’s Deputy City Secretary/Chief Accountant of Graham.

Sharon earned her TRMC certification in 2020 (No. 950). She has held membership in TMCA since 2016, and has served on the Scholarship Committee and chaired the Retirement Committee. She has served as a convener at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar.

Sharon is active in the TMCA Red River Chapter, where she has served as Vice President and Secretary. She served on the chapter’s Stipend Committee from 2017-2020, and chaired it in 2021.

Sharon was the 2020 Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year. She received the TMCA President’s Choice Award in 2019. The City of Graham City Secretary’s Office received the TMCA Municipal Clerk’s Office of Achievement of Excellence Award (2020-2022).

She has received IIMC’s Certified Municipal Clerk designation.

Sharon has served on IIMC’s Membership and Mentoring Committee (2020-2022) and is a member of Government Finance Officers Association.

In her community, Sharon recently completed the Young County Leadership Program called “You Lead.” She volunteers for and has completed training for Court Appointed Special Advocate for the North Star CASA.

Sharon says, “My oldest daughter is a nurse and my youngest daughter works in sales. I have six grandchildren between the ages of 5 and 11. The grandchildren keep me very busy and I enjoy every opportunity I get to spend with them. My husband and I do find time to sneak away and we can usually be found fishing for Crappie or Bass on Lake Graham.

“I served in the Navy from 1988 to 1996 and the most important ‘take away’ from military service was taking Honor, Courage, and Commitment with me throughout my life.”

INTRODUCTION: NEW TRUSTEES



Ellie Monteaux, TRMC

"I am honored to be appointed as Trustee on the TMCA Executive Board and look forward to serving our membership."

Ellie has served as City Secretary of the City of Livingston since 2007, and also Assistant City Manager since 2017. She has previously served Livingston in Payroll, Purchasing, Accounts Payable, and Human Resources.

Ellie earned her TRMC certification in 2013 (No. 684) and recertified in 2018. She is a longtime member of TMCA; her committee service includes Certification (2018-2021), Strategic Planning (2018-2021), Membership (2018-2020), Retirement (2018), and Resolutions (2017, chair 2018).

She is active in the TMCA Pineywoods Chapter, where she recently

served as president (2018-2020). She served on the chapter's Athenian Dialogue Committee in 2019.

Ellie has been an instructor and a session convenor at TMCCP's Election Law Seminar; a session convenor at IIMC Annual Conference in Birmingham, Alabama; and a co-author of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*, eleventh edition.

Ellie is a Texas Certified Public Manager (Stephen F. Austin State University). She is a member of IIMC and has received their IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk and Master Municipal Clerk designations. She is also an IIMC Athenian Leadership Society Fellow.

Ellie was the Pineywoods Chapter's Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year nominee in 2020, 2018, 2016, and 2013. The City of Livingston City Secretary's Office was the recipient of the TMCA Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award (2020).

Ellie is an IIMC Athenian Leadership Society member (2014-present) and an IIMC Policy Review Committee Member (2018/2019). She is a member of Texas City Management As-

sociation (TCMA) and the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT).

Ellie says, "I enjoy being with my family, especially my three granddaughters who keep my life full of fun. I also enjoy sewing a blanket for every new baby in our family, a tradition passed from my mother and grandmother."



Laure Morgan, TRMC

"I joined TMCA in January 2001 as a newly appointed city secretary for the City of Hemphill. I had little knowledge at the time of the voluminous knowledge and duties that a city secretary must be equipped to perform. I was so happy that there was support, knowledge, and education available to me, so that I could serve my citizens in a professional, legal, and ethical manner. The amount of knowledge and duties that most city secretaries must absorb and perform

is vast, so having such a professional organization with a professional staff and board and the knowledge we need just a phone call or mouse click away is such a great support system.

"We are professionals that our cities cannot do without, so we must be humble, yet proud, while stressing the vitality of the role we serve. I am proud to be part of an organization that strives to emphasize the professionalism, necessity, and ethical obligations of the profession of city secretary to the communities we serve, to our city councils, and to city managers.

"I enjoy meeting and making friends with fellow city secretaries from all over to glean knowledge from their experience and knowledge. I am honored to be selected for appointment to the TMCA executive board again, an honor to which I will serve to the best of my abilities to be a listener and a voice for all city secretaries from small and large cities and from all areas. One of the legacies that I hope I can leave is to improve the perception of the PROFESSION of municipal clerk/city secretary for future successors. I am blessed to be part of the leadership team and my Office of the City Secretary (OCS) team, who stress a culture of innovation, participatory

INTRODUCTION: NEW TRUSTEES

leadership, and total alignment daily, and I want to thank my city manager, Noel Bernal, for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the TMCA Board again. Our vision for the OCS team in Brownsville is to be the model for the municipal clerk profession, while improving local government participation in the Brownsville community."

Laure serves as City Secretary for the City of Brownsville. Prior to coming to Brownsville in 2020, she served in the City of Hemphill most recently as city manager, then previously assistant city manager/city secretary, city secretary/accountant, and accountant/utility billing clerk. She was recognized as the City of Hemphill Employee of the Year in 2002.

Laure earned her TRMC in 2009 (No. 557), recertified in 2014 and 2019 and has met all requirements for her third recertification in 2024.

Laure is a Certified Public Manager (Stephen F. Austin State University), a Certified Municipal Clerk (IIMC), has a Master of Public Administration (SFASU, Summa Cum Laude), and has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting (Texas A&M University).

Laure is a longtime member of TMCA. She has served on the TMCA Executive Board (2017-2018, stepping down after appointment to Hemphill city manager) and her committee service includes Resolutions, Municipal Clerks Award of Excellence, Nominating, Audit (2012, 2013 chair), Municipal Clerk of the Year, and TML Booth.

She is a current member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter. She was previously a member of the Pineywood Chapter where she served as vice president.

Laure co-authored the eleventh edition of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*. She is the author of a published Applied Research Project: "Branding: Bringing More Respect and Value to the Profession of Municipal Clerks in Texas" and Capstone Project: "Fiscal Transparency in Small Municipal Governments in Texas: Does Size Matter?"

The Office of the City Secretary of the City of Brownsville was awarded the TMCA Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award for 2021-2022 and the Texas DSHS Five Star Award/Exemplary for 2020-2021.

Laure is a member of IIMC and Texas City Management Association.

Laure looks forward to being involved in many community activities through her role as city secretary and volunteering to serve in the Brownsville and South Padre Island community. Laure's daughter is married and a high school math instructor, and the co-owner of A&M Dance Fitness Studio. Laure says, "She is my most important accomplishment and my joy." Laure spends a lot of time with her mother, sister, and other family members. She has two nephews and a niece and grandniece that make her very proud. Her hobbies include walking, riding bikes, exercising, dancing, doing Zumba, going to concerts, and traveling. "I am now a certified Zumba instructor and Mixxedfit instructor. I hope to start teaching these again." Laure is also very interested in history, especially Southern United States history, and genealogy. She loves touring old plantations, old homes, and buildings to observe the architecture and customs of the time. She loves to read books of all kinds. Laure currently resides at South Padre Island, where she enjoys the most beautiful beach in Texas.



Irma Parker, TRMC

"The time is always right to do what is right." —Martin Luther King, Jr."

Irma serves as the city secretary of the Town of Addison. She has previously served as city secretary of Port Aransas, city secretary of Rockport, and administrative assistant to the city manager in Rockport.

Irma earned her TRMC in 2008 (No. 536) and recertified in 2013 and 2018. She has held membership in TMCA for over two decades. Her TMCA committee service has included Scholarship, Resolutions, Advisory Management (2020-2021), Certification (2015-2019; chair, 2020-2021), and Nominating (2011, 2013).

Irma is active in the TMCA Lone Star Chapter, with committee service such as Membership, Audit, Policy Review (chair), and Athenian Dialogue.

INTRODUCTION: NEW TRUSTEES

As a TMCA North Texas Chapter member she has served on the Alyce Deering Scholarship Committee.

Irma has served as the TMCA Coastal Bend Chapter's President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Her committee service for the chapter has included Athenian Dialogue, Nominating, Bylaws, and Membership; she created the chapter newsletter.

Irma is a co-author of TMCA's *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook* eleventh edition. She is a co-instructor at TMCCP's Election Law Seminar, including the sessions "Recruiting & Training Election Workers," "Provisional Voting," and "Polling Locations, Poll Watchers & Inspectors." She has also convened at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar.

Irma was nominated by the Coastal Bend Chapter for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year. Her professional affiliations include service on the IIMC Education Committee; ARMA International; TML Region 11 Secretary; TML 100th Celebration Committee; and Leadership Aransas County graduate and facilitator. Irma is an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk.

Irma says, "I love to travel in my motorhome and spent time with my grandchildren, Abby and Alex. In my spare time, I like to volunteer at the

food bank/pantry and re-sale shop. Volunteering to help those less fortunate makes my heart happy!"



Crystal Roan, TRMC

"I am sincerely honored to be chosen to serve as a trustee on the TMCA board. I aspire to be an asset to TMCA and to professionally grow from this experience. I am proud to serve the City of Pearland, represent the Salt Grass Chapter, and look forward to serving our organization. I thank my mentor, Pauline Small, former Webster City Secretary and TMCA Trustee, for believing in me and encouraging me to pursue this goal."

Crystal serves as the city secretary of the City of Pearland. She has previously served as the City of Webster's city secretary and deputy city secretary.

Crystal earned her TRMC certification in 2011 (No. 628) and recertified in 2016 and 2021. She is a longtime member of TMCA. Crystal's TMCA committee service includes Nominat-

ing, Scholarship (2013, 2017, chair 2019), TML Booth (chair 2017 & 2014), and Resolutions (2012, 2015).

Crystal is active in the TMCA Salt Grass Chapter where she has held the offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and historian. Her chapter committee service includes Outreach, Scholarship, Policies and Procedure Manual Updates, Audit, Retirement, Banquet & Holiday.

Crystal is an instructor at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar; her topics have included "Unofficial Tabulation," "Document Preparation for Canvass, Swearing In, Reporting to the Secretary of State, Election Registry," "Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks," and "Step by Step: Conduct of an Election." She has also served as TMCCP seminar convener. Crystal is an instructor for the Houston-Galveston Area Council Election Law Workshop (2012-present).

Crystal was the 2016 Salt Grass Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year. The Salt Grass Chapter nominated her for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Crystal is an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk.

Crystal is married to Eric Roan. Her large family includes her son

in heaven, Jeremy; bonus daughter Jalen; grandson, Greyson; bonus granddaughters Skylar and Sanai; and her furry pet, Rufus.

Crystal's community activities include serving as the La Porte Community Civic Club Vice President. Her hobbies include water activities, vacationing, and spending time with family and friends.



Deborah Sorensen, TRMC

"I am honored to be appointed to the TMCA Executive Board. I am looking forward to serving the membership of TMCA. This is a great association and I am proud to be a part of it. I will do my best to represent the members of TMCA. I am thankful to work for a supportive city that allows me to serve this association."

Deborah serves as the city secretary of Royse City. She previously served as city secretary at the City of McLendon-Chisholm.

INTRODUCTION: NEW TRUSTEES

Deborah earned her TRMC certification in 2015 (No. 759) and recertified in 2020.

She is a longtime member of TMCA. Her TMCA committee service includes Strategic Planning, Municipal Clerk of the Year (chair), and Retirement.

Deborah is active in the TMCA Lone Star Chapter where she serves as 2021 president; she has previously held the offices of President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Treasurer, and Historian. Her chapter committee service includes By-Laws Review, Athenian Dialogue (chair), Scholarship (chair), Holiday, Budget (2020-2017, chair 2015-2016), Audit (2020, chair 2019), and Scholarship (2020, chair 2017).

Her chapter honored her as the Lone Star Chapter Clerk of the Year.

Deborah has been an instructor for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar's "Polling Locations, Poll Watchers & Inspectors" session.

She is an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk and Master Municipal Clerk.

Deborah says, "I have been married to my husband, Troy, for 24 years. We have six children and two grandchildren. We are members of First United Methodist Church in Rockwall. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, traveling, as well as camping as much as possible."

THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS & SEMINAR SPONSORS

Thank you to all those who donated in 2021 toward
2022 TMCA scholarships and seminar sponsorships!

Ad Comp

*Ad Comp Scholarship
& Silver Seminar Sponsorship*

American Legal Publishing

*American Legal Publishing Scholarship
& Silver Seminar Sponsorship*

Bojorquez Law Firm

Susan Rocha Scholarship

City Hall Essentials

*Peggy Burnside Scholarship
& Silver Seminar Sponsorship*

TMCA Central Texas Chapter

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund
& Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

CSA Software Solutions

Silver Seminar Sponsorship

General Code

*General Code Scholarship
& Silver Seminar Sponsorship*

Franklin Legal Publishing

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

Fundview

Silver Seminar Sponsorship

General Code

*two General Code Scholarships
& Silver Seminar Sponsorship*

Granicus

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& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

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*two Municipal Code Corporation Scholarships
& Platinum Seminar Sponsorship*

MCCi

*two MCCi Records Management Scholarships
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TMCA North Texas Chapter

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship fund
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship fund*

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TMCA Salt Grass Chapter

*Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship,
Lila Fern Martin Scholarship,
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship, &
Sandra Watkins Election Law Seminar Scholarship
plus Mary Kayser IIMC Scholarship*

Underwood Law Firm

two LeAnn Gallman Scholarships



2022 MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the TMCA members who applied for and were awarded scholarships for 2022! The TMCA Scholarship Committee awards scholarships annually amongst a pool of applicants based upon factors of eligibility.

Top row: Horseshoe Bay City Secretary **Kerri Craig** is awarded a **Franklin Digital Solutions Scholarship** by Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing. Yoakum City Clerk **Theresa Bowe** is awarded a **McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship** by Julie Morgan (*left*) and Lindy Priddy (*right*). Richardson Deputy City Secretary **Vickie Schmid** is awarded an **American Legal Publishing Scholarship** by Ross Heupel. Mount Enterprise City Secretary/Court Administrator **Suzanne Pharr** is awarded a **Linebarger Blain Goggan & Sampson Scholarship** by Brandy Stacy.

Second row: Mansfield Assistant City Secretary **Keera Seiger** is awarded a **General Code Scholarship** by Faye Moore. Burkburnett City Clerk **Margie Poole** is awarded a **LeAnn Gallman Scholarship** by Underwood Law Firm's Matt Wade. Wichita Falls City Clerk **Marie Balthrop** is awarded the **Peggy Burnside Scholarship** (sponsored by **City Hall Essentials**) by TMCCP Certification Committee Chair Irma Parker. **Granicus Scholarships** are awarded to Luling City Secretary **Martha Velasquez** (*center*) and Todd Mission City Secretary **Julie Lunsford** (*right*) by Stephen Lax.

At left: **Municode Scholarships** are awarded to Forest Hill City Secretary **Amy Anderson** (*far left*) and Lavon Assistant City Secretary **Rae Norton** (*far right*), and **MCCi Records Management Scholarships** are awarded to Flower Mound Town Secretary **Theresa Scott** (*second from left*) and La Porte City Secretary/PIO **Lee Woodward** (*second from right*), by Territory Manager Russell Haddock. (*continued on next page*)

2022 MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS (continued from previous page)



Top row: Benbrook Deputy City Secretary **Beth Fischer** is awarded a **McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen Scholarship** by Lindy Priddy. Wilmer City Secretary **Mayra Ortiz** (left) and Texas City City Secretary **Rhomari Leight** (right) are awarded **Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarships** by TMCCP Certification Committee Chair Irma Parker. Greenville Deputy City Secretary **Carla Oldacre** (right) is awarded a **General Code Scholarship** by Faye Moore. Wharton City Secretary **Paula Favors** is awarded a **Susan Rocha Scholarship** (sponsored by **Alan Bojorquez**) TMCCP Certification Committee Chair Irma Parker.

Second row: Fort Stockton Administrative Assistant **Sheila Lehnert** is awarded a **Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship** by Kirk Franklin. Hale Center City Secretary **Patricia Isaguirre** is awarded a **LeAnn Gallman Scholarship** by **Underwood Law Firm**'s Matt Wade. Blanco City Secretary **Laurie Cassidy** (left) and College Station City Secretary **Tanya Smith** (right) are awarded **Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarships** by TMCCP Certification Committee Chair Irma Parker.

Not pictured: Collisville City Secretary **Deborah Hale** was awarded an **Ad Comp Scholarship**.

A **Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship** was awarded to Garden Ridge Assistant City Secretary **Kat Balbi**.

A **Lila Fern Martin Scholarship** was awarded to Alamo Heights Assistant to City Manager **Jennifer Reyna**.

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarships were awarded to Lefors City Secretary **Lindy Forsyth** and Pottsboro City Secretary **Dana Nixon**.

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarships were awarded to McAllen Utility Board Secretary **Nyla Flatau** and **Alyse Oliver**.

CELEBRATE

We brought our year of celebrating our 35th anniversary to a close with a great 1980s-themed party after the TMCA Awards Banquet. *Pictured at right:* Party attendees were encouraged to wear 80s-themed clothing—and they came dressed to impress!

Below: On the final day of the Advanced Institute Seminar, attendees wore blue and TMCA's 35th anniversary commemorative shirt to celebrate Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

Above right: Celebrating TMCA's 1986 incorporation in style! *Back row:* Kristi Morrow, Frisco; Lisa Henderson, Plano. *Middle:* Tina Stewart, The Colony; Aimee Nemer, Richardson; Julie Davidson, Frisco; Irma Parker, Addison; Deborah Sorensen, Royse City; Carma Potter, Garland. *Front:* Tenitrus Bethel, Fairview.

Center right: Anniversary cakes sponsored by Franklin Legal Publishing for the TMCA Awards Banquet.

Below: TMCCP Advanced Institute Seminar attendees show their TMCA pride.



Carma Potter, City of Garland;
Tina Stewart, City of The Colony;
Tenitrus Bethel, Town of Fairview



Carla Oldacre, City of Greenville;
Deborah Sorensen, City of Royse City



TMCCP ADVANCED INSTITUTE SEMINAR

The October TMCCP Advanced Institute in Galveston was a great success. Hundreds were in attendance for speaker Kent Julian's "The DNA of Success." *Pictured at right:* One of the group activities during the seminar.



TMCA AT THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Photo courtesy Shelley George



TMCA was wonderfully represented at the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference in Houston in October! Our booth was a great success, and our excellent session was well-attended. Thank you to our panelists on “Hindsight Is 2020: Navigating Transparency and Open Meetings”: Jannette Goodall, City Clerk, City of Austin; Becky McGrew, City Secretary, City of Katy; Jay Warren, Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, City of Arlington; Tito Rodriguez, Councilmember, City of North Richland Hills; Rick Davis, City Manager, Baytown; and Mary Lynne Stratta, City Secretary and Legislative Director, City of Bryan.

Thank you to TML booth volunteers Angela Smith, Cleveland; Ann Franklin, Bastrop; Thelma Gilliam, West University Place; Crystal Roan, Pearland; Dixie Roberts, Alvin; Elanna Killian, Humble; Brenda Dennis, Schertz; Becky McGrew, Katy; Crystal Dozier, Willow Park; Carla Oldacre, Greenville; Roxanne Benitez, Spring Valley Village; and Maria Jackson, Missouri City.



Photo courtesy Salt Grass Chapter

TML REPORT

By TML Representative **Amanda Campos, TRMC**

City Secretary, Burleson



Amanda Campos

What an exciting year to be the TML Representative for our association. TML worked hard this year to navigating Covid-19 while providing services and information to all its members. They understood the demands of keeping on track while everything was fluid and changing.

The first meeting of the TML Board was held December 4, 2020 (virtual) this meeting was important to set the 2021-2022 Legislative program. It was encouraging to see the statewide representation and how they work together. The main focus really is the health of cities both large and small. The Grassroots and Legislative Services division of TML presented a new revised look for the “Our Home, Our Decision” campaign to be used during the 87th Legislative session. The TML website has resources for all cities to utilize.

Not unlike most cities the financial health of TML was in question because of restrictions and deficits in the economy, however in December the projected deficit was reduced. The projected deficit of \$672,000 turns out to be lower at \$356,000. In October the Audit report was presented to the board with no unfavorable findings or comments.

In March the announcement came that President Karen Hunt (Mayor of Coppell) will no longer be in office and will have to vacate her position. President Elect Martha Castex-Tatum (Vice Mayor pro tem Houston) will fill term until next election. Board voted to move up the elections for President Elect in order to fill the vacancy. Normal elections process begins in June the vote was to move everything up to immediately proceeding the March 5 meeting. In October at the Annual TML Conference Martha Castex-Tatum, City of Houston, Vice Mayor Pro Tem was elected 2022 TML President and David Rutledge, City of Bridge City, Mayor will be President-Elect for 2022.

President Nemer appointed a Legislative Committee to participate in monitoring and testifying if necessary on any bills directly affecting cities. TML staff met weekly with this committee to not only inform us of bills that directly affect our jobs but all bills affecting cities. This support from TML was informative and helpful and we will continue to keep the lines of communication open not only for information received from TML but as a resource for them.

TML REPORT

TML staff along with city representatives continue to work on legislative changes and have already begun to think about how to provide training resources. The staff worked hard this year and will continue to provide guidance to all its members. TML staff is working on improving their privacy policy to protect their members. The Board approved a draft of a privacy policy to start a framework for how the League will move forward with data collected from the membership. This will be worked on in year 2022 to tighten up the policy and review how

we respond to third party request for membership data and how the league responds to request about our third party vendors.

The TML Conference in Houston was a success with more attendees than the previous conference held in Houston. Thank you from TML for all the cities that attended and for all continued support and participation. Next year's Annual Conference will be held in San Antonio, October 5-7, 2022, and is expected to draw even more attendees than Houston.

TMCA extends a warm welcome to all its 2021 first-time members!

Maria Acosta	Pam Chennault	Elsa Galvan	Tracy Landrum	Amanda Mueller	Beverly Smith
Steven Aguilar	Troi Cluse	Felicia Garrett	Christy Landrum	Kyndra Munoz	Nikki Smith
Alaina Alvarado	Stephanie Coggins	Sylvia Garza	Angela Larson	Debbie Nesbitt	Cyndy Smith
Algera Anderson	Susan Collins	Ashley Gilleland	Monica Laux	Ashley Newsome	Debbie Smith
Amber Anderson	Jake Cox	Jonni Glick	Samantha Lee	Trish Nichols	Mandy Spikes
Christina Athey	Leslie Crittenden	Hilda Gonzalez	Michelle Lee	Denise Nix	Shane Stalnacker
Karen Avery	Sara Cruz	Brandi Grant	Sheila Lincoln	Laura Norman	Heather Stastny
April Barr	Cynthia Daniels	Raquel Guajardo	Darlene Longbrake	Samantha Ortega	Stephanie Steelman
Shanna Bavousett	Natalie Darrow	Josel Harrison	Mariana Longoria	Hollie Parker	Janet Stehling
Alison Beerwinkle	Sharon David	Lorene Hartfiel	Rocio Lopez	Aurora Perkins	Brianna Suell
Marcia Bentley-German	Sonja De La Fuente	Courtney Havens	Tina Love	Linda Pettit	Dorcy Swindall
Perla Bernal	Nathan DeLong	Nichole Heinrich	Wynona Lusk	Victoria Psencik	Hayleigh Talasek
Beth Billings	Karen Dempsey	Julie Helsham	Jennifer Malone	Hailey Ratcliff	Heather Tanner
Brooke Boller	Carlos Diaz-Limon, Jr	Jennifer Hess	Nydia Mata	Catherine Raynor	Alicia Thomas
Jami Bonner	Kristy Doll	Wylma Hewett	Holli Matocha	Laura Richards	Sherri Thurman
Diana Boone	Tammy Dowdy	Diane Hinshaw	Michele Mazzola	Kim Roark	Monica Trevino-Ortega
Camille Bowser	Tanya Duhon	Roma Holley	Kerry McCollough	Megan Rodriguez	Anahi Urps
Jennifer Boyd	Kay Dyer	Leann Holley	Lori McGlothlin	Cleo Rodriguez	Jan Vinson
Melissa Boyle	Christy Dyer	Sonia Holmes	Chassidy Mead	Joseph Rodriguez	Johnna Ware
Cindy Bray	Tracie Dzenowski	Tammy Hourigan	Amanda Mendoza	Kenny Ross	Sally Wright
Jacqueline Brown	Sara Egan	Jessica Hubertus	Mandy Miller	Lillian Salinas	Erin Zaidle
Darla Brown	Yenni Espinoza	Cybil Humphreys	Melissa Minor	Karla Sarinana	
Misty Burgess	Teresa Fangman	Camille Johnson	Andrea Molina	Adrienne Seal	
Melinda Caballero	Cheyenne Flores	Rose Kanusky	Jenni Moore	Jennifer Sembera	
Jennifer Cadmus	Janie Flores	Nikki King	Elisa Morales	Nelissa Serna	
Geo Calderon	Gladys Gallegos	Caitlin Krobot	Lynn Morgan	Rick Shroder	

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

By **Shawna Atkinson, TRMC**

City Secretary, Abilene

The Bluebonnet Chapter met on September 8 at Brownwood City Hall. Christi Wynn welcomed everyone to Brownwood and introduced the City Manager Emily Crawford, who delivered an invocation tailored specifically to municipal clerks. Introductions were made and everyone welcomed TMCA President Aimee Nemer, who we were honored to host for this meeting. President Nemer spoke on some upcoming TMCA changes, and had some fun 80's-themed trivia for us later on in the meeting.

After a delicious meal, Vice President Diane Latham presided over the business meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved, and the treasurer's report was read and approved.

After the completion of their current terms at December's chapter meeting, Vice President Diane Latham will move up to president for 2022-2023, Treasurer Staci King will move up to vice president,

Top right: At the chapter's September meeting. Left to right: Diane Latham, Breckenridge; Kaitlin Richardson, Abilene; Staci King, TRMC, Stephenville; TMCA President Aimee Nemer, TRMC, Richardson; Shawna Atkinson, TRMC, Abilene; Aly Oliver, Stephenville; Christi Wynn, TRMC, Brownwood; Roma Holley, Eastland.

Near right: Members at the TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar, from left to right: Staci King, TRMC, Stephenville; Aly Oliver, Stephenville; Shawna Atkinson, TRMC, Abilene; Kim Bryant, Stamford; LeeAnn Blankenship, TRMC, Anson.



BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

and Secretary Shawna Atkinson will move up to treasurer. Kaitlin Richardson, Abilene, volunteered to fill the vacant secretary position. This slate will be voted on at December's meeting for official approval, and they will be sworn in at that time.

The previous winner of the Bluebonnet Municipal Clerk of the Year award, Shawna Atkinson, will form a committee with Aly Oliver to select the 2021 Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year. The previous winners of scholarships, Kim Bryant and Diane Latham, will form a committee to select next year's scholarship winners. Both of these winners will be announced at the December meeting.

At this meeting a selection for the Bluebonnet Chapter's contribution to the TMCA 35th Anniversary time capsule was also decided on.

The Bluebonnet Chapter meets quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The next meetings will be held on December 8 in the City of Stephenville, and March 9 in the City of Eastland. Everyone is welcome to join for lunch and fellowship!

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

By Chapter Secretary **April Hilbrich, TRMC**

City Secretary, Victoria

Hello from the Coastal Bend Chapter! This quarter the City of Victoria hosted the virtual quarterly meeting of the chapter. Those in attendance included Mary Valenzuela, City Secretary, City of Kingsville; Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, City of Corpus Christi; Cathy Duhart, City Secretary, City of Sinton; Mary Gonzales, City Secretary, City of Mathis; Theresa Valdez, City Secretary, City of Rockport; Natalie Fric, City Secretary, City of Shiner; Dr. Amy Holt, PhD, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director; and April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria.

Attendees heard a presentation from Dr. Holt titled "Do Women Really Support Each Other at Work?" Dr. Holt's presentation was excellent. She spoke about the different expectations and experiences that women face in the workplace as opposed to their male counterparts; and how women can better support each other at work, and she shared the two hilarious videos to illustrate her point. After the presentation, we discussed issues we all face as women in the workplace.

During the meeting, President Huerta provided an update on the TMCCP Advanced Institute in Galveston and the TMCA 35th Anniversary Party. She reminded everyone of the 80's theme for the party and asked for approval to purchase gift cards to be used as door prizes during the seminar. Our chapter also approved the purchase of pop sockets with the chapter logo as our donation to the time capsule.

President Huerta, with assistance from Dr. Holt, also provided a brief explanation

COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

of changes to Chapter 14 of the TMCA Policy Manual concerning certification and recertification requirements. She encouraged everyone to apply for scholarship or travel stipends to help with covering the expenses involved with obtaining TRMC certification or recertification.

The chapter also discussed the virtual Athenian Dialogue we hosted in August and the great job Lee Woodward, City Secretary, City of League City, did on facilitating the dialogue.

The Coastal Bend's next meeting will be hosted by the City of Sinton at the Back Street Café on December 16 at 11:30 a.m. and will include a holiday social for all to enjoy.

If you would like to join the Coastal Bend Chapter please contact April Hilbrich, City Secretary, City of Victoria at ahilbrich@victoriatx.gov or 361-485-3040.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

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

Hello, from the beautiful Hill County. After postponing our October 27 meeting due to those traveling to Galveston or working Early Voting, our most recent chapter meeting was held via Zoom on November 3. The chapter members chose to have our meeting Zoom due to the traveling to TML and the TMCCP Advanced Institute and being out of the office.



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

The chapter began our meeting with introductions of those who were in attendance. The chapter is so excited that we are growing with several new members. Two of those new members were in attendance: Maria Acosta, City Secretary from Del Rio, and Brenda Poe, City Secretary from Llano.

The business meeting consisted of the approval of the August minutes and the financial report, and the reading of two correspondents. The members also discussed the availability of chapter scholarships, received nominations for the vacant chapter secretary position, and discussed the upcoming education program for February's meeting. The upcoming December Meeting and Gift Exchange were announced (December 9 at 11 a.m. at Sandstone Street Bed & Breakfast in Llano). Everyone was reminded of the upcoming education opportunities: TMCCP Election Law Seminar, that seminar's "Step by Step: Conduct of an Election" pre-seminar session, and TMCA webinars. Members

were reminded of the deadline for posting a reminder for May 7, 2022, election was provided (Post Notice of Candidate Filing is December 20, 2021).

Those who have or had October and November birthdays and work anniversaries were announced. Each member present provided a report on their City Happenings. The Hill Country is in the middle of a normal beautiful Texas autumn, and all our cities are getting ready to celebrate the holidays. If you need a getaway, you can't go wrong with coming to any of our cities. The holiday events range from tree lightings, reindeer runs, Christmas parades, ice skating, and regular events like wine tours and, of course, shopping.

Anyone wishing to join the Hill Country Chapter, please contact Shelley Goodwin, TRMC, City Secretary of the City of Fredericksburg at sgoodwin@fbgtx.org.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

LONE STAR CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Susie Quinn, TRMC**

City Secretary, Murphy

Greetings, TMCA members!

The Lone Star Chapter continues to meet in person. We had nineteen attendees at the September 9 meeting. A welcome was given by the Murphy Mayor Pro Tem Ken Oltmann.

It was a busy meeting with new officer installations. TMCA President-elect Amanda Campos did a beautiful and inspiring installation of the Lone Star Chapter officers for 2021-2022. The new officers are Historian Laura Kennemer (Quinlan); Secretary Carrie Land (Anna); Treasurer Tenitrus Bethel (Fairview); President-Elect Tina Stewart (The Colony); and President Susie Quinn (Murphy). Deborah Sorensen (Royse City) is the immediate past president and was presented a beautiful set of granite rock bookends with an appropriate Texas Lone Star on one of the bookends for being our ROCK during the challenges of 2020. Deborah presented certificates of recognition to committee chairs and members.

Top right: Members at the chapter's October meeting. From left to right, seated: Deborah Sorensen (Royse City), Carrie Land (Anna), Susie Quinn (Murphy), Tina Stewart (The Colony), Tenitrus Bethel (Fairview), Laura Kennemer (Quinlan). Center row, standing: Lenette Cox (Pilot Point), Kristi Morrow (Frisco), Julie Davidson (Frisco), Lisa McAlister (Plano), Alice Snyder (Plano), Darcee Watson (Wylie), Carla Oldacre (Greenville), Lisa Morales (Garland), Kacie Galyon (Melissa). Back row: are René Dowl (Garland), Empress Drane (McKinney), Lisa Henderson (Plano), Carole Kuykendall (Greenville), and Joshua Stevenson (McKinney).

Near right: Lone Star Chapter officers. From left to right: Historian Laura Kennemer, Secretary Carrie Land, President-elect Tina Stewart, President Susie Quinn, Immediate Past President Deborah Sorensen, and Treasurer Tenitrus Bethel.



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On September 15 we had a very successful Records Management Workshop in Garland. We had over seventy participants registered to attend. All the speakers were knowledgeable, and everyone came away with at least one tidbit of new knowledge. Our speakers were Todd Brown, Senior Managing Director at Access Sciences (Houston); Sabrina Butler, Director Administrative Services Police Department (Garland); Rita White-Ross, RN, BSN, CCM and Health Advocate (Garland); Doug Jones, CRM, Records Manager (Fort Worth); Liz Head, Head Notary Trainer, EC Head Consulting (Metroplex). The lovely René Dowl (Garland) was the MC for the day.

We had a great turn-out at our meeting in McKinney at the Old Settler's Recreation Center. Hostess Empress Drane (McKinney) had decorated the room in a fabulous fall motif. We all wanted to hire her to come to our offices and decorate them. After approving minutes, the financial report, and meetings for the coming year, we had a great round table discussion moderated by Kristi Morrow (Frisco) about how "Passion Makes A Difference." We had great recollections regarding the "History of how we got here (how/ why did you become a clerk?)" followed by "What makes you passionate about being a municipal clerk? What challenges make it difficult to show your passion?" and "What can we do to enable our passion to shine through even when it's hard." In addition to our members, we had several special guests from various departments of the City of McKinney to hopefully entice some passion for considering working towards TRMC certification.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 1 in Frisco. It is our holiday get-together with the meeting's business handled first. Then we have a lot of fun with an ornament exchange completed by a silent auction to raise scholarship funds for our members to help them succeed in their careers as a city secretary.



Attendees of the August joint meeting in Richardson with the North Texas Chapter.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Christine Green, TRMC**

City Secretary, University Park

Greeting TMCA Members!

August: Joint Meeting with the Lone Star Chapter

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) held its annual joint meeting with the Lone Star Chapter on August 12. TMCA President and Richardson City Secretary Aimee Nemer hosted the event and was also the guest speaker. Aimee updated the group about TMCA happenings and included a fun slide show with photos featuring chapter members in front of their city landmarks and points of interest. It was so nice to join the Lone Star Chapter for some fun and fellowship!

September: TABC's Tana Travis

NTMCA's September 8 meeting hosted by the City of Roanoke featured perennial favorite Tana Travis of TABC speaking on the September 1 overhaul of the alcohol permitting process. The topic drew big attendance, and it was great to see our regular members as well as some new faces.



At top: Attendees of the North Texas and Lone Star Chapters' joint meeting in Richardson.

Chapter members at the September meeting. *From left to right:* Cynthia Daniels - Blue Mound, Kim Davis - Lake Worth, Monica Solko - Lake Worth, Lisandra Leal - North Richland Hills, and Alicia Richardson - North Richland Hills.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

October: Alicia Richardson, TMCA Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award

Many of our members enjoyed the convenience of virtual meetings that were introduced when COVID-19 began, so NTMCA incorporated a few virtual meetings in its 2021-22 schedule. The October 13 virtual meeting featured TMCA Executive Board Trustee and North Richland Hills City Secretary Alicia Richardson's presentation about the **TMCA Municipal Clerk's Office Achievement of Excellence Award**. She provided tips for preparing the application and encouraged attendees not to be anxious about getting started.

January 12 Athenian Dialogue at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar

NTMCA is hosting an Athenian Dialogue in conjunction with TMCCP's Election Law Seminar at the Embassy Suites Denton Convention Center. Mary Lynne Stratta will lead the group in a discussion of *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman. The dialogue will be from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on January 12, and the \$75 registration fee includes lunch. Please contact me, Christine Green, at 214-987-5302 or cgreen@uptexas.org for more information, and visit the NTMCA website at www.ntmca.org to register.

At top, from left to right: At the September meeting, 2021-22 NTMCA board members President Christine Green, University Park; Vice President Lindsay Wells, Euless; Secretary Art Camacho, Haltom City; Treasurer Alice Holloway, Joshua; and Historian Shelley Scazzero, Hudson Oaks.

At center: Chapter members at the September meeting.

At near right: Attendees of the October virtual chapter meeting.



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

RED RIVER CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**

City Clerk, Wichita Falls

The Red River Chapter met on September 22 in Wichita Falls, at Karat Bar & Bistro, and welcomed TMCA President Aimee Nemer as our special guest.

President Balthrop called the meeting to order, and normal chapter business followed, with the approval of the minutes and financials. Each year the Red River Chapter selects a Christmas Project to support, and Kim Hemmi and Margie Poole were appointed to the 2021 Christmas Committee to select our project. Members also voted to provide a \$100 donation in honor of President Nemer to the Sandra Watkins Election Law Scholarship.

President Nemer provided an update on recent board activities encouraged everyone to attend the TMCCP Advanced Institute, TMCA Annual Business Meeting, and TMCA Awards Banquet in Galveston at the end of October, and reminded us of the 35th Anniversary time capsule and 80's Poolside Party after the banquet. Be sure to **check out the TMCA Facebook page to see the awesome pictures** President Nemer took of some items of interest in Wichita Falls, and watch the **Red River Chapter Facebook page** for upcoming events and meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 8, where we will hold our annual Christmas Ornament Exchange and donate to our annual Christmas Project. We invite and encourage everyone in our area to attend. For more information about the Red River Chapter contact Chapter President Marie Balthrop, Wichita Falls, at marie.balthrop@wichitafallstx.gov.



At the September meeting. *Back row, from left to right:* Sharon McFadden, TRMC, Graham; Margie Poole, Burkburnett; Kim Hemmi, TRMC, Scotland; Gerri Ayres, Holliday. *Front row:* Marie Balthrop, TRMC, Wichita Falls; Sandy Page, TRMC, Bowie; TMCA President Aimee Nemer, TRMC, Richardson; and Alison Sanders, Lakeside City.

*Congratulations to Sharon McFadden
on her installation as a new TMCA Executive Board Trustee
and for receiving her Athenian Fellow designation!*

*Congratulations to Marie Balthrop
on her selection as the
2021 Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year!*

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

By Chapter Historian **Angela Smith, TRMC**

Dir. of Admin. Services/City Secretary, Cleveland

Welcome from the Salt Grass Chapter. The chapter returned from the summer break roaring to get back to business. In August we held our monthly meeting in the City of Spring Valley Village, where Julie Robinson explained the ins and outs of creating ordinances and resolutions. This is always a great session and very informative. The meeting was held both virtually and in person.

We hold our awesome Public Information Seminar each September. Last year we changed from an in person event to a virtual event due to COVID. We continued with the virtual event this year and it was still very well received. Olson & Olson and other attorneys were speakers, as well as other city secretaries. There were over 66 participants registered.



Jenny Page and Humble mayor

Of course, it would not be a fall season without a hurricane or tropical storm that threatens our coastal area. This year was no exception as we had Hurricane Nicholas come to town in September.

Jenny Page, former Humble City Secretary, retired October 1. A retirement party was held for her in Humble, where she received a proclamation from her mayor and city manager.



The August chapter meeting in Spring Valley Village.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Angela Smith, City Secretary/Director of Admin Services celebrated a service milestone of 10 years with the City of Cleveland in September.

The Salt Grass Chapter nominated Doris Speer, Tomball City Secretary, for Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year. The Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year will be awarded at the October TMCA Awards Banquet in Galveston.

Did you know that the City of Alvin has a Santa Fe Train Depot? Well they do, and the Salt Grass group held their October meeting there. During the meeting, nominations for the next year’s board were accepted and the elections were scheduled to be held in November during the monthly meeting held at the City of Tomball. After the October meeting ended, members stayed and stuffed the TMCCP Advanced Institute swag bags for the October session being held in Galveston at the end of October.

Also in the month of October the City of Houston hosted the TML Conference at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Some of our Salt Grass Chapter members volunteered at TMCA’s TML booth. TMCA’s giveaway was popcorn and it was very popular. Thanks to everyone who helped out.



Inset: Angela Smith recognized by the City of Cleveland for her service.

At top: Ann Franklin, city secretary, Bastrop, and Angela Smith, city secretary/director of administrative services, Cleveland, volunteer at TMCA’s TML booth.

At near right: At the chapter’s October meeting in Alvin at the Santa Fe Train Depot.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Upcoming chapter events:

- December is our board installation and holiday luncheon. Visit our Facebook page for great photos of our past holiday events.
- January will be our monthly event that is hosted by Linebarger, location to be announced.
- At the October meeting in Alvin the chapter discussed our 2022 meeting schedule with hosted cities. Keep checking our Facebook page for the calendar to be published.

Please follow or like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TMCASalt-GrassChapter](https://www.facebook.com/TMCASaltGrassChapter) for upcoming meetings, events and even some job postings.

Thanks for taking the time to read our chapter news. Have a great day and see you around.



December 2020: The Salt Grass Chapter's Christmas Party. Pictured: Roxanne Benitez, city secretary, Spring Valley, and Thelma Gilliam, city secretary, West University Place.

Above: Chapter members at their meeting at the City of Alvin's Santa Fe Train Depot.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

By Chapter Secretary **Veronica Olguin, TRMC**

City Manager/Secretary, Morton

The South Plains Chapter met on September 15 at Saltgrass Steak House in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Pam King from the City of Slaton.

Chapter President Kim Perez of Ralls called the meeting to order and introductions of members and guests took place.

Pam King introduced speaker Clifton Shaw, Mayor, City of Slaton. Mayor Clifton Shaw began his career as mayor for the City of Slaton on June 5, 2021. He spoke to the group about his life growing up on a farm in Dickens, Texas, and working hard and doing good. He was a teacher's pet because he never wanted to cause any trouble. He went to college in Levelland, worked in the oil fields, and then for USPS in charge of logistics. He challenged us to "Put yourself out there, look for new challenges, educate yourself and never stop trying."

President Perez made the following announcement: If anyone would like to be a part of the South Plains Chapter email group and you are not getting emails already, please give your email address to Zanea Carpenter, Muleshoe, so she can get you added to the group.

President Perez administered the oath of office to Elena Quintanilla, City of Ransom Canyon, for the position of treasurer.

Patricia Isaguirre, committee chairman, reported to the members on Chapter Seminar which will be an Athenian Dialogue on the book, *The Spy Who Loved*, led by Janette Goodall. This seminar can be attended in person or virtually. SPAG has allowed us to use their media room at no charge for the day and Janette has offered to present the dialogue at no charge. There are 9 signed up for the dialogue in-person and 15 virtual.



South Plains Chapter members at the TML Annual Conference in Houston in October.

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Kirk Franklin contacted President Kim Perez regarding the donation from the chapter of a \$100.00 gift card for TMCCP Advanced Institute and would like to donate this gift card on behalf of the chapter.

A donation was approved of \$250.00 each to the TMCCP Dorothy Byrd, Lila Fern, and Dr. Joyce Snay scholarships.

Members were encouraged to apply for the local chapter scholarships. Applications can be obtained from the Chapter Secretary, Veronica Olguin. The deadline to apply for scholarships is November 15.

The next meeting will be December 15. City of Symer will host the meeting.

Members and guests in attendance at the chapter meeting:

Zanea Carpenter, TRMC, City Secretary, Muleshoe

Andrea Corley, TRMC, City Secretary, Levelland

Betty Conde, TRMC, City Secretary, Lamesa

Melissa Fields-Allgeyer, Human Resources, Levelland

Becky Garza, TRMC, City Secretary, Lubbock

Lisa Hernandez, City Secretary, Lorenzo

Patricia Isaguirre, TRMC, City Secretary, Hale Center

Brittany Moore, City Secretary, New Deal

Kim Perez, TRMC, City Administrator, Ralls

Courtney Paz-Rivera, TRMC, Deputy City Secretary, Lubbock

Beth Walls, TRMC, Retired City Secretary, Levelland

Cheyenne Flores, City Secretary, Crosbyton

Isabel Martinez, Utility Clerk, Lorenzo

Jennifer Clements, TRMC, Assistant to City Secretary, Lubbock

Pamela King, TRMC, City Secretary, Slaton

Sam Gomez, Morton

Elena Quintanilla, TRMC, City Manager, Town of Ransom Canyon

Carina Reyes, Management Assistant, Lubbock

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, Retired City Manager, Muleshoe

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

By Chapter President **Amber Villarreal, TRMC**

Assistant City Secretary, Waxahachie

Fall is in the air which means budget season is over... for now!

The Yellow Rose Chapter has returned to in-person meetings while also allowing members to participate via Zoom. During our September 2 meeting, hosted by the City of Burleson, the Yellow Rose Chapter recognized past president Angie Wade. During her time as President, Angie was instrumental in the chapter hosting its first Athenian Dialogue. Her knowledge and professionalism make her a true asset to fellow Municipal Clerks. Thank you, Angie, for your friendship and leadership! At our meeting we also awarded \$300 seminar registration scholarships to Susana Marin of Mansfield and Cynthia Olguin of Hutchins. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients and I applaud them for continuing their education in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program.

At our October 14 meeting, we were excited to welcome TMCA President Aimee Nemer to our meeting hosted by the City of Mansfield. President Nemer provided updates from the Board and invited clerks to attend the Advanced Institute seminar in Galveston. She invited members to celebrate the 35th anniversary of incorporation of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association while in Galveston. President Nemer encouraged members to serve on a TMCA committee(s) and get involved. Thank you President Nemer for your leadership and for taking time to visit with our chapter!



Top: Chapter at the September meeting in Burleson. *Above:* Chapter at the October meeting in Mansfield.

YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

Hope you all have a special holiday season and enjoy time with your loved ones!

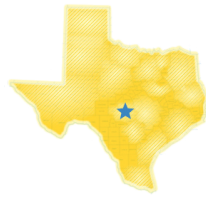
The Yellow Rose Chapter holiday meeting will be held in December, date and location TBD. If you are interested in joining our chapter or visiting at one of our meetings, please reach out to myself, avillarreal@waxahachie.com or Membership Committee Chair Cynthia Olguin colguin@cityofhutchins.org.

Visit our website: www.yellowrosetmca.com.



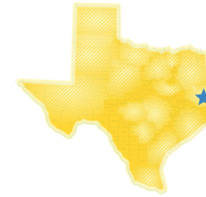
Chapter Past President Angie Wade is celebrated.

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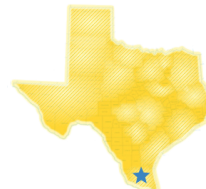
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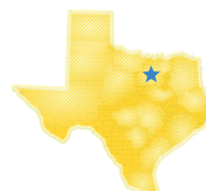
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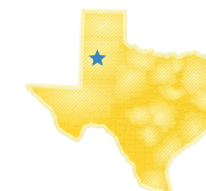
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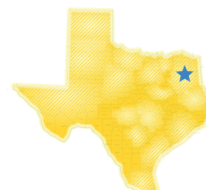
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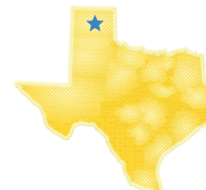
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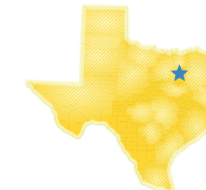
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YELLOW ROSE CHAPTER

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