President’s Message

“What Will Your Legacy Be?”

Have you ever thought about your legacy—how you will be remembered? Who do you want to recognize your legacy—family members, perhaps your community?

What about your employer? Your work ethic, your actions, and your character all affect your legacy as an employee. It isn’t too late to start. A legacy is comprised of a lifetime of relationships, accomplishments, truths, and values, and it lives on in those whose lives it has touched. Begin by asking yourself what is important? What are your values? What do you want to symbolize? You do not have to be a Rembrandt, a First Lady, or a legend to leave behind a great legacy. However, today is the best time to begin the process. What will your stamp look like as a result of your life choices?
**President’s Message**

*Lifetime of learning and emotional growth*

We begin learning from the moment life begins. We learn the difference between right and wrong; things that are important and things that are not; things that are good and things that are better. Learning comes through many sources: books, people, tragedies, nature, life experiences, and even fun. Learning shapes us. It results in personal growth, knowledge, and purpose.

Emotional growth is equally important. Emotions play a large part in the development of knowledge. A healthy outlook in life can enhance your motivation and job performance. You also grow emotionally by being kind to your fellow human beings every day, even when no one is watching. How we live our lives now could have significant meaning after we leave.

*Exemplify your accomplishments, truths, and values*

Leadership expert John C. Maxwell says “a leader’s lasting value is measured by succession.” Lead with not only today in mind but tomorrow as well. Specifically in your career, attempt to fulfill your obligations with added value and pride. There will be temptations to take short cuts and bend your integrity. Be true to yourself and honor what is right. Give those who come after you reasons to follow your example. Your accomplishments, integrity, and values will inspire your successors.

*Giving of oneself*

Did you have help from others on your path to your career or success? Why not give back and mentor someone on her path. Care more about others than they care about you. Go above and beyond and give more than you get in return. Life is best lived in service to others. Those who live unselfish and compassionate lives will be well remembered.

*Ethics*

Ethics can be described as a system of principles and moral values which help keep you disciplined in uncertain times. Your ethics will give direction to decisions you make on a daily basis. Knowing what
is important to you will shine light on how you should live your life. Conduct your life as an example to citizens and co-workers. How you govern your ethics can be a big factor in what your stamp will read.

**Contributions and civic responsibility**

To lend a helping hand is to contribute toward something or someone. Give extra time and effort to a project at work. Give selflessly to your community because you desire to make it better. Volunteering your service to your community is the basis for its continued growth. It is a citizen’s civic responsibility to help his community prosper. Will your service be missed when you are gone?

**Your decision to make a difference**

Be accountable for your actions. Always look for an opportunity to do good things in life. Decide what you want out of life and begin to sow the seeds. You will reap what you sow. Maybe it will become your legacy. Leave a positive mark.

What will your legacy say about you when you leave? ★

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**TMCCP Seminars**

**OMA, PIA, Records Seminar**

*June 16-17, Omni Colonnade, San Antonio*

Join us in San Antonio this month! Moderator Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte, and a team of speakers will cover the Open Meetings Act, the Public Information Act, records management, parliamentary procedure and more. **Registration is still open—learn more here! ★**

**Upcoming Educational & Networking Opportunities**

- **August 11-12, Granbury • Registration opens late June**
- **TMCCP “Organizational Behavior” Seminar**
- **August 19, Wichita Falls • Registration open**
- **Red River Chapter’s Athenian Dialogue: “Walt Disney”**
- **September 14, Deer Park • contact Melinda Welsh for information**
- **Salt Grass Chapter’s 15th Annual Public Information Seminar**
- **October 4-7, Austin • Learn more here**
- **Texas Municipal League Conference**
Ethics

A high ranking city official in Maine was publicly censured by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) in 2015 for ethical violations resulting from the town unknowingly paying the city official’s wife’s and daughter’s cell phone bill.

A high ranking county administrator was publicly censured and permanently barred from future membership in ICMA because she directed staff to pay her funds designated as deferred compensation and also instructed staff to compensate her for unused sick and vacation time in excess of the amount provided for in the policy. She then lied to county commissioners when providing details about the matter.

A town manager from North Carolina was publicly censured, permanently expelled from membership in ICMA, and had his ICMA credential revoked because (among other violations) he received more than $366,000 in reimbursements for purchases that appeared personal in nature and were unassociated with his duties as town manager.

A former city secretary in Texas (not affiliated with the TMCA program) was convicted of Class 1 felony theft by a public servant for stealing a large amount of money while collecting taxes and water payments for her town.

Unfortunately, ethical violations are not an uncommon occurrence in local government. And yet, can ethics really be taught? Although there is some dissension, most people would argue that ethics can and should be taught. Ethics consists of knowing what we ought to do, and in this regard such knowledge can be taught. Ethics also involves a person’s morals. Just as there are stages of growth in other areas, the ability to think morally also develops in stages. TMCA highlights ethical decision making in many areas of our program. Our strategic plan stresses ethical conduct, our code of professional ethics is meant to guide our behavior, the homework necessary to complete the TMCCCP presents college-level material related to responsible, ethical administration, and we ask most of our seminar trainers to touch on topics related to ethics.

Of course, the largest majority of our membership would never even consider participating in or condoning be-
Education Director’s Corner

Behaviors like those referenced in the opening of this article. However, it is always a good idea to review best practices for fostering a culture of ethics. Scholars who study the topic of ethics recommend: providing ongoing training and resources on ethical decision-making, including ethics-related considerations in employee performance reviews, highlighting the importance of ethical behavior as early as the job interview and onboarding process, including ethics-related values in the organization’s mission statement and strategic goals, and modeling values-based behavior by organization leaders. Is your municipality doing these things? What role can you play in your organization to foster a culture of sound ethical decision-making?

TMCCP Certificates Earned

Congratulations to the following enrollees who earned course certificates in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program after completing the homework, attending the required seminars, and passing the examination for the designated course.

**Course 1**
Amy Anderson, Lakeside City

**Course 3**
Amy Anderson, Lakeside City
Kristy Andrews, Plano
Ruby Beaver, Rockport
Belinda Berg, Cedar Hill
Cheryl Brown, Kerrville
Ginger Choate, Flower Mound
Peggy Clifton, Mineral Wells
Grace Cruzen, Alvin
René Dow, Garland
Lacie Hale, Westlake Hills
Kimberly Hemmi, Scotland
Caitlyn Huddleston, Gainesville
Rebecca Huerta, Corpus Christi
Kandi Jackson, Sunnyvale
Laura Kennemer, Quinlan

Jeannie Kenyon, Arlington
Kathy Moore, Kennedale
Holly Nagy, Converse
Virginia Ochoa, Winters
Veronica Olguin, Morton
Marissa Quintanilla, Willis
Amber Schuler, Shady Shores
Crystal Seagler, Hunters Creek Village
Allison Tidwell, Fort Worth

**Course 4**
Lorri Coody, Jersey Village
Deborah Hale, Collinsville
Jeannie Kenyon, Arlington
Elena Quintanilla, Ransom Canyon
Crystal Seagler, Hunters Creek Village
Elizabeth M. Walker, Weslaco

IIMC Bulletin

Congratulations to Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball, on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Longtime TMCA member Doris Speer earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) designation from TMCCP in 2003 (No. 433) and is enrolled in her third recertification. She is a member of the Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA. Doris currently serves on the TMCA Resolutions Committee.
Severe Weather Awareness Week. Safe Digging Month. Hurricane Season. As you see these proclamations march across your council agendas over the next few months, do you ever think about what would happen to your office in an emergency or disaster?

Like many cities, we are fortunate to have an excellent IT department who has planned ahead for redundancy and fiber lines. We are also lucky to live in a county that works on tabletop exercises with local entities and TDEM and runs the EOC. But what if we couldn’t work in the geographic county area at all? What if the air were poisoned or there was some other incident we couldn’t anticipate (East Coast blackout of October 2003/Ebola scare/West explosion)? It may sound like the stuff of a summer blockbuster, but nothing seems to hold off the impossible like preparation.

So, while your emergency operations coordinator is thinking about where the computers, phones, food, and toilet paper will come from, I urge you to think about your position and staff. Think about the many hats you wear and how you can improve your readiness.

• **City Council**—Do you have your basic agenda and minutes templates saved to a secure folder on Dropbox or Google Drive? Have you updated the list of people it is shared with so someone could take over if something happens to you? Will your mayor need to issue quarantine notices or apply to disaster assistance? What other drafts documents might you need (ordinances, resolutions)?

• **Records**—Talk to your IT department about where your website is actually supported. If you have digitization software like Laserfiche, under what conditions would it be available if you were trying to access it electronically from somewhere else? Is your online code web-based independently of your servers? If you couldn’t get to any of that, what key documents would you want in Google Drive (charter, rules of procedure, purchasing policy, password cheat sheet for your websites and social media platforms, other)?

• **City Reference Desk**—Do your staff, city council members, and key city staff know how to reach each other and other community leaders when nothing works but text and Twitter? Go to the Council of State Archivists site ([http://bit.ly/1WuapQt](http://bit.ly/1WuapQt)) and customize Pocket Response Planners (PReP) for your team, and keep them up to date.
Emergency Preparation For Your Office

- **Communications**—
  - Learn about Virtual Operations Support Teams (VOSTs) by viewing the explanatory slide show at [http://thinkdisaster.com/category/vost/](http://thinkdisaster.com/category/vost/).
  - Consider mutual aid agreements with surrounding or regional cities for municipal clerk and/or PIO assistance. Start a quarterly lunch group of PIOs/EOC staff in your community, so you get to know each other (and also usually learn lots along the way). Don’t forget to include PIOs for major local industries, hospitals, DPS, etc., depending on what’s where you are. Utilize Skype and other technology to build your safety net and get used to using new software and technology to already have accounts in place. Have you and your staff completed NIMS/ICS 100/200/700/800? Any others? What other training might you benefit from (cannot recommend the FEMA/NDPTC PER 304 class enough, and it’s free)?
  - **Set up pages** (even if just in draft mode) on your website already stocked with primary information and links to sites such as Red Cross and FEMA to have initial help to offer just by activating the page or directing the public there.
  - **Draft press releases and canned social media messaging** for likely major events in your area with blanks for what you would need to fill in on the fly

- **Build the Go Kit**—Make it fit in a box you can pick up & carry when full, and keep it in your car if you can. Customize it for your job (if you do more PIO work, you may need a camera, if you do video, more battery packs and chargers, etc.). The point is not to have a full office, but to get to the incident site or EOC and be able to start working right away.
  - **Office supplies**—not everything on your desk, but small-sized stapler, tape, clipboards (I like at least one legal length and 1-2 that have a hinged storage area underneath, paper clips, rubber bands, binder clips, sticky notes, notepads, pens, highlighters, markers, extra ID badges for you and your staff, an extra copy or two of that updated Pocket Response Planner mentioned above, password cheat sheet for your websites and social media platforms
  - **Personal comfort**—mints/gum, deodorant, toothpaste, lip balm, personal hygiene items, hairbrush/hairclips, prescriptions, medication, spare glasses/contacts/solution
  - **Other**—flashlight, recorder, batteries, chargers, safety vest, snacks

Think about all of these kinds of things now, because there will be plenty else to focus on as a situation unfolds. Additionally, this is part of portraying your professionalism and helping you stay calm and address the things you can’t do in advance. If anyone has to step in for you or assist, they won’t be starting from scratch. And everyone in the EOC will love you when they need a spare pen, sheet of paper, piece of gum... ★
Volunteer: It Has Surprising Benefits!

By President Elect Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, City of Hewitt

Volunteer for a 2017 TMCA Committee By September 1

Why should one volunteer? There are a number of benefits—here are just a few. Volunteering connects you to others. It helps you expand your support network, and we all know the benefit of networking. Volunteering is good for your mind and body: it helps increase your self-confidence and your sense of purpose, thereby combating stress and anxiety. Volunteering encourages renewed creativity and motivation. This, in turn, will help you make a difference in our Association and possibly some other venture in your life. Volunteering can also help you advance your career. That is not to suggest that you would want another career! However, volunteering gives the opportunity to polish your skills used in the workplace such as teamwork, problem solving, and communication.

My hope is that I have convinced you to serve on one of the ten TMCA committees for 2017. The committees are: Audit, Certification, Membership, Clerk of the Year, Nominating, Resolution, Retirement, Scholarship, Technology, and TML Booth. Our goal is to have a diverse representation from every chapter in our Association. Most committees meet via phone or email.

Please read the TMCA Committee Criteria Policy, and then complete the Committee Interest Questionnaire. The deadline for submission is September 1, 2016. Send your questionnaire to: Lydia Lopez, TRMC, City Secretary, City of Hewitt, P.O. Box 610, Hewitt, TX 76643, or email to citysecretary@cityofhewitt.com.

Take this opportunity to volunteer your time and talent. Together, we can continue to make our Association the most outstanding professional organization in Texas!☆
Honoring 2016 TMCA Retirees

By Retirement Committee Chair Kathy Hoover, TRMC
City Secretary, City of Gilmer

Notify us of your 2016 retirement plans so we may honor you!

The TMCA Retirement Committee is seeking your help to assist us in identifying our 2016 retirees. If you are a city secretary/municipal clerk who plans to retire this year (January 1 to December 31, 2016) please complete the 2016 TMCA Member Retirement Information Sheet as soon as possible and return it to me or either of my fellow committee members: Kimberly Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls; or Beth Nemeth, TRMC, city secretary, Blooming Grove.

Our committee is working diligently to complete our 2016 retiree list before our October 27 Annual TMCA Awards Banquet in Galveston. Names of all TMCA retirees will be announced at the banquet. For all of our retirees: please consider this as a final recognition by our Association and a time to be honored for your service and dedication to your citizens, co-workers, and colleagues. Please try to attend the banquet if at all possible.

On behalf of all your peers at TMCA, the Retirement Committee congratulates all 2016 retirees and we send our best wishes for a rewarding retirement. Your professional accomplishments are a great source of pride and inspiration to those of us who follow in your footsteps.
IIMC Annual Conference

May 22-25, Omaha, Nebraska

Congratulations to 2011 TMCA President Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth, who was installed as IIMC president elect at the 70th Annual International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference this May in Omaha, Nebraska! Congratulations also to City Clerk Leticia Vacek, TRMC, and the City of San Antonio on being selected as one of the 2016 winners of IIMC’s Program Excellence in Governance Award. And congratulations to Kara Atwood, TRMC, city secretary, Lufkin; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; and Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball, on becoming IIMC Athenian Fellows.

Below: TMCA President Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman, represents Texas in IIMC’s Parade of Flags. At top right: Fort Worth City Secretary Mary Kayser, TRMC, is sworn in as IIMC president elect at the IIMC Annual Business Meeting by Camilla Pitman of North Carolina. Below right: San Antonio City Clerk Leticia Vacek, TRMC, is awarded a Program Excellence in Governance Award during the IIMC opening ceremony.
Above: Texas Clerks at the IIMC Conference in Omaha. *Seated, from left to right:* IIMC President Elect Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; Betty Brown, TRMC; TMCA President Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/asst. city manager, Spearman; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station. *Standing:* Jannette Goodall, TRMC, city clerk, Austin; Myrna Rios, TRMC, assistant city clerk, Austin; Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson; Teresa Scott, TRMC, town secretary, Flower Mound; Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney; Cynthia Singleton, TRMC; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; and Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco.

*At right:* Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Amy Holt, TRMC, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; Betty Brown, TRMC, and a friendly waiter at dinner in Omaha’s Old Market District.
Above: IIMC Region IV members attend the banquet: Diane Whitbey, city clerk and treasurer, North Little Rock, Arkansas; former IIMC Region IV director and incoming IIMC president elect Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; and Mary Ann Hess, city clerk/fin. director, Laurel, Mississippi.

At center right: IIMC President Elect Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; and IIMC Elections Committee Chair Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson, celebrate Leticia’s Program Excellence in Governance Award.

At top right, first two rows: Texas clerks attend the IIMC Conference opening ceremony.

At far right: Attendees at the 70s-themed IIMC All Conference Event “From Groovy To Far Out To Let’s Boogie and Disco.”

At near right: Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; and Amy Holt, TRMC, education director, TMCA/TMCCP enjoy a Persian dinner in Omaha’s Old Market District.
TMCCP Public Funds Investment Seminar

April 21-22, Lubbock

The TMCCP “Public Funds Investment” Seminar in Lubbock with speaker Patrick Shinkle was a great success. Over 140 were in attendance. The South Plains Chapter of TMCA was a generous host to attendees, and with support from sponsors Atmos Energy, Franklin Legal Publishing, and Underwood Attorneys at Law, arranged for a fun visit to Lubbock’s historical Depot District and the Cactus Theater on Thursday night.

At left: Speaker Patrick Shinkle displays door prizes generously donated by the South Plains Chapter. Below and at right: Attendees at Lubbock’s Cactus Theater.
Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative Lydia Lopez, TRMC
City Secretary, Hewitt

The TML Board of Directors met March 4 at the Texas Municipal Center in Austin. The following business items were discussed and considered:

1. **Presidential Appointments:** TML President C. J. Wax made his appointments to the 2016 TML Budget and Audit Committee, 2016 TML Executive Committee, and the Southern Municipal Conference Board.

2. **Annexation Study, Messaging, and Budget Amendment:** The TML board approved an amendment to the 2015-2016 TML budget to fund an interim economic study, messaging, and polling with regards to defending city annexation authority. This preparation will assist the League in fending off bills that will negate city annexation authority during future legislative sessions.

3. **Legislative Update:** TML Deputy Executive Director Shanna Igo announced the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief will be conducting a series of public hearings across the state on property tax reform and relief. The League encourages all concerned city officials to testify if there is one in your area because it is imperative that the committee hear about the detrimental effects of revenue caps.

4. **2016 TML Budget and Audit Committee’s Recommendation for CPA Firm to Provide TML’s Audit and Tax Services:** The board approved the committee’s recommendation of Glass & Company to provide TML’s audit and tax services.

5. **TML Purpose Statement:** The board approved the TML Purpose Statement, “Empowering Texas cities to serve their citizens.” This purpose statement will be used for email signatures, website homepages, letterhead and such.

6. **Adoption of TML Succession Policy for Executive Director:** The board approved the adoption of the “TML
Succession Policy for Executive Director.” President Wax assured the board that Executive Director Bennett has no plans of leaving and the purpose was preparation for the future.

7. Adoption of TML Board Expense Policy. The board approved the TML Board Expense Policy as submitted. This policy formalizes current procedures relating to event and travel reimbursements for TML board members.

8. Consider TML Annual Conference Site Selection for 2020: The board approved TML staff recommendation to conduct the 2020 conference in Grapevine at the Gaylord Texan.

9. Legal Update: General Counsel Scott Houston briefed the board on municipal legal issues.

10. Membership Services Report. TML Deputy Executive Director Rachael Pitts provided a report on the current membership which totaled at 1,148.

The next scheduled meeting will be held in Rockport on June 23-24.
The Alamo Chapter officers met on February 24 at the City of Helotes Fire Department Training Room to discuss our responsibilities as committee liaisons; 2016 fundraising opportunities; and scholarship funds for 2015 and 2016. The officers discussed ways to encourage membership and participation in the Alamo Chapter. We also discussed possible fundraising ideas for 2016/2017 to be considered by our members as we prepare our 2017/2018 budget.

After the officers’ meeting, the Alamo Chapter members met. Our guest speaker was Kirk Franklin, president/attorney at law, Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc. Mr. Franklin spoke to the members on the services his company provided on codification of ordinances and what should and should not be codified. He also provided helpful tips on improving the ease of researching city information.

Chapter Vice President Leticia Saenz thanked Mr. Franklin for attending and the chapter gave him a small token of appreciation.

The chapter is making some big changes to promote certification of our members and with these changes come the much needed financial support that some of our members need. Chapter members will get a look at and vote on those fundraising options at our June chapter meeting. From there,
those options will be considered and funded through our budget process.

From all of us with the Alamo Chapter, we wish you all a happy, safe and fun summer!

If you are in our area and would like to join the Alamo Chapter, we would love to have you. Please contact the Alamo Chapter Membership Committee at CitySec@helotes-tx.gov or cityadmin@cityofnatalia.com for more information.
Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter Historian Ryan Polster
City Secretary, Hamilton

The Bluebonnet Chapter held their March meeting in Breckenridge at city hall. Breckenridge Assistant City Secretary Diane Latham and City Secretary Heather Robertson-Caraway greeted everyone and introduced City Administrator Andy McCuistion. Mr. McCuistion gave the group a tour of new facilities in the city park and discussed Breck Trade Days with the members.

Chapter Treasurer Danette Dunlap reported the balance of the chapter Scholarship Fund. This year the Bluebonnet Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Heather Robertson-Caraway, city secretary, Breckenridge.

For the remaining 2016 chapter meetings dates, Abilene will host on June 8 with a topic of “Communications and Social Media”; Dublin will host on September 14; and Early will host on December 14.

Cities in the Bluebonnet Chapter area include: Abilene, Albany, Anson, Ballinger, Baird, Bangs, Breckenridge, Bronte, Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Cisco, Clyde, Coleman, Comanche, Cross Plains, DeLeon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Eden, Gorman, Gustine, Hamilton, Hamlin, Haskell, Hawley, Lueders, Merkel, Moran, Ranger, Rising Star, Roby, Robert Lee, Roscoe, Rotan, San Angelo, Snyder, Stamford, Stephenville, Sweetwater, Throckmorton, Trent, Tuscola, Tye, Winters, and Woodson. Your membership in the Bluebonnet Chapter will provide an excellent opportunity to network with experienced professionals. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Karen Wilkerson.
Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Lucretia Alvarez, TRMC
City Secretary, Elgin

The Capital Chapter met on March 2 at the City of West Lake Hills with thirteen members present. Capital Chapter Treasurer Lacie Hale hosted the group; Mayor Linda Anthony welcomed everyone to the City of West Lake Hills.

Guest speaker Bennett Sandlin, executive director, Texas Municipal League, spoke regarding the open carry and concealed handguns, as an update since the new legislative laws went into effect January 1, 2016. Christy Drake-Adams, legal counsel, Texas Municipal League, also spoke regarding new Texas Ethics Commission forms CIS, CIQ, and 1295, which must be filed with the Texas Ethics Commission.

There was a lunch break at 12:00 noon, and Jason’s Deli sandwiches were brought in by Joy Hart and provided for by Franklin Legal. The meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m. for the business portion of the meeting.

The Capital Chapter was scheduled to meet next in the City of Manor on May 11. Please contact Jeana Bellinger at JBellinger@cityofbrenham.org if you would like to attend one of our meetings or gather more information about our chapter.

Those attending included:
Lucretia Alvarez, TRMC, city secretary, Elgin
Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown
Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham
Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia
Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander
Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills
Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron
Joy Hart, TRMC, account manager, Franklin Legal
Cara McPartland, TRMC, city secretary, Wimberley
Debora Penberg, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Leander
Melissa Perry, city secretary, Jarrell
LeAnn Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Cedar Park
Historian Robyn Ryan, city secretary, Rollingwood
Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Amber Fuller, TRMC
City Secretary, Hubbard

The Central Texas Chapter held a bi-monthly meeting on December 4 at Heitmiller Steak House in Lacy Lakeview. Action was taken to amend the Central Texas Chapter bylaws to change meeting times to quarterly rather than bi-monthly. The chapter also discussed nominations for the 2016-2018 officers. Then the chapter enjoyed participating in its annual Christmas Ornament Exchange.

The chapter held a quarterly meeting on March 30 hosted by the City of Hewitt. After enjoying lunch from McAlister’s Deli, Lydia Lopez swore in the 2016-2018 officers. The new officers are President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Robinson; Vice President Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary/finance director, Mexia; Secretary Amber Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Hubbard; Assistant Secretary Michelle Ficker, administrative assistant, Robinson;

Top photo: Front row, from left to right: Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville; Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Robinson; Christi Shivers, TRMC, city sec./fin. dir., Mexia; Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; and Michelle Ficker, admin. asst., Robinson. Back row: Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; Amber Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Hubbard; Cresandra Polk, rec. coord., Waco; Donna Barkley, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway; Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan’s Point Resort; Liz Caraway, asst. city secretary, Waco; and Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC, city secretary, Waco.

Near right photo: 2016-2018 chapter officers: Historian Crystal Briggs; Secretary Amber Fuller; President Jana Lewellen, TRMC; Vice President Christi Shivers, TRMC; Treasurer Michelle Hicks, TRMC; and Assistant Secretary Michelle Ficker.
Treasurer Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; Historian Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville; and Benevolence Officer Roshuna Wiley, deputy city secretary/water dept. sup., Mexia. The chapter discussed plans for the annual Summers Mill Retreat.

Upcoming chapter meeting dates: June – hosted by Mexia; September – hosted by Morgan’s Point Resort.

Chapter members present at the meeting:
President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Robinson
Amber Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Hubbard
Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville
Michelle Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview
Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary/fin. dir., Mexia
Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt
Micelle Ficker, administrative assistant, Robinson
Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan’s Point Resort
Donna Barkley, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway
Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC, city secretary, Waco
Liz Caraway, assistant city secretary, Waco
Cresandra Polk, records coordinator, Waco
Greetings from the beautiful Hill Country! In the height of election season the Hill Country Chapter hopes you took some time for yourself and visited us. With all of the bluebonnets and wildflowers blooming this season it has been amazing, and if you’ve never visited the Hill Country consider this your personal invitation!

The Hill Country Chapter met together in February in the City of Fredericksburg, with City Secretary Shelley Britton hosting the meeting. Lunch was held February 17 at the Rathskeller Restaurant which is always a favorite to visit in Fredericksburg.

What a great group of ladies representing our Hill Country Chapter.

Election of officers were held and the following were elected: President Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano; Vice President Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals; Treasurer Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; and Secretary Kristi Bannowsky, city secretary,

Photos from the January TMCCP graduation ceremony. At top: In good company: Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals, receiving her third recertification along with Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio, receiving her fifth recertification.

Center photo, from left to right: Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville (fourth recertification); Elaine Simpson, TRMC; and Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt (third recertification).

Near right, left to right: Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan (fourth recertification), and Brenda Craig, TRMC.

Recertifying chapter members not pictured: Christina McDonald, TRMC, city secretary, Marble Falls (third recertification); Teresa Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay (first recertification); and Christa Bromley, TRMC, dir. admin. services/dep. city secretary, Burnet (second recertification). (CONGRATULATIONS LADIES!)
Junction. A special personal thanks to Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville, who held the position of president of the chapter for a number of years. Brenda has served our chapter well and will continue to do so.

Congratulations were handed out to Teresa Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay; Crista Bromley, TRMC, director administrative services/deputy city secretary, Burnet; Christina McDonald, TRMC, city secretary, Marble Falls; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals; and Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville, on their TRMC certifications and recertifications. The Hill Country Chapter is so proud of you all for your hard work and dedication to the profession!

The Hill Country Chapter gathered in Fredericksburg in April at the infamous Friedholm’s Authentic German Restaurant. You know “the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach”? Well, it could work for the ladies, too. Newly elected President Toni Milam conducted the regular order of business for the chapter.

President Toni Milam held discussions regarding the seminar schedules coming up, nominees for Clerk of the Year, and encouraging those who have never before joined TMCA to do so at a special limited-time discount.

SEE YOU IN SAN ANTONIO, GRANBURY, AUSTIN, AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST GALVESTON.

To join the Hill Country Chapter, please contact President Toni Milam at tmilam@cityofllano.com.
Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President Jenny Page, TRMC
City Secretary, Frisco

December Meeting

The Lone Star Chapter has celebrated its 10th anniversary! This was a very important milestone for the chapter, and even though it’s a little late, we wanted to let everyone know about it. The celebration was held in conjunction with our annual Holiday Luncheon at the Holiday Inn in McKinney on December 2. Check out our website for a slide show of the past 10 years in pictures at www.tmcalonestarchapter.com. Attending charter members were: Carole Kuykendall, interim city secretary, Greenville; Debbie Newell, city secretary (ret.), Greenville; and Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney. Other charter members who are current chapter members but were not able to be in attendance that day were Carol Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie, and Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson.

The following is a summary of the first chapter meeting on June 2005:

On June 10, 2005, members of the existing NTMCA chapter met at McKinney City Hall to discuss the formation of a new chapter to serve areas north of the Dallas/Fort Worth Motorplex. City secretaries in Collin, Greyson, Fannin, Hunt, and Rockwall counties who had been contacted were in attendance. Twenty-seven representatives attended from the following cities: Allen, Fairview, Farmersville, Frisco, Greenville, Honey Grove, Howe, Ladonia, Lavon, Lowry Crossing, McKinney, McLendon-Chisholm, Melissa, Murphy, Nevada, Plano, Princeton, Prosper, Rockwall, Saint Paul, and Wylie.

At top right: Kathy Wingo and Norma Zenk face off over a white elephant ornament exchange at the Lone Star Holiday Luncheon and 10th Anniversary Celebration. At lower right: Sandy Hart examines Lisa Henderson’s ornament for a possible hostile takeover!
Attendees discussed the proposed bylaws, meeting times and location, budget year, dues, and a name for the chapter. Nominations were accepted for officer, and a vote for each position was taken. A discussion and vote resulted in the second Thursday of each month to be the meeting time. There was a consensus that the meetings would be rotated to different counties each month to encourage participation.

After many creative and well thought out suggestions, the majority voted to name the chapter “Lone Star.”

It was determined that yearly dues would be $25 and monthly luncheons would be no more than $10.

The bylaws were discussed and determined to be submitted along with a petition of interested members to the TMCA board of directors for the board’s July board meeting. Subsequently, at the NTMCA meeting, it was determined that the bylaws and petition would go before the board at the September meeting.

The next meeting location was determined to be in Frisco. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Other highlights of the Lone Star Chapter’s December 2, 2016, meeting included discussion regarding amendments to the bylaws, committee appointments, and the upcoming Athenian Dialogue the chapter planned to host at the January 2016 Election Law Seminar. Lunch was followed by a lively and very competitive white elephant ornament exchange.

February Meeting

The February Lone Star Chapter meeting was held at El Chico Café in McKinney with many in attendance.

Many Lone Star Chapter members received honors at the TMCCCP graduation ceremony held during the January TMCCCP Election Law Seminar. The chapter recognized Robyn Battle, TRMC, town secretary, Prosper; Kristy Cole, TRMC, city secretary, Rockwall; and Tina Stewart, TRMC, interim city secretary, The Colony, for receiving their TRMC certifications. The chapter also recognized the following members for recertifying: Alice Snyder, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Plano (first recertification); Kathy Wingo, retired (second recertification); Sandy Hart, TRMC, city secretary, McKinney (third recertification); and Diane Zucco-Ericson, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Plano (third recertification). Kandi Jackson, assistant town secretary, Sunnyvale, and Kristy Andrews, technology services budget analyst, Plano, both passed exams in January. Congratulations, ladies!

The January 20 Athenian Dialogue, on the book The Cruelest Miles, was hosted by the Lone Star Chapter at Frisco City Hall with 27 participants. Facilitator Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, did an excellent job, as always, by challenging clerks to step up to every obstacle as a leader. The chapter decided to make the event an annual one to coincide with the TMCCCP Election Law seminar. Mrs. Stratta has also graciously agreed to facilitate again next year.
Lone Star Chapter

Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen, having attended the Secretary of State’s Election Law Seminar and having co-facilitated the “Step By Step Session for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections” at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar, gave a presentation to the chapter on “Getting Ready for the 2016 Election Cycle.”

March Meeting

Many thanks to the City of Richardson for hosting the March meeting at El Chico Café in McKinney. Nineteen cities were represented.

Scholarship Chair Alice Snyder announced the following recipients were each awarded a $500.00 scholarship to help with certification expenses:

- Vickie Shaw Davis Scholarship – JoAnn Wright, assistant city secretary, Pilot Point
- Lone Star Scholarship – Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen
- Lone Star Scholarship – Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point
- Lone Star Scholarship – Kristi Morrow, assistant city secretary, Frisco
- Lone Star Scholarship – Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, city secretary, Royse City

Mack Reinwand, attorney with Messer Rockerfeller Fort, PLLC, presented information on the recently passed “Texas Open Carry Law.” Mr. Reinwand reviewed the legislation with the group and gave suggestions and
recommendations for handling the complicated situation cities find themselves in. The group discussed how different cities were handling the situation, signage, and what could be done to improve the safety and security of city hall.

In other business, The 2015-2016 Audit Report was presented by Chair Susie Quinn and approved; Special Bylaw Policy and Procedure Committee Chair Kathy Wingo gave an update on a procedure manual that will accompany the recently amended bylaws, and the chapter discussed the progress of the their tax filing status with the IRS to become tax exempt.

April Meeting

The City of Greenville was the host of the April Lone Star Chapter meeting held at Spring Creek BBQ in McKinney. The meeting was well attended with many cities represented. The presentation was “You Had Me At Solid Waste” by Greenville City Attorney Daniel Ray of Scott, Ray, and Sullivan, PLLC, and it was very informative and interesting. Mr. Ray discussed the extremely expensive process governmental entities have to go through to cite violators who dump unwanted and sometimes very hazardous waste in unlawful places. His firm has represented many cities in the past and found a niche that serves them well.
Technology Chair Alice Holloway presented a preview of the new Lone Star Chapter website and asked for feedback from the membership. The website will be available soon at [www.tmcalonestarchapter.com](http://www.tmcalonestarchapter.com). The membership was excited to see the updated look for the chapter and agreed it was a needed change.

City Secretary Christie Wilson announced her retirement after over 30 years of service to The Colony. Her city honored her with a reception on April 15 and presented her with her very own street sign, “Christie Wilson Way.” TMCA Trustee Shelley George presented her with a monogramed TMCA blanket. Also attending the reception was Lone Star members Jenny Page, Deborah Sorenson, Susie Quinn, Lisa Henderson, and Tina Stewart. Christie is leaving her duties in the very capable hands of Assistant City Secretary Tina Stewart as interim until a replacement is named. Christie has served the Lone Star Chapter and TMCA in various ways over the years and plans to remain a member and keep her certifications current. Christie says she also plans to expand her role as “Nana” to her grandchildren.

If you would like to attend a Lone Star Chapter meeting please contact Chapter President Jenny Page at [jpage@friscotexas.gov](mailto:jpage@friscotexas.gov) or check our new website for membership and meeting information at [www.tmcalonestarchapter.com](http://www.tmcalonestarchapter.com). Our meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am, and cost is $15.00. The meetings are usually held in a central location, such as McKinney, but occasionally in host cities. We would love to have you as a guest or a member.
Greetings to our fellow chapters from the North Texas Chapter!

A big thank you to Theresa Scott, city secretary, Flower Mound, for hosting our February meeting at the Flower Mound Town Hall. We had SO much fun! It is always such a pleasure have Marcel Brunel speak to our group. He is engaging, fun, and we always learn something new! Marcel spoke to the group about emotional triggers. He discussed how your IQ will get us the job, but your EQ will help you keep the job. We each have three personae—our underlying (home), our every day (work), and our overextended (stressed). In summary, he provided three calls to action: (1) be mindful of your triggers; (2) behave our way into collaborative relationships; and (3) be soft on the people, hard on the problem.

A few of my favorite Marcel “one-liners”: (1) Most people are hired on competencies and fired on behaviors; (2) You can be honest without being brutal; (3) you can’t “boss” love, passion and “want to”; and (4) you can’t talk your way out of what you behaved your way into.
At this meeting, the membership approved the January 13 meeting minutes and the treasurer’s report for January.

A big thank you to Zolaina Reyes, city secretary, Watauga, for hosting our March meeting at the Foster Village Recreation Building. What a great venue, and the food was fabulous!

We had the pleasure of having some of our members present to the group about issues and topics relevant to our work that we do every day. It was an incredibly fun and informative meeting!

**Speaker: Theresa Scott, TRMC, town secretary, Flower Mound: “Open Records Request Data Redaction.”** She shared with the group about email address collector software that has helped her tremendously with open records requests in Flower Mound. She said the software is about $30, but worth so much more! She said if anyone had any questions, they should give her a call or come by for a demonstration.

**Speaker: Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City: “Office Integrity.”** He shared some stories with the group about integrity, and said we should never let our integrity be questioned. He asked the group three questions: (1) Is integrity on the decline in our society, and especially in our workplace?, (2) Is the admission of a mistake a mark of integrity?, and (3) What are methods we can practice to ensure our integrity?

**Speaker: Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth: “Parliamentary Procedure—Just For Fun.”** She shared some helpful tips about basic parliamentary procedures, and said that she views this as fun! She said it is a good for city councils to have rules of pro-

*At right, from top to bottom: Speakers Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Theresa Scott, city secretary, Flower Mound; and Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth.*
North Texas Chapter

procedures in place, because often times they will only follow Roberts Rule of Order as a general practice. She said she is always available if anyone has any questions.

Speaker: Jesica McEachern, city administrator, Bridgeport: “Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone.” She shared how she has learned to step out of her comfort zone, especially with her promotion last year to city administrator. She said there are six benefits achieved by stepping out of your comfort zone: (1) You will let perfection go; (2) You will inspire others; (3) You will have no regrets at the end; (4) You will define yourself authentically; (5) You will gain control; (6) Your life experience will be fuller, and you will be more creative and innovative.

At this meeting, the membership approved the February 18 meeting minutes and the treasurer’s report for February.

The North Texas Chapter held its annual Professional Seminar on April 6 and it was a huge success! A huge thank you to our Professional Seminar Committee: Committee Chair Tara Brooks, city secretary, Grapevine; Christine Green, city secretary, University Park; and Jeannie Kenyon, administrative aide, Arlington. These ladies worked so hard and put on such a fabulous event.

We had two amazing speakers: Steve Booher, who talked to our group about “Employee Engagement and Boosting Your Brain for Maximum Results.” Steve provided us with some really good practical information that we could take back to our work places including: recognizing folks
for a job well done and showing appreciation. Julie Davis-Colan talked with the group about “Sticking with It: Mastering the Art of Adherence.” Julie discussed the elements of adherence: “Focus x Competence x Passion = Adherence.” She also talked to us about choosing the highest and best use for our time and knowing when to say “no”. Not easy for us city secretaries!

I would also like to recognize our Alyce Deering Scholarship Committee: Committee Chair Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Kristi Gilbert, TRMC, town secretary, Argyle; and Traci Henderson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Southlake. The committee organized a silent auction that raised $893 for our scholarship fund. Thank to everyone who donated prizes for the auction and those who bid and won items! We had so much fun and donated to a great cause! Through our Alyce Deering Scholarship fund, we are able to award three to five scholarships per year to clerks working towards certification or recertification in TMCCP.

We had some fabulous vendors and sponsors that attended our seminar and provided information to us regarding their products. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our sponsors who assisted us in putting on this great event: Granicus; MCCi; Municode; Swagit; STW, Inc.; BoardSync; Destiny Software, Inc.; Kofile Technologies; RCI, Inc.; and Scott Merriman, Inc.

We are looking forward to our annual awards luncheon in Carrollton in June. We will be announcing our NTMCA Clerk of the Year,
our TMCA nomination for Clerk of the Year, and will be awarding our 2016 Alyce Deering Scholarships. We will also be recognizing all of our committee members for all of their hard work this year.

The NTMCA is always looking to expand our membership and meet new clerks in our area. For anyone interested in attending our meetings or joining our chapter, please see our chapter website, www.ntmca.org, or contact Mary Supino at Mary.Supino@arlingtontx.gov or 817-459-6186. We are very fortunate to be able to have amazing speakers to come to our meetings to share information and knowledge with us in order to enhance our leadership skills. We would love to share these opportunities for professional development with more of our colleagues. Please join us at an upcoming meeting to see what our chapter has to offer you.

Those in attendance at the April meeting:

- Historian Laura Bell, TRMC, town secretary, Addison
- Vice President Carol Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Westworth Village
- Tara Brooks, city secretary, Grapevine
- Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City
- Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur
- Tammy Dixon, TRMC, city secretary, Bartonville
- Asucena Garcia, TRMC, acct. gen./admin. asst. city sec., Decatur
- Kristi Gilbert, TRMC, town secretary, Argyle
- Ron Gonzales, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Fort Worth
- Christine Green, city secretary, University Park
- Amanda Hartwick, comm. specialist/dep. city secretary, University Park
- Traci Henderson, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Southlake
- Amanda Jacobs, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Bedford
- Jeannie Kenyon, administrative aide, Arlington
- Treasurer Sheila Morales, town secretary, Copper Canyon
- Stephanie Porter, Grapevine
- Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, North Richland Hills
- Theresa Scott, TRMC, town secretary, Flower Mound
- Secretary Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville
- Alicia Smith, TRMC, city secretary, Boyd
- President Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington
- Allison Tidwell, assistant to the city secretary, Fort Worth
- Michael Wells, TRMC, city secretary, Bedford
- Tiffany Witherspoon, Boyd

The North Texas Chapter’s Professional Seminar in April.
The Northeast Texas Chapter was thrilled to have Texas Secretary of State Carlos Cascos at their February 18 meeting at the American Freedom Museum on The Brook Hill School campus in Bullard.

After our short business meeting, Secretary Cascos addressed the crowd of more than 40 guests. He reminded those in attendance about the importance of voting and the important roles of municipal clerks/secretaries in the election process. Cascos admitted Texas has a low voter turnout rate and he is working to improve it.

Following a buffet lunch, group pictures by media representatives, and individual pictures, the secretary of state, chapter members, and guests toured the American Freedom Museum with Founder/Curator Steve Dement joining and giving some personal accounts of museum content.

Palestine City Secretary Teresa Herrera, TRMC, volunteered to host the June chapter meeting in Palestine. Membership will be notified of the confirmed date and time.

Attending the meeting from left to right, first row: Teresa Herrera, TRMC, city secretary, Palestine; Vice President Doris Crockett, city secretary, Bullard; Secretary of State Carlos Cascos; Greg Lowe, Jacksonville; President Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak. Second row: Cinda Etheredge, city secretary, Rusk; Vicki Gerhardt, city secretary, New London; Cassandra Brager, city clerk, Tyler; Laura Rex, city secretary/CFO, Big Sandy. Third row: Victoria Janway, Pittsburg; Rachél Gafford, city secretary, Overton; Shelly Griffin, city secretary, Winnsboro. Fourth row: Kristan Kahler, city secretary, Ore City; Sereca Huff-Higgins, city secretary, Van; Debra Johnson, city secretary, Canton; Candis Jones, administrative assistant for city secretary, Longview. Fifth row: Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater; Bonnie Hambrick, city secretary, Athens; Stephanie Kimbrell, city secretary, Henderson; Debbie Dane, TRMC, city clerk, Kilgore; Tammy Lofton, city secretary, Waskom. Final row: Carla Oldacre, city secretary, Wills Point; Shelly Ballenger, TRMC, city secretary, Longview. Not pictured but in attendance were the Bullard mayor, city council members from multiple cities, city officials, and school and museum officials.
Panhandle Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Machiel Covey, TRMC**

**City Secretary, Clarendon**

Since the last newsletter, the Panhandle Chapter has met once: February 18, for our bi-monthly meeting. We met at The Amarillo Club in Amarillo with eleven members present. We also had seven members attend the TMCCP “Public Funds Investment Seminar” held at the Overton Hotel in Lubbock in April.

The February meeting was called to order by President Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa. Members had lunch, then Kirk Franklin, President of Franklin Legal Publishing, presented a program on proclamations, resolutions, and ordinances. It was great refresher course on the proper use of each.

The minutes and the treasurer report were presented and approved. It was decided to begin our meetings between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. We are spread out in the Panhandle, and some of our members drive over two hours each way to attend the meetings. We wanted a little more time to visit with each other. We are family, as I am sure you all are with your chapters.

Kathy Styles, TRMC, city secretary, Perryton, and Machiel Covey, TRMC, city secretary, Clarendon, graduated with their TRMC Certification at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar graduation ceremony, and Karen
Panhandle Chapter

Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa, and Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford, recertified. Congratulations to them all.

President Price announced that there have been changes to the TMCA Recertification requirements and passed around a sheet indicating the changes.

President Price also passed around information on upcoming scholarships that were available.

Our Panhandle Chapter is the entertainment for the TML-Region II meeting being held at the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, hosted by Canyon. We will be doing an election “Comedy” skit. The group watched a video and discussed the skit. Wish us luck!

Our Panhandle Chapter Historian Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman, assumed the duties of TMCA President in January for the 2016 year. She is a leader to us all and we couldn’t be more proud that she is the one representing our organization. We still proudly wear our security shirts supporting the “Secret Service to the President”!

Our next meeting was scheduled for April 28 at 11:00 a.m. at the Amarillo Club. We will be having Amarillo Emergency Management Coordinator Kevin Starbuck as our guest speaker.

The meeting was adjourned.
Pineywoods Chapter

By Chapter President **Kara Atwood, TRMC**
*City Secretary, Lufkin*

The Pineywoods Chapter met for their quarterly meeting on May 12 at Lufkin City Hall. Our meeting was moved from the normal April date due to our favorite time of the year: Elections!

During the normal business meeting, the chapter unanimously nominated Ellie Monteaux, TRMC, city secretary, Livingston, as our Chapter Clerk of the Year, as well as our nomination for TMCA Clerk of the Year.

Our chapter welcomed two new members to our group, Cheryl Clark, city secretary, Tenaha, and Leslie Leathers, city secretary, Timpson. We are so glad to have them join our group.

We would also like to congratulate chapter member Barbara Boyd on her TRMC recertification!

Our chapter’s next meeting will be held in July. For more information on our chapter or our meetings, please contact President Kara Atwood by email at kara@cityoflufkin.com or by phone at 936-633-0244.
Members of the Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at El Mejicano in Wichita Falls on March 23. Vice President Tracy Norr, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted. The minutes of December 9, 2015 were approved, as well as the Treasurer’s Report through March 23, 2016.

Nominations were taken for Clerk of the Year and Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday, will be recommended for the Red River Chapter Clerk of the Year.

Kirk Franklin, Franklin Legal Publishing, gave a presentation on proclamations, resolutions, and ordinances and when it is appropriate to utilize each one. Mr. Franklin also provided information on the ordinance codification services that Franklin Legal Publishing provides.

The chapter discussed upcoming seminars and all members were reminded of the scholarship application deadline.

The chapter is very excited to be hosting an Athenian Dialogue on August 19 with Dr. Holt as the facilitator. We chose the book *Walt Disney – An American Original* by Bob Thomas. This will be the first Athenian Dialogue for our chapter, and we are looking forward to a successful event.

Our next meeting will be held June 15 at El Mejicano Restaurant. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings.

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

Those in attendance at the March meeting:
Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City
Tracy Bankston-Smith, administrative assistant, Lakeside City
Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon
Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett
Jen Driebergen, deputy city clerk, Wichita Falls
Revell Hardison, city secretary, Nocona
Cindy McCraken, water billing administrator, Nocona
Tracy Norr, city clerk, Wichita Falls
Sandy Page, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie
Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Melinda Welsh, TRMC
City Secretary, Friendswood

February Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their monthly meeting on February 10 at a La Escondida Mexican Grill in Missouri City. Chapter President Paula Favors, TRMC, City Secretary, Wharton, called the meeting to order with many members in attendance, including special guest Kirk Franklin, president/attorney at Law, Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., who was the speaker. Mr. Franklin offered an informative presentation regarding “Ordinances, Resolutions, and Proclamations.”

The February meeting was well attended and the presentation by Kirk Franklin was enjoyed by all.

The Salt Grass Chapter wished special congratulations to all its 2016 TMCCCP graduates and recertifiers!

The Salt Grass Chapter’s “3rd Annual Notary Public Training Session” was discussed and plans were confirmed for the training to be held on April 13, at 10:30 a.m. at Friendswood city hall, with the monthly chapter meeting to follow.

The Salt Grass Chapter’s “14th Annual Public Information Seminar” will be held on Wednesday, September 14, in Deer Park. For additional information, please contact the chapter secretary.
Salt Grass Chapter

Information on the seminar, please contact Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood: mwelsh@friendswood.com or 281-996-3270.

March Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter welcomed warmer weather with a meeting on March 9 at Pipeline Grill in La Porte. President Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance, which included special guest Sgt. Lee Stewart with City of La Porte’s Police Department.

Sgt. Stewart was the guest speaker and presented a timely presentation on “Active Shooter: Fight or Flight.” Everyone found the compelling presentation valuable.

Salt Grass Chapter TMCCP 2016 Graduates:
- Marisela Garcia, TRMC, city secretary, Nassau Bay
- Robin Hicks, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook
- Becky McGrew, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Katy
- Michelle Perez, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friendswood

Salt Grass Chapter TMCCP 2016 Recertifiers:
- Crystal Roan, TRMC, city secretary, Webster
- Janelle Williams, TRMC, city secretary, Galveston

Recent TMCA graduates Michelle Perez, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friendswood, and Becky McGrew, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Katy, accept a gift from the chapter presented by President Paula Favors TRMC, city secretary, Wharton.
Salt Grass Chapter

The chapter also heard a report from Outreach Committee and Retirement Committee Chair Lee Woodward, TRMC. Chair Woodward reported on the impending retirement of several Salt Grass Chapter members and reminded the audience to notify the Retirement Committee as well as TMCA when someone plans to retire. Chair Woodward led the discussion as she informed of suggestions made by the Outreach Committee and heard suggestions from chapter members on several new and interesting ideas on how to increase participation and membership with one being the creation of a Salt Grass Chapter Facebook page.

President Paula Favors congratulated former Dickinson City Secretary Carolyn Anderson who is now the new city secretary for Kemah; Huntsville’s new deputy city secretary Megan Kaltenbach; and Webster’s new deputy city secretary Heather Cherry.

April 13 “Notary Public Training” Session

The Salt Grass Chapter hosted the “3rd Annual Notary Public Training Session” in Friendswood on April 13 with 49 attendees from 27 cities, counties, and companies. The session was led by Tomball City Secretary Doris Speer, TRMC, who presented a PowerPoint regarding proper procedures for notarial acts, how to avoid costly mistakes, and vital techniques and disciplines.
April Meeting

The Salt Grass Chapter held their April 13 meeting at City Hall in Friendswood following the “Notary Public Training” session. Chapter President Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and thanked the City of Friendswood for hosting the notary public training session and the luncheon.

The chapter heard from Outreach Committee Chair Lee Woodward who introduced committee member Dixie Roberts. Ms. Roberts updated the members on some of the ideas the committee pursued after discussion at the last chapter meeting and showed a sample of the draft Facebook page that was created. Chapter members admired the content of the page, thought it was ready to go live and voted to make it so. The Salt Grass Chapter’s Facebook page can be found by clicking https://www.facebook.com/Salt-Grass-Chapter-1072629996133567/?fref=ts.

A report from the Banquet and Holiday Committee was also given by committee member Tracy Garcia who reported the annual December banquet will be held December 14 at Texas Land and Cattle on FM 1960 in Houston.

The Salt Grass Chapter unanimously nominated Crystal Roan, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, for the 2016 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year award.

The next Salt Grass Chapter meeting is set for August 10, 2016, in Webster. Salt Grass Chapter meetings are typically held on the second
Salt Grass Chapter

Wednesday of the month, January through April and August through December. Our meetings are open to anyone and we welcome visitors!

For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter please contact President Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton at pfavors@cityofwharton.com.
South Plains Chapter

By Jodie House
City Secretary, Crosbyton

Our chapter met on March 16 at the Community Building in Sundown. Our speaker was Sundown City Administrator Curtis Schrader. Mr. Schrader spoke to the group about the different hats city secretaries wear. He was very informative and very entertaining. The city provided a wonderful meal and we all had a great meeting.

Our chapter was honored to host the TMCCP “Public Funds Investment” seminar in Lubbock on April 21-22. Our chapter put together goodie bags for all the attendees and provided door prizes. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors Underwood Law Firm and Franklin Legal Publishing for reserving the Cactus Theater for the night and for the fun photo booth; thank you to Atmos Energy for sponsoring the transportation to and from the event. Attendees were treated to a great buffet of heavy appetizers and a wonderful tribute to the 70s, 80s and 90s by local talent.

Those in attendance of the chapter meeting were: Zanea Carpenter, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Sue Castles; Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city sec., Slaton; Ida Davis, deputy city secretary, Levelland; Lora Dockery, city secretary, Sundown; LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city manager, Muleshoe; Norma Garcia, city secretary, Lamesa; Lisa Hernandez, TRMC, city admin./sec., Natalia; Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton; Monica Longoria, city secretary, Lorenzo; Cynthia Mason, TRMC, asst. city secretary, Post; Elena Quintanilla, city sec./city mgr., Ransom Canyon; Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary, Morton; Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface; Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Beth Walls, TRMC, city sec./dir. of HR, Levelland; and Toni Wilson, retired city secretary, Sundown.
West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Historian Diana Franco
City Secretary, Kermit

Midland Deputy City Secretary Karla Mata hosted the West Texas Chapter’s quarterly meeting at Abuelo’s Mexican Restaurant in Midland. Chapter President Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland, introduced special guest speaker Midland Fire Department Chief Robert Isbell. Midland Mayor Jerry Morales dropped in to say hello and welcome everyone.

Chief Isbell specializes in leadership and team building at the executive level and is an instructor for On-Demand Leadership where he does organizational consulting, group facilitation services, training classes, and individualized coaching. Chief Isbell’s points of discussion were “Conflict Resolutions,” “Consensus,” “Liking,” “Consistency,” and “Reciprocation,” which were very educational.

In chapter business, the chapter approved minutes, reviewed the treasurer’s report, and approved the payment of bills. The next chapter meeting was scheduled to be hosted by the City of Pecos on May 18 at the Old Mills Restaurant with guest speaker Kirk Franklin of Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc., on “Ordinances, Resolutions & Proclamations.”

Top right photo: The West Texas Chapter in Midland. Front row: Renee Lee, asst. city secretary, Rankin; Norma Grimaldo, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa; Crystal Montez, dep. city secretary, Odessa; Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland; Karla Mata, dep. city secretary, Midland. Back row: Mary Carmen Wood, city secretary, Pecos; Sara Copeland, city secretary, Andrews; SueAnn Lopez, dep. city secretary, Midland; Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; and Diana Franco, city secretary, Kermit.
Near right photo: Guest speaker City of Midland Fire Chief Robert Isbell.
Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President Dara Crabtree, TRMC
City Secretary, Seagoville

The Yellow Rose Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting on April 7 in Seagoville.

The chapter enjoyed fellowship and an informative program on Safety in Public Places presented by Seagoville Police Chief Ray Calverley and Crime Prevention Officer Kenny Dickerson.

A short business meeting was conducted, including the approval of the December 3, 2015, minutes; the approval of the treasurer’s report for the period of December 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016; discussion on a possible joint meeting with NTMCA/Lone Star Chapters; and discussion as to whether the bi-monthly meeting date should be changed to a different date to accommodate our growing chapter, which now has 40 paid memberships.

Guests are welcome to attend our next meeting on June 2 in Burleson or any future meeting. For more information on our chapter, please contact: President Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville, at 972-287-6819 or dcrabtree@seagoville.us.
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Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.*
Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCA Education Director*

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Lisa Henderson, Plano
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*non-voting member

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Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.*
Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCA Education Director*

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Linda Byers, Vernon
Jennifer Reyna, Alamo Heights
Crystal Roan, Webster
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Lydia Lopez, Hewitt, President Elect

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Jannette Goodall, Austin

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Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview
Ellie Monteaux, Livingston
Doris Speer, Tomball

Shelley George, Allen, Board Liaison

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Susan House, Mesquite
Christi Wynn, Brownwood
Wendy Withers, Shady Shores
Marie Balthrop, Holliday, Board Liaison

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Crystal Roan, Webster
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