President’s Message

Committed \kə-ˈmit-təd\

If you want to be successful in a particular field of endeavor, I think perseverance is one of the key qualities. It’s very important that you find something that you care about, that you have a deep passion for, because you’re going to have to devote a lot of your life to it.

–George Lucas, award winning movie director

As I have visited with other municipal clerks this year, I have learned so much about the dedication of those serving in our profession. Many municipal clerks serve as interim city managers, public works managers, municipal court clerks, records managers, or even city managers, while still performing all of the tasks required of them as city secretary or
President’s Message

clerk. They are the first one in the office in the morning and the last one to turn off the light at night. We deal with citizens, mayors, city council members, city managers, police chiefs, and community leaders—and run cows off the airport runway so planes can land! It’s who we are—it’s what we do.

I have spent many nights this week staying up late to watch the Olympics—talk about commitment. These athletes train for FOUR YEARS sometimes just for one race! They completely change their lifestyle, their eating habits, their social life—they must be completely consumed in their training. Do all of the athletes win a medal? Not at all. Would any of them give up the opportunity to try? I seriously doubt it. They have a dream of being an Olympian. Many of them know going in that the chances of them winning a race are impossible, but it doesn’t stop them from committing themselves to the journey. They are committed—it’s who they are. It’s what they do.

I recently had the opportunity to enjoy a presentation on discovering your “personality color” and how to apply it in your life. Of all the city secretaries participating, do you know the majority were “Golds”? When I read the characteristics of this group, it made perfect sense... well-organized and orderly, performs in a consistent and predictable manner, develops specialized skills, dependable and reliable, shows loyalty, service oriented, strong belief in policies, procedures and rules. The “Blues” came in a close second, as they relate well with others, make favorable impressions, good team participants, mediators, sensitive to the needs of others, empathetic, imaginative, inspirational and growth oriented. There also were some “Oranges” who are self-confident, accept challenges, make quick decisions, enjoy solving problems, practical, creative and inventive, question the status quo, take initiative and are direct and clear communicators. And of course we can’t forget the “Greens” who are visionaries, quality conscious, explore facets before making a decision, competent and knowledgeable, inquisitive, theoretical and conceptual, and appear cool, calm and collected! Each of these characteristics can describe a city clerk and are the qualities
necessary to perform our jobs. Do all of these qualities come easy to everyone? Of course not! Are all of these qualities things we should strive for in order to represent our cities and ourselves as professionals? Definitely!

Famous football coach Vince Lombardi is quoted as saying, “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.” Take a moment to think of something that you feel you are excellent at in your office—do co-workers find you have a sympathetic ear? Are you the “queen of grammar and proofreading”? Are you the one that everyone calls when they want to get things done right? These are all areas that we as municipal clerks seem to excel at. These are the things that our co-workers and citizens depend on us for.

As a rule, municipal clerks have very long tenures in their profession. I am amazed each year at our annual banquet to learn the total years of service the retirees have as municipal clerks. It is not uncommon for clerks to serve 20, 30 or even more years as city secretaries or clerks. Why do we stay in our profession so long? I don’t think it is for the money or the recognition—if it were, EVERYONE would want to be a city secretary, wouldn’t they! It is because of the diversity in our jobs, our willingness to serve our community, the excitement of the job (yes, those election days when everything seems to go wrong can be pretty exciting!) and the complete satisfaction of knowing you are good at your job. To some, this may seem conceited—but, we ARE good at our jobs—we have to be. Our co-workers depend on us, our city council depends on us and our citizens depend on us. They depend on us to learn the new laws, to explain to them the election process, sympathize with them when their water rates go up, and honor them when the mayor presents them with that proclamation they will treasure. Is it worth it? I think so. For all of the unhappy citizens we talk to, the days that the computers won’t work, the late city council meetings and the long election days—that one sweet citizen that calls me—apologizing because she knows I’m not the person she should call, but I’m the person “that can get the job done”—that makes it worth it! It is often a thankless job, but we do it anyway. We have that commitment—it’s who we are, it’s what we do.

Whether you just started your profession as municipal clerk, or you have been around for 30 years, you are the one that your city depends on to get the job done! You are the “gold,” “blue,” “orange” or “green” of your city. THANK YOU for your commitment to the municipal clerk profession!

Lila Fuller, TRMC
2008 TMCA, Inc., President
Our annual events are here!
In conjunction with the annual Graduate Institute Seminar:

**Annual TMCA Business Meeting**
Thursday, October 2, 11:30 a.m.
Doubletree Hotel, Dallas, Texas

**Annual TMCA Awards Banquet**
Thursday, October 2, 6:00 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel, Dallas, Texas
guest Banquet tickets: $40 each
TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar

Media Relations & Effective Communications

Doubletree Hotel Dallas-Campbell Centre
October 2-3, 2008, Dallas

PR pro Jeff Crilley will teach seminar attendees the secrets of how to get favorable coverage for municipal government events and how to develop an effective two-way relationship with the news media.

Topics will include:

- How to create a good news story
- Handling negative news
- Effective communication skills
- Practical applications and role-playing to improve communication skills

Jeff Crilley will also have copies of his book and CD, *Free Publicity*, available for sale at the seminar.

More information and seminar registration is available on our website. Register now!

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TMCCP Seminar Calendar

**ELECTION LAW SEMINAR**
Monday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.—Wednesday, January 14, 11:00 a.m., 2009, Irving
*TMCCP enrollees will receive Course 4 seminar credit*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS SEMINAR**
April 2-3, 2009, McAllen
Speaker: David Reed
*TMCCP enrollees will receive Course 2 seminar credit*

**MUNICIPAL FINANCE SEMINAR**
June 18-19, 2009, Waco
Speakers: First Southwest
*TMCCP enrollees will receive Course 3 or 4 seminar credit*

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SEMINAR**
August 20-21, 2009, Irving
Speaker: Alan Bojorquez
*TMCCP enrollees will receive Course 2 seminar credit*

**GRADUATE INSTITUTE SEMINAR**
October 8-9, 2009, San Antonio
Speakers: Judy King & Jana Hesser
*TMCCP enrollees will receive Course 1 seminar credit*
City of San Antonio Leads the Way With Electronic Campaign Filing System

By the City of San Antonio Communications Office

We are one big Texas family. The City of San Antonio has partnered with the City of Dallas to help them implement a web-based online electronic filing system to create and file campaign finance reports.

The system, which was developed by the City of San Antonio’s Office of the City Clerk in conjunction with the City’s Information Technology Services Department, was implemented in January of 2006. It streamlines the way candidates and political action committees file required campaign finance reports. The online program allows the public to monitor and review campaign contributions and expenditures in real time.

“We are extremely proud to assist a fellow Texas city enhance their process,” said Mayor Phil Hardberger.

Prior to the creation of the electronic system, campaign finance reports were manually filed with the Office of the City Clerk. Sometimes the reports submitted were difficult to read; additionally most reports contained more than 100 pages that were scanned and converted into a PDF format for review. As a result, the reports were not searchable.

The new system will allow the City of Dallas to join San Antonio as the only two cities in the state to implement an online municipal campaign finance electronic filing system.

“We’re glad to serve as a model for other cities,” said Leticia Vacek, City of San Antonio City Clerk. “I am very proud of this electronic filing system and how it helps to strengthen our service to the San Antonio community.” ★
Volunteer Opportunity
TML Conference: TMCA Booth
San Antonio, Texas, October 29-31, 2008
By TML Booth Committee Chair Yolanda C. Benitez, TRMC

HELP WANTED! The Alamo Chapter of TMCA joins me, 2008 chair of the TML Booth Committee, in requesting your valuable time and assistance in spreading the news about TMCA and TMCCP. This opportunity will come about on Wednesday, October 29, through Friday, October 31 (Halloween) at the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference, which will be held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in my hometown of San Antonio, Texas.

As a volunteer at the TMCA booth, you will be asked to provide meaningful information about these two wonderful organizations to city officials (appointed and elected) from many great cities throughout the great State of Texas. If you are willing to share an hour or two “putting out the word” about TMCA and TMCCP, I guarantee you will have a great time!

To add your name to a growing list of volunteers, please call Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary/director of finance, Hondo, or Sandra Torres, deputy city secretary, Hondo, at 830-426-3378, or email me at ybenitez@hondo.net. YOU WON’T REGRET IT! ★
Profile: 2008 Certification Committee

The TMCA Certification Committee promotes the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and sets the policies and procedures for the operation of the Certification Program. This is a brief introduction of the TMCA members who have comprised this vital committee in 2008.

Chair LaDonna Floyd, TRMC
City Clerk, Nederland

LaDonna Floyd, TRMC, began working for the City of Nederland in 1977 upon receiving an Associate’s Degree from Lamar University. While working for the city, she has worked in every department until being appointed to the city clerk’s position in May 1993.

LaDonna completed the TRMC Certification in January 1998 (No. 306); recertified in 2003 and 2008; and is currently enrolled in her third recertification. She received the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk through the

The 2008 Certification Committee.

Seated, from left to right: Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Committee Chair LaDonna Floyd, TRMC, city clerk, Nederland; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett.

Standing, from left to right: Ex-officio committee member and TMCA Immediate Past President Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls; ex-officio committee member Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP; ex-officio committee member and TMCA President Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; and ex-officio committee member and TMCA President Elect Trish Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco.

Not pictured: Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center.
International Institute of Municipal Clerks in November 1997, and was accepted into IIMC’s Master Municipal Clerk Academy in February 2003.

LaDonna co-authored Chapter 14, “Elections,” of the eighth edition of the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*. She served as president and chair of several committees of the Golden Triangle Chapter of TMCA.

“It is such an honor to serve as chair of the Certification Committee and to be a part of the ‘best’ municipal clerks certification program in the United States. We strive to serve all members with the highest level of educational opportunities through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program by providing the latest and most up-to-date information needed to proudly and confidently serve their communities. Every graduate, and those currently enrolled in the program, should be extremely proud of their accomplishments. I encourage all Texas municipal clerks to pursue the distinguished designation of becoming a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk.”

**Becky Garza, TRMC**  
City Secretary, Lubbock

Becky Garza, TRMC, was appointed city secretary for the City of Lubbock in 2001. She has served the city since 1996. She began as an accountant and was subsequently promoted to senior accountant. Before working for the City of Lubbock, she was an accountant for Texas Tech University.

Becky is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and a Master of Public Administration. Becky received her TRMC Certification (No. 420) in January 2003, recertified in 2008, and is currently enrolled in her second recertification program.

Becky co-authored the eighth edition of Chapter 15, “Professional Etiquette & Protocol,” in the *Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook*. She has served the past four years as an instructor at the Elections Law Seminar for TMCCP. Becky has also served on the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee. She is a member of TMCA, the South Plains Chapter of TMCA, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Leadership Texas, Texas Tech Chancellor’s Hispanic...
Profile: 2008 Certification Committee

Enrollment Task Force, Lubbock ISD Advisory Committee, and the Hospice of Lubbock Foundation Board.

Asked about her service to the TMCCP Certification Committee, Becky said, “Serving on the TMCCP Certification Committee is such an honor, for so many reasons, not the least of which is that I strongly believe in the mission of TMCA and TMCCP. TMCCP gives each one of us many opportunities, in the form of development, education, confidence, and especially the opportunity to work in this field and to observe the work and expertise of others. I feel privileged serving on the Certification Committee with others, and for others, who contribute to our field today and into the future.”

Susie Quinn, TRMC City Secretary, Rowlett

Susie Quinn, TRMC, began her career in city government with the City of Eastland in June of 1994 as city secretary. She held the position until March 1999 when she was appointed city secretary for Tye. In December 2000, she was appointed city secretary in Azle, and then in December 2002 she moved to Rowlett, where she is now city secretary.

Susie received her TRMC Certification in January 1997 (No. 295), recertified in 2002 and 2007, and is currently enrolled in her third recertification.

Susie is a member of the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter of TMCA and currently serves as immediate past president. She is also a member of the Lone Star Chapter, too. Susie was a charter member of the Bluebonnet Chapter and served as its first president. In 1995, she was honored as the Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year. She co-authored Chapter 10, “Board and Commissions and Constitutional Oath of Office,” of the eighth edition of the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook.

“It has been such a privilege to serve on the Certification Committee. Working with professionals in one of the best certification programs in the nation is truly an honor. Committed clerks and secretaries who take advantage of the professional educational program offered will have no problem excelling in their profession.”
Profile: 2008 Certification Committee

Sandra Watkins, TRMC  
City Secretary, Deer Park

Sandra Watkins, TRMC, began her career in municipal government as the deputy city secretary for Deer Park in 1985, and was promoted to City Secretary in 1992. She received her TRMC Certification (No. 362) in January 2000, recertified in 2005, and is currently working on her second recertification. Sandra received the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk through IIMC in June 2004, and recertification in 2008. Sandra has served the Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA in all officer capacities, was chapter president in 1998-1999, and has served on or chaired all committees. She received the chapter’s Municipal Clerk of the Year award in 2000. She has served as a member of the TMCA Audit and Nominating Committees, and has chaired the TMCA TML Booth, Resolutions, Scholarship and Procurement Committees, and was TMCA Historian in 2001. Sandra hosts the Salt Grass Chapter’s annual Public Information Workshop, and has been co-presenter for the Houston-Galveston Area Council Election Workshop since 2007.

“It is truly an honor and a privilege to take part with such a wonderful group of professionals that our association and this committee offer. The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program is one of the best programs in the nation. It is great to participate with a committee that is committed to ensuring that any Texas clerk can have the opportunity to succeed in this very professional educational program for municipal clerks.” ★

Terre Noble, TRMC  
City Secretary, Center

Terre Noble, TRMC, city secretary, Center, began municipal service in 1997 with the City of Center and was appointed city secretary in 2000. She received her Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification in 2004 (No. 449), and is enrolled in her first recertification. Terre is an active member in TMCA and the Pineywoods Chapter of TMCA. She has served as president and secretary/treasurer of the Pineywoods Chapter. Terre was honored by receiving the Chapter’s 2004 Municipal Clerk of the Year Award.

To further her professional career, Terre completed her studies at Stephen F. Austin State University in December 2007 and received the Texas Certified Public Manager’s Certification.
### TMCCP Certificates Earned

The following enrollees 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.

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<th>COURSE 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Bell, Carrollton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeana Bellinger, Brenham</td>
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<td>Cynthia Bowman, Bryan</td>
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<td>Tina Broussard, Beaumont</td>
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<td>Lyndsey Cherry, Grand Prairie</td>
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<td>Deborah Dennis, Blue Mound</td>
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<td>Martha Garcia, Crowley</td>
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<td>Jessica Hamilton, Georgetown</td>
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<td>Lisa Hennek, Trophy Club</td>
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<td>Lisa Hernandez, Poteet</td>
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<td>Teresa Herrera, Palestine</td>
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<td>Sonia Hinojosa, Pharr</td>
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<td>Stephanie Hunt, Corsicana</td>
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<td>Dorthy Jackson, Hubbard</td>
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<td>Lou Jameson, Midlothian</td>
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<td>Angela Kelly, The Colony</td>
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<td>Jane Lees, Copperas Cove</td>
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<td>Sherrill McDaniel, Waco</td>
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<td>Kerry Meredith, Texarkana</td>
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<td>Gladys Morrison, Lancaster</td>
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<td>Melissa O’Sullivan, Corsicana</td>
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<td>Saundra Passailaigue, Shavano Park</td>
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<td>Hilda Pedraza, Pharr</td>
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<td>Kimberly Pence, Corinth</td>
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<td>Sherrie Phelps, Ladonia</td>
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<td>Connie Sexton, Winona</td>
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<td>Monica Solko, N. Richland Hills</td>
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<td>Angela Stutts, Onalaska</td>
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<td>Pennie Vanderburg, Maud</td>
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<td>Mary Ybarra, Schertz</td>
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<td>Kim Barnes, Roanoke</td>
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<td>Cynthia Bowman, Bryan</td>
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<td>Tina Broussard, Beaumont</td>
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<td>Tammy Edwards, Alvord</td>
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<td>Susan House, Mesquite</td>
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<td>Laure Ladner, Hemphill</td>
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<td>Kristi Rogers, Hickory Creek</td>
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<td>Vickie Schmid, Richardson</td>
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<td>Gail Weir, Ore City</td>
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<td>Kimberley Whitton, Azle</td>
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<th>COURSE 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kay Lunnon, Gainesville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monica Solko, North Richland Hills</td>
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<td>Kimberley Whitton, Azle</td>
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<th>COURSE 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Jackson, Mesquite</td>
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<td>Tiffany Littlepage, Bulverde</td>
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<td>Amanda McCrory, Burleson</td>
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<td>Melinda Welsh, Friendswood</td>
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Watch for the 2009 Election Calendar by Analeslie Muncy, coming this fall!

Check your email for notification or watch our website: [http://municlerks.unt.edu](http://municlerks.unt.edu)
Texas Municipal League News

By TMCA President Elect Patricia Ervin, TRMC, TML Representative

Texas Municipal League New Member Orientation
June 19-20, Rockport, Texas

Thursday, June 19 • The City of Rockport welcomed members with a Luau reception/dinner at the Rockport Beach Park and Boat Ride of Aransas Bay. President Pearson presented TML Executive Director Frank Sturzl a gift of appreciation for 20 years of service with TML.

Friday, June 20 • The meeting convened with board member introductions and welcome of new members: Councilmember Linda Shelton, City of Bowie, representing TML Region 5; and Councilmember Wayne Frost, City of Longview, representing TML Region 15.

President’s Report

TML President Todd Pearson appointed the following to the TML Nominating Committee to review the nominating procedures: TML Past President Henry Wilson, Councilmember, Hurst
Texas Municipal League News

(Chair); TML Past President Dock Jackson, Councilmember, Bastrop; TML Past President Terry Henley, Mayor Pro Tem, Meadows Place; Wayne Riddle, Mayor, Deer Park; Marie Briseno, Councilmember, Lamesa.

Board Communications

TML staff provided reports on the following items:

- Court case regarding the relocation of utility lines
- Court case regarding Open Meetings Act (email exchange)
- Effects on hotel/motel taxes by booking hotels online
- Municipal Property tax trends collected by special districts, counties, cities, and schools
- Appraisal tax process and review of property tax appraisal system
- Revenue from franchise fees

President Pearson presented proposed revisions to the TML Constitution as follows:

Section 4.4, which will allow past presidents of the League to serve until no longer eligible and directors at-large have historically served until replaced or until no longer eligible.

Vacancies, Section 4.6 to require vacancies on the Board of Directors created by a failure to hold timely elections shall be filled by holding an election as soon as practical. A resolution will be considered at the annual business meeting on October 31, 2008.

TML President Elect John Cook and Chair of the 2008 TML Budget and Audit Committee presented the 2008-09 TML operating budget in the amount of $5,578,000.00, which was approved with a unanimous vote.

TML Budget and Audit Committee reported that four proposals were received for TML auditor service. The board selected Glass and Company of Austin, Texas, to perform certified public audits of TML accounts.

The next meeting of the TML Executive Board will be October 29 in San Antonio, in conjunction with the 2008 TML Annual Conference. ★
**IIMC News**

By Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, IIMC President Elect

The IIMC Region IV annual business meeting and seminar will be held December 4-6, 2008, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and will be hosted by the Oklahoma Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officials Association. The seminar will kick off with a welcome reception the evening of December 4. There will be an educational session on Friday, December 5, facilitated by Dr. Scout Cloud Lee, the founder and CEO of Vision Us, Inc. She will lead an energizing, interactive, informative customer service training program. Dr. Lee has over 35 years of experience as an administrator, university professor, motivational speaker and corporate coach and consultant. The IIMC Region IV annual business meeting will be Saturday morning, December 6. At this meeting, among other business, the Region IV members in attendance will select our next Region IV Director to join the IIMC Board of Directors in May 2009. The seminar will be held at the Oklahoma City Renaissance Hotel. Registration cost is $100. More information will be available soon at www.omctfoa.com. Texas will host the Region IV annual meeting in 2009.

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**Toni Wilson Receives MMC**

Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown, has been awarded MMC status by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. The MMC is one of the two professional designations granted by IIMC (Toni has previously received the other designation, the CMC). Toni’s MMC status represents attendance at extensive education programs, pertinent experience in a municipality, and an ability to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerk. Master Municipal Academy members actively pursue educational and professional activities, and remain informed of current socio-political, cultural, and economic issues that affect local governments and municipalities.

Toni has served with the City of Sundown since 1983. She was appointed Sundown's city secretary in 2000, having previously served as Sundown’s deputy city secretary, utility billing clerk, and court and tax clerk. Toni earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2001, recertified in 2006, and is enrolled in her second recertification. She is active in her professional affiliations, including memberships in TMCA, the South Plains Chapter of TMCA, IIMC, and the Board of Tax Professional Examiners. She currently serves as a trustee on the TMCA Executive Board. Toni has also served on the Grant Application Review Committee through the South Plains Association of Governments. Toni is a Registered Texas Collector.
TMCCP Seminar Recap:
Tyler, August 2008

Agendas & Minutes, Public Information & Open Meetings, Parliamentary Procedure Seminar

TMCCP’s August seminar in the City of Tyler was a tremendous success. Five speakers addressed nearly 200 attendees on the topics of “Agendas and Minutes, Public Information and Open Meetings, and Parliamentary Procedure.” Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth, was the seminar’s featured speaker; her co-presenters were Alan Bojorquez, attorney, Bovey & Bojorquez, LLP; Doug Jones, CRM, records management officer, Fort Worth; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; and Thornton Wood, assistant attorney general, Office of the Texas Attorney General.

The Tyler Convention & Visitor’s Bureau provided Tyler coffee to attendees and donated 50 Tyler rose bushes for door prizes. The Northeast Texas Chapter hosted a reception on Thursday evening.

Thank you to all involved for making this an invaluable educational opportunity and a memorable event! ★
Alamo Chapter
By Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC

The Alamo Chapter met in regular session on May 30. Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes, served as hostess. Helotes Mayor Tom Schoolcraft attended the luncheon/meeting and welcomed those in attendance. The guest speaker was Diane Baker with IQM2 of Austin. Ms. Baker gave a presentation to the membership on Open Meetings/Open Government utilizing their electronic agenda.

Chapter President Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio, was elected the chapter’s Clerk of the Year. Ms. Vacek graciously accepted and thanked everyone.

President Vacek reminded her colleagues that TMCA President Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches, has confirmed to attend the chapter’s September 26 meeting, which is scheduled to be held in the City of Castroville.

Above left: Chapter President Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC (standing), as she speaks to those in attendance at the May Alamo Chapter Board Meeting. Above right: Members of the Alamo Chapter at the May meeting. Also pictured is City of Helotes Mayor Tom Schoolcraft, who welcomed all those in attendance.
Capital Chapter
By Toni Milam, TRMC

The Village of Salado was the site for the Capital Chapter’s quarterly meeting on July 25-26. WOW, what an awesome conference the Central Texas Chapter hosted! This conference is absolutely one of the best all year. Hope you were able to make it.

The Central Texas Chapter was host to the conference this year and had a record turn-out of city secretaries/clerks from as far away as East Texas and South Texas. Great job! Each chapter held separate silent auctions. The Capital Chapter raised $409.00 for their scholarship fund which will help to send a chapter member working on their certification or their recertification to a TMCCP seminar. And as we all know at this time of the year as budgets are being worked on, we need all the help we can get!

Capital Chapter President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos, presented 2008 Capital Chapter Clerk of the Year Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Buda, with a gorgeous and impressive plaque recognizing her efforts this past year. I offered an emotional response of gratitude to everyone in attendance. And to those who weren’t able to make the Salado Conference, I would like to personally thank each of you for the confidence you showed in naming me your 2008 Capital Chapter Clerk of the Year—what an honor for me!

Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia, reported that the chapter is up to 57 members to date. We welcome our new members and encourage them to get involved by serving on a chapter committee or through the state Texas
Capital Chapter, continued

Municipal Clerks Association. It doesn’t cost a thing beyond a little bit of time, and I promise you get so much more in return than is required to give.

The Capital Chapter’s schedule of upcoming meetings includes the City of Bryan on September 10. The meetings after that will be the in the City of San Marcos in December and the City of College Station in January. Hope to see each one of you then!

For more information regarding membership in the Capital Chapter please contact Chapter President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, at mashburn_sherry@ci.san-marcos.tx.us.
Central Texas Chapter

By Donna Hawkins

The Central Texas Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting on June 18 in the City of Mexia at the Mexia Fire Department Training Room. City of Mexia City Secretary Christi Shivers, TRMC, provided a wonderful lunch.

The focus of this meeting was to work on plans for the joint Salado Seminar hosted annually by the Central Texas Chapter and Capital Chapter of Municipal Clerks. We would like to thank everyone involved in implementing the plans for this special meeting, especially Kendra Giles; Yrene Morgan, TRMC; Kristi Shivers, TRMC; Jennifer Canady, TRMC; Donna Hawkins; Esmeralda Hudson; Sherrill McDaniel; and Trish Ervin, TRMC. Also, thanks to all of the members of both chapters for attending this exciting event.

Betty Harrell of Hillsboro handed out nomination forms so that the chapter members could nominate our 2008 Central Texas Chapter Clerk of the Year. This is the second year our chapter will be presenting this very prestigious award to one of our very own members.

The next chapter meeting will be held on August 20 at the City of Beverly Hills Community Room.
Coastal Bend Chapter

By Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC

The Coastal Bend Chapter met in Sinton on July 9 at the Butter Churn Restaurant. The meeting was hosted by Billie Jo Tennill, city secretary, Odem; Bonnie Taylor, city secretary, Lakeside; and Connie Cramer, city secretary, Bayside.

Larry Thompson, city secretary, Ganado, presented the educational program “Budget Time Again.” He did a terrific job and offered to share his program with the others.

President Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Rockport, called the meeting to order and reminded all about the TMCCP seminars “Open Meetings and Open Records” in Tyler on August 7-8 and the “Graduate Institute” in Dallas on October 2-3. She announced that the TML Conference would be held in San Antonio October 29-31 and the TML Region 11 meeting would be held in Bishop in September or October. A thank you card from TMCA President Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches, was shared with the members.
Larry Thompson was presented the very first Coastal Bend Chapter Scholarship to use at the seminar of his choice. He was very appreciative and announced that he had already taken the test for Course 4 of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and PASSED. Congratulations, Larry!

Members decided to nominate two clerks in December: one for 2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year and the other for Local Chapter Clerk of the Year. That would allow each member the opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments, whether they were certified or not. The members voted to present a plaque to Betty Wood, city secretary, Sinton, our nominee for Clerk of the Year in 2007, and to continue doing so for each recipient in the future.

The members decided to provide a $75 gift from the chapter as a door prize at the TMCCP Graduate Institute in October. Everyone shared one item of good news about their city, and all received a door prize.

The next meeting will be hosted by Esther Arzola, city secretary, Port Aransas, on September 25, with Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, presenting a program on “Parliamentary Procedure.” The December meeting will be hosted by Theresa Bowe, city secretary, Yoakum, and the February meeting will be hosted by Edna Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville.
The Lone Star Chapter (LSC) hosted the second annual LSC Records Management Work Day on July 17 at the Chase Oaks Golf Club in Plano. The work day was attended by city secretaries and records liaisons from airport, water, and transportation jurisdictions from across Texas. A total of 116 were in attendance representing UNT Denton, DCCCD, DFW Airport, North Texas Municipal Water District, DART, Richardson ISD, and many department records liaisons.

Presenter Jed Rogers currently serves as the Senior Government Information Analyst assigned to the State and Local Records Management Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission. He provides records management consulting, training and assistance to state agencies and local governments. Before serving as a Government Information Analyst, he served as an intelligence analyst and officer in the United States Air Force and Reserves for over twenty-two years. His duties included
preservation, security and classified document management. Jed earned his B.A. in Sociology from the University of Kansas. He is also the distinguished and honor graduate of several military courses in the field of intelligence analysis and security of records.

Mr. Rogers presented “Managing Electronic Records and Improving Filing Systems.” He highlighted some of the changes in the current state retention schedules and reported the new schedules were tentatively set to take effect sometime in 2009. He reported changes in regard to the state’s regional analysts. Margaret Hermesmeyer, formerly TSLAC Government Information Analyst for the Central Texas region, has taken a position as Assistant Records Manager for the Office of the Attorney General. Profits from the LSC Work Day will be used to provide scholarships for LSC members.

The chapter has also completed the first Lone Star Chapter Cookbook which should be published and available for sales by the middle of August. The cookbook is titled “Clerks in the Kitchen” and will include many favorite recipes from LSC Chapter members.
The Lower Rio Grande Valley City Clerks Association met June 25 at the Villa de Cortez Hotel in Weslaco. Numerous topics were discussed, including the nomination of officers for the 2008-09 year, amending the by-laws, and future fundraising activities. A report on the ongoing membership drive was given depicting an all-time high of 33 paid members representing 31 cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Area.

McAllen Deputy City Secretary Perla Zamora, TRMC, gave a report on the 62nd IIMC Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and provided copies of handouts from the various sessions attended.
The chapter held their next monthly meeting on July 16 at City of Alton City Hall. City Manager Jorge Arcaute gave a warm welcome to members and our invited guest. The City of Alton graciously hosted a wonderful luncheon.

President Villarreal introduced guest speaker Pilar Rodriguez, P.E./Assistant City Manager/Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, who gave a presentation on “Hurricane Preparedness/Disaster Recovery/Continuity of Government.” Members and guests certainly were motivated by the insight provided. Mr. Rodriguez noted that hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. He went over key points such as: 1) hurricane evacuation plans, 2) management information and planning and 3) key players requiring a coordinated response involving all department heads and divisions.
The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter at their July meeting. Sitting, from left to right: Sonia Hinojosa, assistant city clerk, Pharr; Aida Riva, city secretary, Palmview; President Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen; Olga Oberwetter, city secretary/HR director, La Feria; Celina Perez, city secretary, Palmhurst; Arcie Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes. Standing, from left to right: Vice President Janie Gaytan, city secretary, Alton; Dina Garcia, city secretary, Penitas; Molly Vallejo, administrative assistant, Weslaco; Norma Olvera, administrative assistant, McAllen; Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Weslaco; Secretary/Treasurer Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen; Hilda Pedraza, administrative assistant, Pharr; and Elizabeth Aguilar, Weslaco.
North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter

By Ashley Mitchell, TRMC

On June 4 the chapter held its annual Recognition Lunch in Fort Worth. The chapter nominated Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland, for the Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year award and Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, as the North Texas Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Mary has been the city secretary of Garland since November 2006, was city secretary of Burleson from 1999-2006, and deputy city secretary of Burleson from 1992-1999. She received her TRMC Certification in 1999 (No. 325) and recertified in 2003. Mary has served on the TMCA Board (as treasurer and trustee) and the TMCA Certification Committee. She has served the NTMCA Chapter offices of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, as well as the following NTMCA committees: Legislative, Holiday Celebration, Clerk of the Year, August Seminar Reception, and the Alyce Deering Scholarship Committee. Mary also just received her Master Municipal Clerks designation from IIMC.

Kathleen Wedell of Aledo receiving the Alyce Deering Scholarship. Left to right: DeeAnn Rowe, daughter of Alyce Deering; Kathleen Wedell, TRMC, city secretary, Aledo; Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; and Susan Crim, TRMC, city secretary, Euless.
Art is the city secretary for Haltom City. He was previously with the City of Azle for three years as city secretary, and served as city secretary and code enforcement officer for the City of Ranger for about five and a half years. He received his TRMC Certification in 2003 (No. 414). Art has served on the TMCA Certification Committee for three years and is currently serving his second term as a trustee on the TMCA Executive Board. He has served the North Texas Chapter on the August Reception Committee for two years; he served on the Christmas Banquet Committee in 2006. Art also worked diligently and received his Associates Degree in December of 2007.

We were also delighted to award Kathleen Wedell, TRMC, city secretary, Aledo, the Alyce Deering Scholarship. Because of the generosity of friends, family, and TMCA members, Kathleen was awarded a $500 scholarship. Special thanks to our Alyce Deering Scholarship Committee members: Marty Hendrix, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; and Susan Crim, TRMC, city secretary, Euless.

The next NTMCA meeting was held in Irving on July 9. Cathy Cunningham, an attorney with Boyle & Lowry, LLP, was the guest speaker. She talked about the Texas Public Information Act as it relates to personnel files issues and the “reoccurring” requestor. Her presentation was very informative. Also, the NTMCA Nominating Committee presented the 2008/2009 slate of officers. As there were no other nominations offered, the officers are:

President: Codi Delcambre, TRMC, town secretary, Argyle
Vice President: Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth
Treasurer: Shelly Doty, TRMC, city secretary, Cleburne
Secretary: Kathleen Wedell, TRMC, city secretary, Aledo
Historian: Diane Rasor, TRMC, city secretary, Justin

These officers will be voted on at the August meeting, take the oath of office at the September meeting, and begin their term on October 1.

Treasurer Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth, announced the next NTMCA meeting would be one week later than normal, on August 20, due to the TMCCP August seminar in Tyler.
Panhandle Chapter

By Kim Rehkopf

The chapter met June 19 at the Amarillo Club with nine members present for their bimonthly meeting. The program was on “Municipal Personnel Management Tips” and was presented by Gretchen Mercer, city secretary, Canyon; Becca Wood, city secretary, Perryton; and Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman.

The chapter is scheduled to meet again August 21 at 11:30 a.m. at the Amarillo Club in Amarillo.

Chapter members in attendance at the June meeting:

- Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart
- Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford
- Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman
- Terri Johnson, TRMC, city manager/city secretary, Friona
- Karen McGuire, city secretary, Dimmitt
- Gretchen Mercer, city secretary, Canyon
- Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, Dumas
- Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis
- Becca Wood, city secretary, Perryton
Salt Grass Chapter

By Lisa Olmeda, TRMC

In June the Salt Grass Chapter and City of Nassau Bay sponsored the evening event at the TMCCP Municipal Personnel Management Seminar held in Nassau Bay. The evening event included shuttle service from the seminar hotel to the Kemah Boardwalk. Everyone enjoyed their shopping and dining experiences at the lovely Kemah Boardwalk. Thanks for making the event a success!

Cities within the region of the Salt Grass Chapter also sponsored door prizes. Special thanks to the cities for offering their support by providing such wonderful door prizes!

For more information about the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact President Lisa Olmeda at 979-532-2491, extension 225, or email lolmeda@cityofwharton.com.

South Plains Chapter

By Maria Hatchett, TRMC

The South Plains Chapter met on June 18 at Ruby Tequila’s in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by the City of Brownfield and City Secretary/Assistant City Manager Mary Jo Collins, TRMC.

President Toni Wilson, TRMC, welcomed members and guests. Our guests included Brandi Jaquess of Ransom Canyon, and Belinda Hinojosa introduced her son Jeremy Hinojosa.

Mary Jo Collins, TRMC, introduced guest speaker State Representative Joe Heflin. Representative Heflin gave a brief presentation of his views of the roles and job descriptions of a city secretary.

Following Representative Heflin’s presentation, President Toni Wilson read aloud a note of appreciation and thanks from Tommy Combs, deputy city secretary (retired), Lubbock.
South Plains Chapter, continued

After a brief discussion on different retirement gifts and money allotted for this occasion, it was the consensus of the members present that a retirement committee be formed to set guidelines and report back at the next chapter meeting on September 17. Toni Chrestman, TRMC; Jodie House; and LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, volunteered to serve on this committee.

President Toni Wilson asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2009-2010 officers. Pam Rowe, TRMC; Becky Garza, TRMC; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, all agreed to serve.

It was the consensus of the members present that the chapter by-laws be amended after the Retirement Committee has time to make recommendations regarding the appropriate method of recognizing our chapter retirees.

The next chapter meeting was set for September 17; Nancy Hale, TRMC, city secretary, Spur, will host.
West Texas Chapter

By Evelyn Ammons

The West Texas Chapter met at the Barn Door Steakhouse in Odessa on April 23 for our second quarterly meeting. President Laura Barragan Reyes, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Van Horn, called the meeting to order and welcomed our special guest, Mrs. Melanie Thomas, who is with the Texas Municipal Retirement System. Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink, called roll call with twelve members present.

Melanie Thomas, with the Texas Municipal Retirement System, was the guest speaker and she spoke of the recent changes with TMRS that will affect employees and employers in the near future. She provided handouts of information on the changes.

In other business, the chapter nominated Becky Brewster, TRMC, city secretary, Van Horn, as the 2008 Clerk of the Year.

The Education Committee is working on providing a program on “Records Retention” for the chapter’s next meeting.
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