President’s Message

Earn This

A coworker from our Public Works Department would occasionally stop by my office, stand in the doorway and say, “How’s it going, easy money?” I would normally respond, “I’m doing fine. How about you?” He would often say something about his work day—how hot or cold it was outside, or how difficult his particular job was that day—and his final remark was always, “Man, you got it made, having an office and working indoors.” One day, I told him that if he wanted an inside desk job like mine, it could be done and all he would have to do is put in over 200 hours of study toward a city clerk’s certification program, attend eight seminars, and in my case, put two complete years of study toward an Associate’s Degree, and the position and office could be his. He stopped coming by.
President’s Message

Not everyone, but some people who work in manual labor, are critical about people who work in an inside office desk job. I know because I was one of them. I once worked at a cryogenic gas plant, eight hour work shift per day, and rarely had to use a tool bigger than a 9” crescent wrench. We had an office, and unless you worked the day shift, you had it made. And you learned on the job—no schooling was required. I did this for nearly five years and could have easily done another twenty-five and retired, but the company sold out and the plant was moved. It was then I worked eighteen years in the natural gas industry as a gas meter technician, which was physical labor. I could have told my public works coworker I once worked nearly 36 hours in two days to complete a pipeline connection meter station, only stopping because I ran out of daylight. I have paid my dues when it comes to physical labor. I would often daydream about having an office job that others had, despite knowing it would involve education and training, but I didn’t want to forego my personal time playing softball and watching sports.

When I first saw “Saving Private Ryan” and the scene where Tom Hanks’s character, Captain Miller, whispers into the ear of Matt Damon’s character, Private Ryan, I was really moved because his message was simple: “Earn this.” Nearly all of the men in the company died while trying to complete the mission of getting Private Ryan back home safe. It was the supreme commitment made for Ryan, and Miller gives a final command with his dying breath that he not live a wasted life, but a life that would bring honor to their sacrifice.
You may think “What does all this have to do with being a city clerk?” While the TMCA hasn’t ever sent anyone on a dangerous military mission, it has certainly put in the time in regard to personal sacrifices. It began in 1967 with Andrews City Secretary Dorothy Byrd, who pushed for the Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas (as it was called before it was the TMCA) to gain recognition and obtain a state validation of the certification program. As a visionary, she knew the importance of the office and its value to both the city government and citizens. Our role as a city clerk should never be confused with just being an “office job” but should carry the rank of a professional standard. And the sacrifices continue in the efforts and commitment made by clerks all over the state who put their personal time into pursuing better means of development within our association. A large majority of the activities of the association are conducted through the voluntary efforts of its members. Our Election Law Seminar in January is a good example because it is almost entirely composed of city clerks who are sharing their skilled experience. They are presenting this knowledge, along with new legislation, through a learning format to raise the quality education level of our members. For several years as an executive board member, I have read seminar surveys from the attendees and some of the remarks were critical regarding a particular election law teaching session. There is a reason why sometimes the presentation may not have been at the same quality level as a college course class—we are clerks first, educators second. And to teach an exciting and vibrant lesson on an annual routine election law subject to other clerks who have heard it year after year would be challenging to any instructor, but we still continue to pursue the best educational methods to make it a quality experience.

One of our association’s accomplishments is that increasingly more and more city clerk job descriptions require a Texas Registered Municipal Clerks Certification, or the obtaining of one within two to three years. We can all take pride in this because it gives merit of our worth to the city office in the way of education and efficiency. These cities recognize the value of a seasoned clerk’s contribution to the municipal government and the benefit they receive...
from the certification process. The accreditation saves the clerk and their city years of experience and on-the-job training. But think for a moment what it would be like if there were no certification instruction. How hard would it be to operate a municipal office if your schooling method was reduced to trial and error? Think of how much time would be lost in correcting your blunders or how much your city would suffer in legal expenses because of serious mistakes. This is another reason why some cities also offer a financial raise once the individual has achieved their certification: they have learned it literally pays to have a qualified city clerk.

Throughout this year, I have tried to give a solid effort in raising the standard of the office of the city clerk. It has been rewarding but has involved a lot of work outside the normal 8:00 to 5:00 office hours. The city administration and staff, my Deputy City Secretary Donna Pliska, and especially my wife Robbie, have all endured my absence with great patience, and I am very grateful. They understand what the position requires in the way of time for the progression of the TMCA, and this same effort is shared with many other clerks who have a deep inward commitment to this association. They realize, in the same spirit of Dorothy Byrd, that this group must continue to pursue higher excellence in order to remain validated in the minds of city administrators, councils, and citizens. With each passing year, more qualified city clerks are retiring and are no longer available to offer their service and expertise to the association. Their time is finished, and it is up to new individuals to step up and voluntarily commit themselves to this program. These new leaders are willing to give up whatever is necessary in order to continue the path of excellence demonstrated by their former associates. They know that apathy, ignorance, and laziness will cause a negative effect in the significance of this group. Too much effort has been given; too much sacrifice has been made; and too much is at risk to see its value deteriorate. I would like to thank the TMCA for a great year and also offer my final statement to the members of the association as a challenge in two simple words: “Earn this!”

Art Camacho, TRMC
2014 TMCA President
acamacho@haltomcitytx.com
It is hard to believe that I am nearly done visiting the TMCA chapters throughout Texas! Where did the time go? I think it’s because there is so much truth to the old saying, “Time flies when you’re having fun!” and I have had a blast with all of the clerks I have been able to see during my visits. I can’t thank the chapter presidents and members enough for their open hospitality, their donations toward my expense, their gifts, and especially their love. Thank you for an experience I will never forget!

— Art Camacho, 2014 TMCA President
The following 15 TMCA members were honored by their peers with nominations for the 2014 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. This award is based upon years of service as a municipal clerk, TRMC Certification and recertification, TMCA service, local TMCA chapter service, and other municipal clerk-related service and works such as instructing, convening, IIMC participation, and more. Congratulations to these inspiring stars of Texas government!

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC
City Secretary, Odessa
Nominated by Patrice Fogarty, TRMC

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary, Brenham
Capital Chapter Nominee

Linda Byers, TRMC
City Secretary, Vernon
Red River Chapter Nominee

Art Camacho, TRMC
City Secretary, Haltom City
North Texas Chapter Nominee

Peggy Cimics, TRMC
City Secretary, Cibolo
Alamo Chapter Nominee

Brenda Craig, TRMC
City Secretary, Kerrville
Hill Country Chapter Nominee

Danette Dunlap, TRMC
City Secretary, Abilene
Bluebonnet Chapter Nominee

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC
City Secretary, Muleshoe
South Plains Chapter Nominee

Shelley George, TRMC
City Secretary, Allen
Lone Star Chapter Nominee

Melba Haralson, TRMC
City Secretary, Gladewater
Northeast Texas Chapter Nominee

Laure Morgan, TRMC
City Sec/Office Mgr., Hemphill
Pineywoods Chapter Nominee

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

Maria Gonzalez, TRMC
City Secretary, Missouri City
Salt Grass Chapter Nominee

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC
City Secretary, Muleshoe
South Plains Chapter Nominee

Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC
City Secretary, Victoria
Coastal Bend Chapter Nominee

Estela Von Hatten
City Secretary, Brownsville
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter Nominee
TMCCP Seminar

Election Law Seminar

January 21-23, 2015, Frisco, Texas • Early Registration Deadline: January 7, 2015

Join us for the Annual TMCCP Election Law Seminar—this year at a great new location in FRISCO! The seminar will keep its usual format: you may choose from a selection of breakout sessions to best meet your needs.

Our usual three optional pre-seminar sessions are tailored to offer relevant information to cities that hold their own elections; cities that contract with the county for services; and attendees who are brand new to the election process.

Full information is available on our website. Plan the sessions you would like to attend ahead of time, with back-up options—to best accommodate everyone, there is a policy of no seat-saving, and sessions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to seeing you in January!

ABOUT OUR NEW LOCATION: The 4-Diamond Embassy Suites Dallas-Frisco Hotel, Convention Center & Spa is located in the north Dallas suburb of Frisco, approximately 25 minutes from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and 30 minutes from Dallas Love Field. It is connected to the Frisco Conference Center. The hotel is adjacent to the Stonebriar Centre Mall, one of the premier shopping centers in the Southwest. The area around the hotel also features numerous restaurants.

we can’t wait to meet you in our great new location: FRISCO

Wednesday, January 21, three optional Pre-Seminar Sessions:

- 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.: Optional Pre-Seminar Round Table for Attendees Holding Their First Election (free with paid registration)
- 12:00 noon-4:30 p.m.: Optional Pre-Seminar Step by Step Session for Cities Who Hold Their Own Elections ($145 registration fee, includes box lunch and "Step by Step" handbook)
- 2:00-4:00 p.m.: Optional Pre-Seminar Round Table for Attendees Contracting for the First Time (free with paid registration)

Wednesday, January 21—the Election Law Seminar begins at 6:00 in the evening:

- “TML Legislative Update on Elections”

Thursday and Friday—the following is a list of breakout sessions being offered during the Election Law Seminar (most sessions are 1 ½ hours in length):

- “Bond Elections”
- “Candidate Packets”
- “Charter Amendment Elections, Poll Watchers & Inspectors”
- “Early Voting for Early Voting Clerks”
- “ISD Elections: What You Need to Know”
- “Joint Elections”
- “Local Option Petitions & Elections”
- “Mail Ballots & FPCA Ballots”
- “November Elections”
- “Ordering an Election, Posting & Publishing Notices, Canceling Elections”
- “Provisional Voting”
- “Recall Elections for Home Rule Cities, Referendum & Initiative”
- “Recruiting & Training Election Workers”
- “Runoffs, Vacancies, and Recounts”
- “Unofficial Tabulation, Document Preparation for Canvass, Swearing In, Reporting to SOS, Election Register”
New Edition

Texas Municipal Law & Procedure Manual

The new sixth edition of the manual will be available both in electronic and hardcopy versions

It’s almost time to update your Texas Municipal Law & Procedure Manual—or if your office does not yet own this invaluable publication, the latest edition will soon be available to purchase!

This manual, authored by attorney Alan Bojorquez, is written specifically for the Texas municipal official. It contains practical advice and forms needed in the daily administration of a municipality. At over 500 pages, no other publication in Texas provides such in-depth, practical information on such a broad variety of municipal subjects.

This year, on its thirtieth anniversary, we are excited to announce we will also be offering digital subscriptions through the assistance of Franklin Legal Publishing. We will contact all current TMCA members as soon as this manual is available!

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Alan J. Bojorquez is a noted municipal lawyer in Texas. Through the Bojorquez Law Firm, PC, Alan serves as City Attorney or Special Counsel for general-law and home-rule municipalities across the state. Before going into private practice, he was a staff attorney for the Texas Municipal League. Alan graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts in English, Master of Public Administration, and Doctor of Jurisprudence. He is on the Board of Directors of the Texas City Attorneys Association, and is Texas Chairperson for the International Municipal Lawyers Association.
October 23, 2014, Kerrville

TMCA held a fantastic annual banquet this year at the Y.O. Ranch Hotel & Conference Center in Kerrville on October 23. TMCA members were recognized, scholarships were awarded, 2014 retirees were honored, TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year nominees were honored, the 2014 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year was recognized, and the 2015 TMCA officers were sworn into office.

The following pages in this special TMCA newsletter section offer a glimpse of the banquet. We hope to see you next year at the TMCA banquet in Fort Worth on October 8!

Photographs by Paul Traves, f16 Photography (unless otherwise noted)
The South Plains Chapter coordinated their colors in support of their member LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, who was honored as 2014 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year.

Brazoria City Secretary Sheila Williams, TRMC, and her husband Don Williams. Thank you to Don for always offering to help out at TMCCP seminars!
Lone Star Chapter members at the TMCA banquet.

Photo courtesy Deborah Sorensen
Above: Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater; Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, retired Garden Ridge city secretary; and Roxanne Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Spring Valley.


Below: Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary, Hemphill; Stacy Corley, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches; and Barbara Boyd, TRMC, city secretary, Center.
2014 TMCA Clerk of the Year

Congratulations to Muleshoe City Secretary LeAnn Gallman, TRMC!

Each year Texas municipal clerks nominate one of their peers for the prestigious state Municipal Clerk of the Year Award. To be eligible for the award, nominees must be active members of TMCA; must have provided service to other municipal clerks on a local level or state level; must have exhibited leadership abilities; must be a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk; and must currently hold a municipal clerk position. The Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee scores nominee applications on years of municipal service, years of TMCA membership, TMCCP certification/recertification achievements, TMCA service, local chapter service, special projects service, IIMC service, and participation as instructors or conveners in TMCA, local chapter, and IIMC education sessions.

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, was selected by the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee as the 2014 honoree for her outstanding achievements as an exemplary public servant.
The TMCA South Plains Chapter nominated LeAnn for this prestigious honor. TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster, made the official presentation to LeAnn during the TMCA Annual Banquet in Kerrville. Prior to the official presentation, TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, made a surprise visit to LeAnn at her council meeting to announce to LeAnn and her council that LeAnn had been chosen as this year’s Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year.

LeAnn has served the citizens of Muleshoe as their city secretary since 1999. She earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) in 2001, and has recertified twice; she is currently enrolled in her third recertification. She has also received the Certified Municipal Clerk Certification and the Master Municipal Clerk Certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

LeAnn has been a valuable mentor to her fellow city secretaries over the years both at the state and local levels. She is a longtime and invaluable speaker at the established and widely attended TMCCP Election Law Seminar: she has co-taught “Ordering Elections, Posting and Publications,” “Step by Step: Process of an Election,” “First Time Elections,” “Election Workshop for Small Cities,” “Recruiting and Training Election Workers,” and has served among a panel of educators at a question-and-answer session at this seminar. LeAnn’s service as an instructor also includes coordinating the 2012 TML Small City Problem-Solving Clinic; Texas Ranger Security Training; speaking at the 2006 TML Conference; Texas Public Works Association Program on Elections (2013); and TML Region III meeting, “Elections 101” (2014). LeAnn has also shared her knowledge with her local South Plains Chapter on “Security Training” and “City Secretary 101.” She has authored an article in Texas Town & City and has co-authored the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth editions of the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook.

LeAnn is dedicated in her membership to her professional organizations. She has held membership in TMCA since 1999, and has been an active, vital member ever since. LeAnn served nine years on the TMCA Executive Board, including service as president in 2012. She has served on and chaired multiple TMCA committees, including the Certification Committee and
the Advisory Management Committee. LeAnn is active in the TMCA South Plains Chapter, where she has held all offices including that of president. Her chapter committee service includes Chapter Training Committees, Scholarship Policy Committee, and Nominating Committee. Upon nominating LeAnn for 2014 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year, South Plains Chapter Committee Chair Toni Chrestman, TRMC, stated that LeAnn “truly stands out as a leader in our local chapter… She has played a key role in carrying out our chapter goals, educating our members, and promoting the South Plains Chapter.” LeAnn is also active in the Texas Municipal League, where she has served on multiple committees.

In the closing of her acceptance speech, LeAnn said:

What we do today will have an impact on those who come after us. What an awesome responsibility we have to make a difference. I challenge you to serve gladly and to appreciate the opportunity you have to make a difference in the lives of your citizens and our association. Be willing to mentor that new clerk in the next city who needs your encouragement and expertise. Treasure the friendships you form in your local chapters and across the state, for they are lasting.

I would ask you as you go home from this place, to look deep inside of yourself at who you are and what you stand for. I love what I do and can’t imagine doing anything else. I’m thankful to that first city manager who hired me and ignited that spark for public service. Recognize that you are a leader in your city and in this profession. Celebrate the gift of leadership that you have received.

Finally, I urge each of you to renew your passion for the job before you, and to realize how blessed you are to be a public servant.

Thank you for this honor.

Top right photos: TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Chair Pauline Small, TRMC, presents the Municipal Clerk of the Year award to LeAnn Gallman, TRMC. Near right: South Plains Chapter President Maria Hatchett, TRMC, presents a gift on behalf of the chapter to LeAnn.

Special thanks to the 2014 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee members: Chair Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster; Joy Hart, TRMC; Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary, Hemphill; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; and Angela Winkle, TRMC, city secretary, Crowley.

Photos by Paul Traves, f16photo.com
2015 TMCA Board:
Oath of Office

Above photos: 2014 President Art Camacho administers the oath of office to 2015 TMCA officers and trustees.

Photos at far right: Before administering the oath of office to incoming 2015 TMCA President Sherry Mashburn, 2014 TMCA President Art Camacho presented her with a cherished memento of his high school football career: the football given to him by his coach as a reward for his devoted team leadership.

Near right: On behalf of the membership, 2015 President Sherry Mashburn presents 2014 President Art Camacho a plaque of appreciation for his service.
2015 President’s Acceptance Speech

Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, City Secretary, College Station, was elected the 63rd president of TMCA during the Annual Business Meeting on October 23 in Kerrville. She presented this acceptance speech to attendees of the Annual Banquet.

Wow! What a journey this has been, with hills and valleys, twists and turns. It is not a journey I took alone, and I would not be here tonight without God’s favor and blessings and some very special people in my life. I would like to recognize these individuals, and if you could please stand or wave when you are introduced. I want everyone to see your beautiful faces. First, my husband Charlie. Over the years, he has been patient, understanding, and supportive of my schedule and my passion for the job. So much so, he had to take early retirement just to pick up the slack around the house! Charlie is joined tonight by his folks, Ray and Wilma Brown. And I am so happy to see my brother, Don King, here as well. As my big brother, he has always been someone I have loved and looked up to… even though he always was my parents’ favorite. I am pleased beyond measure that my family is here to share this moment. I love you guys.

Next, I must thank James Fisher, the city administrator that took a chance on me and hired me despite my BORING personality (this is a story I may share in an article next year). He believes in education and in the TMCCP certification program. James pushed me and encouraged me and allowed me to attend all the training and educational seminars necessary for certification… so much so, that he joked for years that I only worked 2-3 days a week.
And now, my mentor, Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary for the City of Bryan. It was at that first TMCCP seminar, only two weeks into the job, that I met Mary Lynne. She invited me to join her chapter, the Capital Chapter, and there is no better representation of the TMCA organization. Could those members please stand? Back to Mary Lynne. She has been an amazing mentor, but I think she believes the definition of mentor is “delegate”! I will be forever grateful to her and all she has done for me.

And last, but definitely not least, my mayor, members of my council, and staff from College Station. Mayor Nancy Berry, Mayor Pro Tem Karl Mooney, and Councilmember John Nichols, who have encouraged and supported me wholeheartedly on this journey. I am also pleased to see my city attorney, Carla Robinson, who serves as my sounding board and keeps me out of trouble! And I cannot forget my deputy, Tanya McNutt, who makes sure the office runs smoothly in my absence and does so without complaint—well, not much! But it did take a couple of years for her to quit texting, “Call me!”

This past June, I wrote an article entitled “A Year of Service.” In the article, I called for volunteers to serve on one of our organization’s committees. People volunteer for many reasons: to share a skill, to get to know a community, to gain leadership skills, to have an impact, to learn something new, to assure progress, to be an agent for change. What I’ve noticed over the years is the reasons that motivate us to volunteer are not why we continue to do so! In many instances, we continue to serve because we feel we’re accomplishing something, our talents are appreciated, and we’re making a difference in our community.

So I am declaring 2015 as the Year of Service:

- To our city organization
- To our citizens
- To our peers
- To TMCA
Many in our profession feel undervalued and unappreciated, and this could be due to the fact most people outside our profession don’t know what our jobs entail. It is my sincere desire that by participating in this Year of Service, we will re-discover, or re-define, what it is we do.

Several years ago, in her acceptance speech, TMCA Past President Mary Lynne Stratta called upon us to “tell our story.” I would like for us to continue telling our story, but also to live it, to let it show. This work we do is what we make it. We can influence our communities, our state, and our nation with our actions and our attitudes by being persons of integrity… being leaders those around us know can be trusted to do our jobs with honor, truth, and fairness. Our lives, our dedication, our commitment to these things will positively influence others.

In our rapidly changing world, we must be constantly vigilant, constantly alert; not only aware of new ideas, but searching them out and using them when they are applicable and advantageous to us. It’s easy to get stuck in a rut, doing the same thing the same way over and over every day. But to live at our fullest potential, to achieve our dreams and goals, we must never stop learning, we should constantly be gaining new skills, and diligently sharpening those skills we already have. “Good enough” should never be good enough. We must strive to earn and retain the public trust given us by demonstrating total and uncompromising commitment to the mission and goals of TMCA:

- To uphold constitutional government and the laws of my community;
- To conduct my public and private life as to be an example to fellow citizens and co-workers;
- To never disclose confidential information gained by reason of my position nor use such information for personal gain;
- To be ever mindful of my neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all and to extend the same treatment I wish to receive myself;
- To impart to my profession those standards of quality and integrity that the conduct of the affairs of my office shall be above reproach and to merit public confidence in our community;
- To record that which is true and preserve that which is entrusted to me as if it were my own; and
- To strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of my office through independent study, courses, meetings and seminars, and through sound management practices to produce continued progress and so fulfill my responsibilities to my community.

I think you will all agree: our jobs do not fall into the 9-to-5 category, and it’s not something we do just to pay the bills. We
are men and women who have made it our career to serve our communities, and I believe for many of us it is much more than a career—it is a **calling**! We are led to do it, and it has become our passion. Not everyone is blessed with the opportunity to work at a career that brings out his or her passion, one that affords them the opportunity to do the things that make a difference, and share those things with those around them. It is my passion to serve.

One day, we will leave these positions we now hold, and we all hope when we go we can say we did our best and made a difference in our communities. I’ve been told the definition of hope is looking forward to something, **expecting** it to come to pass. We have been blessed with the amazing opportunity to serve our fellow man, and my hope—my expectation—is that we will discover true and lasting fulfillment and happiness when we put our hearts and souls into our service to others.

In closing, I’d like to share a personal motto, one that I hope you will also take up:

- There are three things that make life worth living:
  - A self fit to live with;
  - A faith fit to live by; and
  - A purpose fit to live for.

2015 is going to be the Year of Service for TMCA, Inc. Let that be our purpose.
2015 TMCA Executive Board

The TMCA officers were installed at the Annual Banquet on October 23

Photograph by Paul Traves, f16 Photography

Standing, from left to right:
- President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC City Secretary, College Station
- Trustee Melba Haralson, TRMC City Secretary, Gladewater
- Trustee Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC City Secretary, Victoria
- Secretary Marie Balthrop, TRMC City Secretary, Alamo Heights
- Trustee Aimee Nemer, TRMC City Secretary, Richardson
- Vice President Lydia Lopez, TRMC City Secretary, Hewitt
- Treasurer Sandra Watkins, TRMC City Secretary, Deer Park
- Trustee Shelley George, TRMC City Secretary, Allen
- Trustee Kim Sutter, TRMC City Secretary, Euless

Seated, from left to right:
- Immediate Past President Art Camacho, TRMC City Secretary, Haltom City
- President Elect Cheryl Salgado, TRMC City Secretary, Spearman
- President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC City Secretary, College Station
- Immediate Past President Art Camacho, TRMC City Secretary, Gladewater
- Trustee Shelley George, TRMC City Secretary, Allen
- Trustee Kim Sutter, TRMC City Secretary, Euless
New Executive Board Trustee

Introducing Melba Haralson, TRMC, City Secretary, Gladewater

Melba Haralson, TRMC, spent the first 16 years of her career in the banking industry as a loan officer. Her financial background led her to an accounting position for the City of Gladewater in January 1995. Shortly thereafter she served as interim city secretary and was officially appointed city secretary in June 1997. She is also the finance director and HR director and served as the interim city manager in 2010.

Professional Affiliations

Melba earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification in 2005 (No. 469), recertified in 2010, and will earn her second recertification in January 2015. She has held membership in TMCA since 1998 and has been active in the Association. In addition to many years of committee service (Scholarship, Membership [chair], Audit [2011, 2012 chair], and Certification [2013-2014]), she is also a co-author of the tenth edition of the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook. She joins the team of TMCCP Election Law Seminar speakers in January 2015.

Melba is a member of the TMCA Northeast Texas Chapter. She has served the chapter as president (2008-2010) and vice president (2007-2008); she has also served on several chapter committees: Nominating, Scholarship, Bylaws, and Programs. She was the Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014, and nominee for the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year in 2011, 2013, and 2014. Her other professional memberships include the Texas Municipal Human Resources Association and the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas; she is an ex-officio member of Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.

Family, Community, and Hobbies

Melba’s community activities include membership in the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce and the Gladewater Lions Club (where she serves as past president). She has two married sons and five grandchildren. Melba’s hobbies include scrapbooking, quilting, crafts, and travel.

On her election to the TMCA Executive Board, Melba said, “Providing exceptional educational opportunities to Texas municipal clerks is imperative to successful and ethical municipal government operations in every city, regardless of its size. It is an honor and privilege to serve on the TMCA Executive Board and further advance the mission of TMCA and TMCCP.”
2015 TMCA Officers & Committees

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smashburn@cstx.gov

President Elect Cheryl Salgado
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Kim Sutter,
Karen Wilkerson,
Christi Shivers,
Stella Sauls,
Jana Lewellen,
Alice Holloway,
Membership Committee

Membership Committee
Alice Holloway,
Jana Lewellen,
Stella Sauls,
Christi Shivers,
Karen Wilkerson,
Kim Sutter,

Resolutions Committee
Linda Byers,
Dorothy Brooks,
Toni Milam,
Crystal Roan,
Teresa Valdez,
Scarlet Swoboda,
Victoria, Board Liaison

Technology Committee
Patrice Fogarty,

Lee Woodward
City Secretary, Huntsville
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Dr. Amy Holt
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Advisory Mgmt. Committee Chair Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Sec., Odessa; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Dir.; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Dir.

Advisory Management Committee
Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, Odessa,
Past President, Chair
Art Camacho, Haltom City, Immediate Past President
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, President
Cheryl Salgado, Spearman, President Elect
Shelley George, Allen, Certification Committee Chair
Peggy Burnside, TMCCP/TMCA Admin. Dir.*
Amy Holt, TMCCP/TMCCP Education Director*

Audit Committee
Pauline Small, Webster, Chair
Teresa Herrera, Palestine
Janelle Williams, Galveston
Art Camacho, Haltom City, Board Liaison
Historian
Brenda Craig, Kerrville

Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee
Jenny Page, Frisco, Chair
Barbara Boyd, Center
Maria Gonzalez, Missouri City
Kathy Hoover, Gilmer
Baudelia Rojas, Alton
Aimee Nemer, Richardson, Board Liaison

Nominating Committee
LeAnn Gallman, Muleshoe, Chair
Peggy Cimics, Cibolo
Gretchen Mercer, Canyon
Alicia Richardson, North Richland Hills
Angela Stutts, Onalaska
Sherry Mashburn, College Station, President
Cheryl Salgado, Spearman, President Elect

Open Records
Steering Committee
Jannette Goodall, Austin

Retirement Committee
Cara McPartland, Wimberley, Chair
Brenda Shaw, Morton
Christi Wynn, Brownwood
Melba Haralson, Gladewater, Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee
Ron Gonzales, Fort Worth, Chair
Kara Atwood, Lufkin
Jeana Bellingher, Brenham
Kristi Gilbert, Argyle
Susan House, Mesquite
Saundra Passailaigue, Leon Valley
Sherry Reeves, Grandview
Sherry Roberts, White Oak
Kim Sutter, Euless, Board Liaison

Technology Committee
Patrice Fogarty, La Porte, Co-Chair
Melinda Welsh, Friendswood, Co-Chair
Jannette Goodall, Austin

TML Booth Committee
Leticia Vacek, San Antonio, Chair
Shelley Goodwin, Garden Ridge
Carole Vanzant, Fair Oaks Ranch

Technology Committee
Patrice Fogarty, La Porte, Co-Chair
Melinda Welsh, Friendswood, Co-Chair
Jannette Goodall, Austin

TML Representative
Lydia Lopez, Hewitt, President Elect

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Advisory Mgmt. Committee Chair Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Sec., Odessa; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Dir.; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Dir.

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Advisory Mgmt. Committee Chair Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Sec., Odessa; Peggy Burnside, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Dir.; Dr. Amy Holt, TMCA/TMCCP Education Dir.
2015 Scholarships

Photography by Paul Traves, f16photo.com

Congratulations to the TMCA members who were awarded scholarships at the Annual Banquet! This year the TMCA Major Scholarship Awards included the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship; the Lila Fern Martin Scholarship; the Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship; the Susan Rocha Scholarship (funded by the Bojorquez Law Firm); and individual scholarships from the following vendors: American Legal Publishing, Franklin Legal Publishing, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, Municipal Code Corporation, and the Underwood Law Firm. Two MCCi Records Management Scholarships were also awarded.

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

Thank you to this year’s Scholarship Committee for their service: Chair Cara McPartland, TRMC, city secretary/court clerk, Wimberley; Susan House, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Mesquite; Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland; Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood.

Clockwise from top left:

Dale Barstow, vice president sales, Municipal Code Corporation, presents the Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship to Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball.

Jennifer Clements, management asst. to the city sec., Lubbock, is presented the Underwood Scholarship by Audi Sciumbato, Underwood Law Firm.

Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city mgr./city sec., Morton, is presented the Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship by Kirk Franklin, president, Franklin Legal Publishing.
Clockwise from top left:

Firm partner Richard Hill presents the Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson Scholarship to Chance Chatham, village secretary, Point Venture.

Technology Partner Bill Wright presents the Agent IT Scholarship to Christine Loven, assistant city secretary, Colleyville.

Alan Bojorquez, Bojorquez Law Firm, presents the Susan Rocha Scholarship to Sheila Williams, TRMC, city secretary, Brazoria.

Senior Account Executive Russell Haddock, MCCi, presents the MCCi Records Management Scholarship to Karen Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Pflugerville.

Photos by Paul Traves, f16photo.com
2014 Scholarships

Above: Scholarship Committee Chair Cara McPartland, TRMC, announced the scholarship recipients at the banquet.

Center: Kara Atwood, TRMC, city secretary, Lufkin, is presented the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship by TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt.

Right: Murvat Musa, TRMC, city administrator/secretary, Ransom Canyon, is presented the Lila Fern Martin Scholarship by Dr. Amy Holt.

Not pictured: American Legal Scholarship—Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; Municipal Code Corporation Scholarship—Baudelia Rojas, TRMC, city secretary, Alton; TMCA Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship—Jennifer Phillips, assistant to the city secretary, Irving, and Dianna Barker, TRMC, city secretary, Killeen; and TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship—Tiffni Herrera, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Abilene.
Recognition of 2014 Committee Chairs

2014 TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, presented certificates of appreciation to 2014 TMCA committee chairs.

Top row, left to right: Audit Committee Chair Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; Open Records Steering Committee, Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton; Historian Brenda Glenn Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; and Scholarship Committee Chair Cara McPartland, TRMC, city secretary/court clerk, Wimberley.

Second row, left to right: Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster; Retirement Committee Chair Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; Technology Committee Co-Chair Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood (not pictured, Co-Chair Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, La Porte); and Membership Committee Chair Kathy Wingo, TRMC.

Not pictured: Administrative Management Committee Chair Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth; Certification Committee Chair Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Tina Broussard, TRMC, city secretary, Beaumont; and TML Booth Committee Chair Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster.
Thank You to Our Scholarship Donors

Thank you to all those who donated to TMCA scholarships in 2014!

Bluebonnet Chapter of TMCA
- Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
- Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship

Bojorquez Law Firm
- Susan Rocha Scholarship

Kirk Franklin
- Franklin Legal Publishing Scholarship
  & Gold Seminar Sponsorship

Mary Kayser, TRMC
- Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson
- Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson Scholarship

Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA
- Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
- Lila Fern Martin Scholarship
- Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship

South Plains Chapter of TMCA
- Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
  & Platinum Seminar Sponsorship

Municipal Code Corporation
- 2 Municipal Code Corporation Scholarships
  & Platinum Seminar Sponsorship

MCCi
- 2 MCCi Records Management Scholarships

North Texas Chapter of TMCA
- Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
  & Gold Seminar Sponsorship

Salt Grass Chapter of TMCA
- Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
- Lila Fern Martin Scholarship
- Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship

South Plains Chapter of TMCA
- Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship
  & Platinum Seminar Sponsorship

Underwood Law Firm
- Underwood Scholarship
  & Platinum Seminar Sponsorship
2014 TMCA Retirees

Congratulations to TMCA members who retired in 2014!

Dee Arcos, TRMC, City Secretary, Granbury
Donna Boyle, City Secretary, Lakeway
Pat Bradley, City Secretary, Ferris
Nina Browning, TRMC, City Administrator, Winnsboro
Karen Bullard, City Secretary, Crane
Jennifer Canady, TRMC, City Secretary, Woodway
Linda Cantu, TRMC, City Secretary, Richland Hills
Dolle Downe, TRMC, City Secretary, Lancaster
Lyn Hill, TRMC, City Secretary, Cedar Hill
Patricia Hutson, TRMC, City Secretary, North Richland Hills
Gale Ivy, TRMC, City Secretary, San Saba
Judy Jackson, TRMC, City Secretary, Throckmorton
Pat Jones, TRMC, City Secretary, Nassau Bay
Cheryl Kretz, Town Administrator, Rancho Viejo
Joyce Laudenschlager, TRMC, Assistant City Manager, Burnet
Deborah Loesch, TRMC, City Secretary, Hunters Creek Village
Jo Ann London, City Secretary, Waller
Betty Lusk, City Secretary, Spring Valley Village
Pat Martindale, City Secretary, Bronte
Bobbie Mowery, City Secretary, Blanco
Thomas Peebles, City Clerk, Alvin
Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, City Secretary, Bowie
Pam Watson, Assistant City Admin./City Secretary, Athens
Diane Zucco, TRMC, City Secretary, Plano

At top: TMCA Retirement Committee Chair Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, recognized 2014 TMCA retirees at the banquet. Near left: Retiree Pat Martindale, who served 39 years with the City of Bronte, was recognized at the TMCA banquet.
Graduate Institute

October 23-24 • Y.O. Ranch Hotel, Kerrville

The TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in Kerrville on October 23-24 was one of the best yet. Speaker Marcel Brunel, president and founder of the Brunel Group, received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees in their post-seminar evaluations, with many saying it was the best seminar they had ever attended!

There were 241 in attendance for “Influencing Behavior and Impacting Results: People Working Together.” Attendees worked with a personal assessment that helped them explore the unique traits of their personality, and then with this knowledge, learn how to best work with colleagues, citizens, and challenging situations.

Background photo courtesy Ellie Monteaux, TRMC

Above: Attendees listen to speaker Marcel Brunel on the first day of the seminar.

Inset at left: The attendees broke up into groups for discussion.
Meetup in Kerrville

The evening before the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar, Kerrville City Secretary Brenda Craig, TRMC, graciously invited all attendees to meet up at Mamacita’s Restaurant, where she had reserved a room for Texas clerks to enjoy dinner and fellowship. Thank you, Brenda, for orchestrating a wonderful time!

Photographs courtesy Toni Milam, TRMC

Above: Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville, and Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth.

Photos clockwise from top left: Kathy Hoover, TRMC, city secretary, Gilmer; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; and Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan. Linda Zartler, TRMC, assistant city manager, Boerne, and Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch. Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals; Sabrina Maultsby, city secretary, San Saba; and Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet. Betty Brown, TRMC, local government election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath.
Several enrollees of TMCCP’s Recertification Program have expressed an interest in changing some of the requirements for recertification. The TMCA Certification Committee and the Executive Board always values input from the membership and desires to be responsive. The Executive Board met in November of this year and, after deliberation, modified some of the requirements for recertification; we think you will be pleased.

Here is a brief summary of what has changed:

- First, there will no longer be a distinction between the requirements for first recertification and subsequent recertifications: the requirements are now the same regardless of how many times you have recertified.

- Some of the assigned points have changed for the educational options necessary for recertification. Book reports, revised TMCCP homework modules, and Athenian Dialogues will still be worth 20 points each, but points for a college course, an Associate’s degree, or a Bachelor’s or higher degree have changed to 20 points, 30 points, and 50 points, respectively.

- New: Credit for a Certified Public Manager (CPM) certificate, or an Associate’s, Bachelor’s or higher degree can also be applied retroactively (one time) with an approved assessment provided by Dr. Holt. These will be 40 points, 30 points, and 50 points, respectively.

These are some of the highlights to the changes that will become effective January 1, 2015. Please view our updated PDF of Requirements for TRMC Recertification to read all the changes. Contact our office if you have questions.

Happy Holidays to you all! ⭐
Obituary

Dr. Charldean Newell

Charldean Newell, Ph.D., Regents Professor Emerita of Public Administration at the University of North Texas, and honorary member of TMCA, has passed away at age 75. Her passing was unexpected, but she was surrounded by longtime friends. A memorial service for Charldean will be held at St. Barnabas’ Episcopal Church, 1200 N. Elm, Denton, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 6.

Charldean was a longtime vital force in public administration education. She assisted founding director Dorothy Byrd in the formation of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program in the 1960s, and for many years was a regular presenter at TMCCP seminars. Even today TMCCP uses a textbook authored by Dr. Newell as part of its curriculum for municipal clerks.

During her years at UNT, Charldean was a mentor to hundreds of students and colleagues. Known by her friends as a force of nature, Charldean was passionate about education and helping those in need. She was generous beyond measure and worked tirelessly to make the world a better place. Even in retirement, Charldean continued to write textbooks, to teach for the International City/County Management Association, to serve on stewardship and building committees at St. Barnabas, and to lend her support to a wide variety of causes.
Charldean Newell

Her professional highlights include chair of political science department; twice serving as associate vice president for academic affairs; and special assistant to the chancellor for planning. She was also the founding director of special projects for the Federation of North Texas Area Universities. Charldean co-authored four books and more than 50 articles, chapters and monographs. Her major professional honors and recognitions include honorary member of both International City/County Management Association and Texas Municipal Clerks Association; recipient of Elmer Staats Career Public Service Award from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration; election to the National Academy of Public Administration; and recipient of the Mortar Board Alumni Achievement Award.

At the University of North Texas she received a Special Recognition Award on Honors Day, the President’s Council Service Award, NT Exes Distinguished Service Award, Hiram Friedsam Award, and the Dean’s Award from the School of Community Service. She also served as chair of the Faculty Senate.

Charldean was a strong presence in the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). She was instrumental in the development of the ICMA University and the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program; she edited and wrote publications; she taught; and she served on the ICMA Board of Regents (1994-1999).

Her community and professional service highlights include service as chair of the Denton Public Utilities Board, president of the Denton Christian Preschool, chair of the Denton Fire and Police Civil Commission, chair of the Denton Charter Revision Committee, Senior Warden at the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, and Executive Committee of the Diocese of Dallas. She served on the National Executive Councils of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, was a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha, Pi Alpha Alpha, Municipal Clerks Education Foundation, ICMA University Board of Regents and Voluntary Credentialing Advisory Board; and a member of the Denton Humane Society board of directors.

The only child of Charles T. Newell and Mildred Dean Looney Newell (hence her name), Charldean was born October 14, 1939, in Fort Worth where she was raised. After graduating from Carter Riverside High School in Fort Worth, Charldean went to the University of North Texas (then North Texas State College) where she received B.A. and M.A. degrees. During her time at UNT she made numerous life-long friends, joined St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, and became an avid supporter of UNT. Charldean went on to receive a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and returned to St. Barnabas and UNT in 1965 as member of the faculty of political science. She retired from UNT in 2002.

In her characteristic fashion, for her 75th birthday Charldean asked that anyone who wanted to honor her donate to one of her favorite charities: the Denton Humane Society, Our Daily Bread, or the Denton Christian Preschool. A memorial service for Charldean will be held at St. Barnabas’ Episcopal Church, 1200 N. Elm, Denton, Texas, 76201, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 6. Pursuant to Charldean’s specific instructions, the service will contain “modest amounts of music” and “an absolute minimum of words, gestures, and actions that create an emotional hardship for friends.” In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Charldean can be made to one of her favorite charities, any charity that helps people or animals, or St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.

Texas Municipal Clerks Association has made a donation to Our Daily Bread in honor of our mentor, teacher, and friend Charldean Newell.
Upcoming 2015 Events

**January 20, Frisco** • **Registration open**
**IIMC Athenian Dialogue: “Lincoln on Leadership”**
Educational credit: TMCCP recertification credit can be earned with dialogue participation and satisfactory completion of the learning assessment. Also preapproved for three IIMC CMC or MMC education points with completion of a learning assessment.

**January 21-23, Frisco** • **Registration open**
**TMCCP Election Law Seminar**
Educational credit: TMCCP Course 4 or Recertification seminar credit

**April 16-17, Waco**
**TMCCP Municipal Budget Cycle Seminar**
Educational credit: TMCCP Course 3 or Recertification seminar credit

**June 18-19, League City**
**TMCCP Seminar: “Goals for Public Service: A View from the City Clerk’s Office”**
Educational credit: TMCCP Course 1 or 2 or Recertification seminar credit

**August 20-21, 2015, San Marcos**
**TMCCP Legislative Update Seminar**
Educational credit: TMCCP Course 2 or Recertification seminar credit

**October 8-9, Fort Worth**
**TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar**
Educational credit: TMCCP Course 4 or Recertification seminar credit

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**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**
- Chance Chatham, Point Venture
- Janice Moore, Meadows Place
- Jamie Lee Pettijohn, San Marcos

**Course 2**
- Sorangel Arenas, Lancaster
- Kelly Burris, Brownfield
- Jennifer Clements, Lubbock
- Ann Franklin, Austin
- Amber Fuller, Hubbard
- Mona Lisa Galicia, Grand Prairie
- Juanita Gonzalez, Dilley
- Veronica Lomas, Southlake
- Shelley Major, Hudson Oaks
- Andrea McDonald, Amarillo
- Mary McDonald, Midlothian
- Janice Moore, Meadows Place
- Tracy Norr, Wichita Falls
- Carla Walker, Grandbury
- Cynthia Ward, Bellmead
- Dalessa Vardell, DISH

**Course 3**
- Sorangel Arenas, Lancaster
- Lisa Dawn Cabrera, Forest Hill
- Deborah Dane, Kilgore
- Michelle Hicks, Lacy Lakeview
- Lisa Palomba, Garland
- Kathryn Sanchez, Blue Mound
- Dalessa Vardell, DISH
- Barbara Denise Vice, McKinney

**Course 4**
- Shelley Antilley-Guevara, Winters
- Sorangel Arenas, Lancaster
- Amber Fuller, Hubbard
- Michelle Hickes, Lacy Lakeview
- Traci Paprocki, Schertz
- Dalessa Vardell, DISH
- Cynthia Ward, Bellmead
2014 TML Conference

September 30-October 3, Houston

TMCA was well-represented this year at the Texas Municipal League’s annual conference. In addition to our booth presence in the exhibition hall, TMCA once again sponsored the Friday morning “Women in Government Breakfast.” This year TMCA was invited to hold a session: “Hitting the ‘Trifecta’ in City Management—Elected Officials, Administrators, and City Staff Working Together” which featured a panel of city officials; it was a great success.

Photos from left to right: Missouri City City Secretary Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, discusses TMCA with a booth visitor. TMCA booth volunteers Kimberly Drysdale, city secretary/HR director, Ingleside; Carolyn Anderson, city secretary, Dickinson; and Diana Gordon Offord, TRMC, city secretary, Fulshear. Maria Gonzalez and Dayl Cooksey, city secretary, Sealy, with the eye-catching inflatable TMCA-imprinted globes TMCA’s TML Booth Committee chose as the booth giveaway. Maria Gonzalez, TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC; TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Specialist Miriam Sheehan, TRMC; and Dayl Cooksey.

Thank You to the TMCA Booth Volunteers:
Carolyn Anderson, city secretary, Dickinson
Dayl Cooksey, city secretary, Sealy
Kimberly Drysdale, city secretary, Ingleside
Amy Duncan, Meadows Place
Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton
Rita Frick, TRMC, city secretary, Hurst
Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen
Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City
Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place
Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station
Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon
Tracy Norr, city clerk, Wichita Falls
Diana Offord, TRMC, city secretary, Fulshear
Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Aransas Pass
Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster
Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster
Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville
Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park
Deanna Watson, TRMC, city secretary, Post
Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood
Lee Woodard, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville
TML Conference

TML “Women in Government” Breakfast

“Everything is Fair in Love, War, and Politics” with speaker Gloria Campos

The TML “Women in Government” Breakfast, held on the final morning of the TML Conference, was sponsored again this year by TMCA. The speaker for this event was recently-retired WFAA-TV news anchor Gloria Campos, who has covered Texas politics for almost 40 years.

Clockwise from top left: Speaker Gloria Campos, retired WFAA-TV news anchor and reporter. TMCA President Elect Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, spoke at the event. TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, addressed the attendees. Speaker Gloria Campos at the breakfast with Art Camacho.

At left: TMCA President Elect Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, guest speaker Gloria Campos, and TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City.
Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, and Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen, were among this year’s participants at the University of North Texas Master of Public Administration Mock Interview Program. Participants were assigned to work in teams of two or three and then interview students individually with potential interview questions, along with information from their job descriptions. They did an open evaluation to assist students with future job interviews, and then all together conducted an open session with all of the students. Ms. Katrina Thompson, who coordinates this with UNT, was very pleased with the session.
Texas hosted the members of IIMC Region IV in San Antonio on September 10-12. Attendees were able to participate in one of two different Athenian Dialogue educational opportunities: Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, facilitated a dialogue based on Candice Millard’s book *Destiny of the Republic*; and Dr. Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP, facilitated a Dialogue based on Kirstin Downey’s *The Woman Behind the New Deal*.


The following morning the business meeting was held. The members received a report on the IIMC Board Meeting and voted unanimously for a resolution in support of Fort Worth City Secretary Mary Kayser’s bid for IIMC Vice President 2015. The new Region Director Diane Whitbey, city clerk and collector, North Little Rock, Arkansas, was also appointed to serve 2015-2018. State reports were received and it was announced that the next region meeting would be in Louisiana.
IIMC Region IV Meeting

Above: The Texas attendees of the IIMC Region IV meeting. Front row, from left to right: Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen; Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan; Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria; Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur; Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas; Cheryl Salgado, TRMC, city secretary/asst. city mgr., Spearman; and Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch. Second row: Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Harlingen; Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station; LeAnn Galiman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe; Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative specialist, TMCA/TMCCP; Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary, Highland Village; Perla Lara, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen. Third row: Leticia Saenz, TRMC, deputy city clerk, San Antonio; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals; Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball; Amy Holt, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; Arcelia Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes; Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville; Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Kara Atwood, TRMC, city secretary, Lufkin; and Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP. (Not pictured: Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth.)

At top left: Attendees at an Athenian Dialogue on Thursday. At center left: Fort Worth City Secretary Mary Kayser, TRMC. Below left: Attendees bused to the San Antonio River Walk.
IIMC News

IIMC Bulletins

Congratulations to Kara Atwood, Arcelia Felix, Jacquelyn Harborth, Alice Holloway, and Perla Lara on receiving the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality.

Congratulations also to Elaine Simpson on receiving the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from IIMC. MMC program participants must pursue extensive and rigorous educational and professional components. The participant must also already hold the CMC.

Longtime TMCA member Kara Atwood, TRMC, city secretary, Lufkin, earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) designation in 2014 (No. 699) and is enrolled in her first recertification. She is a member of the Pineywoods Chapter of TMCA.

Arcelia Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes, earned her TRMC Certification in 1991 (No. 198) and has recertified four times; she is currently enrolled in her fifth recertification. Arcie has over two decades of TMCA membership and is a member of the TMCA Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter.

Jacquelyn Harborth, TRMC, city secretary, George West, earned her TRMC Certification in 2011 (No. 611) and is enrolled in recertification. Jackie has been a member of TMCA for ten years and is a member of the Coastal Bend Chapter of TMCA.

Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point, earned her TRMC Certification in 2013 (No. 675) and is enrolled in recertification. She has over a decade of membership in TMCA, and holds membership in the Lone Star Chapter of TMCA.

Perla Lara, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen, earned her TRMC Certification in 2007 (No. 524) and is enrolled in her second recertification. She has held membership in TMCA for over a decade, and is a member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter of TMCA.

Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals, earned her TRMC Certification in 2001 (No. 383) and has recertified twice; she is currently enrolled in her third recertification. She has held membership in TMCA since 1999, and is an active member of the Hill Country Chapter.
Congratulations to the following TMCA members on being chosen by their chapters as their 2014 Chapter Clerk of the Year. You are the stars of Texas government!

**Alamo Chapter**
- Peggy Cimics, TRMC City Secretary, Cibolo

**Bluebonnet Chapter**
- Danette Dunlap, TRMC City Secretary, Abilene

**Capital Chapter**
- Jeana Bellinger, TRMC City Secretary, Brenham

**Central Texas Chapter**
- Michelle Hicks, TRMC City Secretary, Lacy Lakeview

**Coastal Bend Chapter**
- Mary Valenzuela, TRMC City Secretary, Kingsville

**Hill Country Chapter**
- Brenda Craig, TRMC City Secretary, Kerrville

**Lone Star Chapter**
- Shelley George, TRMC City Secretary, Allen

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter**
- Estela Von Hatten, TRMC City Secretary, Brownsville

**North Texas Chapter**
- Diane Cockrell, TRMC City Secretary, Decatur

**Northeast Texas Chapter**
- Melba Haralson, TRMC City Secretary, Gladewater

**Pineywoods Chapter**
- Laure Morgan, TRMC City Sec./Office Mgr., Hemphill

**Red River Chapter**
- Linda Byers, TRMC City Secretary, Vernon

**Salt Grass Chapter**
- Maria Gonzalez, TRMC City Secretary, Missouri City

**South Plains Chapter**
- Kimberly Perez, TRMC City Secretary, Ralls
Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President Carole Vanzant, TRMC
City Secretary/Assistant to City Administrator, Fair Oaks Ranch

Chapter Vice President Janice Alamia, city secretary, Hollywood Park, hosted the August 27 chapter meeting, where members enjoyed a scrumptious lunch at The Egg & I. Sean Thompson, regional representative, Texas Municipal Retirement System, provided an overview on the public retirement system and answered several questions on the retirement step process and options available when retiring.

After approval of the chapter meeting minutes and financial report, a discussion and approval was given to award, in 2015, up to $400 from the Norma S. Rodriguez Scholarship Fund. Recipients will use the award to help fund their education or continuing education in pursuit of a TMCCP or IIMC certification/recertification. Chapter President Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, announced the appointments of Saundra Pas-sailaigue, TRMC, city secretary, Leon Valley, and Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes, to the Scholarship Committee.
Due to TMCCP Graduate Institute, the next chapter meeting was moved to October 29. It was decided that the December chapter meeting would be a banquet (as the chapter will be installing new officers) and that the banquet would be held in January 2015.

Chapter President Vanzant announced appointments to the Nominating Committee: Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary, Cibolo; Debby Goza, TRMC, city secretary, Live Oak; Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights; and Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary (retired, Garden Ridge).

Upon closing of the meeting, a raffle prize donated by Jennifer Reyna was won by Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights.

The Alamo Chapter meets every other month on every fourth Wednesday, starting in February of each year. We invite anyone to join us, either as a member or a guest.

At right: Sean Thompson, regional representative, Texas Municipal Retirement System, provided an overview on the public retirement system and answered several questions on the retirement step process and options available when retiring.
The Bluebonnet Chapter met at the Tye Community Center in Tye on September 10. Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, greeted everyone and gave the invocation. President Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge, called the meeting to order. All members and guests introduced themselves.

Abilene Assistant City Attorney Teresa James spoke to the chapter about “Open Meetings and the Public Information Act.”

President Latham stated that t-shirts are being sold for the City of Wink city secretary who is fighting cancer. Pat Martindale, retired city secretary, Bronte, thanked everyone that came to her retirement party and for their gift of funds towards her travel.

The chapter’s June meeting minutes and the treasurer’s report were approved.

The Scholarship Committee’s Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee, reported that the last scholarship was awarded to Maria Franco, deputy city clerk, San Angelo. New applications were handed out for 2015. The deadline for applications was November 15; the scholarship will be awarded at the December meeting.

Volunteers Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee; Tammy Thorn, city secretary, Bronte; and Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin, were appointed to serve on the chapter’s 2015 Nominating Committee. Volunteers Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene, and Alicia Ramirez, TRMC, city secretary, Buda, were appointed to the chapter’s 2015 Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee.

Retiree Pat Martindale, who served 39 years with the City of Bronte, was recognized at the 2014 TMCA Banquet in October.
Bluebonnet Chapter

As in the past, the Bluebonnet Chapter donated to TMCCP scholarships. The chapter unanimously voted to donate $250 each to the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship and to the Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship.

President Latham asked for volunteers to host the 2015 chapter meetings. Kay Torres of Robert Lee volunteered to host in March; Alicia Ramirez of Buda volunteered to host in December; and Christi Wynn of Brownwood volunteered to host in September (the month of June meeting will be determined at a future meeting). ★

Members present at the meeting:
Nan Billings, TRMC, city secretary, Bangs
Penny Cate, city administrator, Ranger
Danette Dunlap, TRMC, city secretary, Abilene
Tiffni Hererra, TRMC, asst. city secretary, Abilene
Belinda Hohhertz, city secretary, Tye
Staci King, community service admin. asst., Stephenville
Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Breckenridge
Karen Langley, TRMC, city secretary, Coleman
Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge
Pat Martindale, city secretary (ret.), Bronte
Ryan Polster, city secretary, Hamilton
Alicia Ramirez, TRMC, city secretary, San Angelo
Tammy Thorn, city secretary, Bronte
Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee
Mary Wells, city secretary, Ranger
Rhonda Williams, city secretary, Dublin
Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood
Capital Chapter

By Janet Rogers
Retired City Secretary, Giddings

The Capital Chapter met on September 24 in Austin. Hosts for the meeting were Local Government Election Specialist Betty Brown, TRMC, and attorney Catherine Fryer of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, LLP. Catherine Fryer gave a presentation on interviewing tips related to the hiring process.

Chapter President Shirley Garvel, retired city secretary, Elgin, called the meeting to order. Halfway through the meeting, a delicious lunch of Italian fare was enjoyed by all. There was discussion and action regarding the Nominating Committee Report and the chapter members voted on the 2015-2016 officers. Officers elected are: President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham; Vice President Rachel Austin, city secretary, Jonestown; Treasurer Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills; Secretary Lucretia Alvarez, city secretary, Elgin; and Historian Robyn Ryan, city secretary, Rollingwood. Officers will be sworn in at the next meeting.
We would love for anyone to come join us as a member or guest at one of our future meetings. Please contact: President Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham, at 979-337-7567 or jbellinger@cityofbrenham.org.

Chapter members in attendance at the September meeting:
Lucretia Alvarez, city secretary, Elgin
Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham
Susan Brock, TRMC, city clerk, Taylor
Betty Brown, TRMC, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, LLP
Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia
Chance Chatham, village secretary, Point Venture
Paul Chenuau, MCCI
Shirley Garvel, city secretary (ret.), Elgin
Seth Gipson, TRMC, management assistant, Hutto
Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander
Lacie Hale, city secretary, West Lake Hills
Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron
Christine Martinez, city secretary, Hutto
Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station
Debora Penbery, receptionist/admin. asst., Leander
Janet Rogers, city secretary (ret.), West Lake Hills
Robyn Ryan, city secretary, Rollingwood
Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Sandra Barton
City Secretary, Robinson

The Central Texas Chapter held a bi-monthly meeting on August 20. The City of Waco hosted the meeting at City of Waco Operations Center. Chapter President Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Belton, welcomed everyone, and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Waco Convention Center catering service.

Chapter members were presented with a very informative presentation from Waco Communications Administrator Dori Helm, regarding “Email Management/Etiquette.” Waco City Secretary Patricia Ervin, TRMC, and Records Coordinator Sandie Polk also provided a presentation regarding open records requests and records retention as they pertain to emails.

At right: Central Texas Chapter members at the August meeting. Front row, from left to right: Jana Lewellen, TRMC, city secretary, Belton; Kathy McKenzie, HR director, Robinson; Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Michelle Hicks, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview; and Sandra Barton, city secretary, Robinson. Back row: Karen Sanchez, finance director, Robinson; Amber Fuller, city secretary, Hubbard; Crystal Briggs, city secretary, Nolanville; Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills; Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; Althea Wall, city secretary, Morgan’s Point Resort; Esmeralda Hudson, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Waco; Cynthia Ward, city secretary, Bellmead; and Sandie Polk, records coordinator, Waco.
The Central Texas Chapter held their next bi-monthly meeting on October 15. The City of Morgan’s Point Resort hosted the meeting at Garrett and Mic Hill Community Center. Morgan’s Point Resort City Manager David Huseman welcomed everyone and the chapter enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Backyard Barbecue. Chapter members were also treated with delicious fresh popcorn provided by Mrs. Holmes, wife of Mayor Pro Tem Ric Holmes.

Following the delicious lunch, the chapter was presented a very eye-opening presentation from Mayor Pro Tem Ric Holmes on “Body Language, Sabotaging Collaboration?” and “Cloud Computing.”

Upcoming chapter meeting dates:

- **December** – Chapter Christmas Party - Hosted by City of Belton
- **February** – Hosted by City of Mexia ★
Coastal Bend Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Mary Valenzuela, TRMC
City Secretary, Kingsville

The Coastal Bend Chapter hosted an Athenian Leadership Society Dialogue on September 5 at the Pelican Condominiums & Beach House located in Port Aransas. The dialogue was presented by IIMC Past President and Athenian Fellow Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan. The group discussed the book *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II.* Some good discussions were made by those who attended this dialogue. Attendees of the dialogue also had the opportunity to stay the weekend and enjoy the wonderful beaches that Port Aransas has to offer. We would like to thank Mary Lynne Stratta for taking the time from her busy schedule to come down to Port Aransas and lead this dialogue. We look forward to hosting the next dialogue in September 2015.

The Coastal Bend Chapter held their quarterly meeting on September 26 at Texas A1 Steaks & Seafood Restaurant in Portland. The educational program on “Records Administration” was presented by Irma Parker, TRMC, city secretary, Port Aransas, and Scarlett Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria. Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Swoboda did a fabulous job in presenting this vital information to our chapter members.

In other news, the Coastal Bend Chapter congratulated Chapter Secretary Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville, for completing the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Mrs. Valenzuela will receive her certificate at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Frisco this January.

For information on how to join the Coastal Bend Chapter, please contact Chapter Secretary Mary Valenzuela, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville, at 361-595-8002 or by email at mvalenzuela@cityofkingsville.com.

The Coastal Bend Chapter members would like to wish everyone safe and happy holidays.
Greetings from the beautiful Hill Country! The fall leaves are beginning to show their true colors.

The Hill Country Chapter met together in August in the City of Kerrville with President Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville, and Cheryl Brown, deputy city secretary, Kerrville hosting the working lunch and meeting.

Our August meeting was held at the newly built Kerrville city hall. After the regular order of business, the Hill Country Chapter got down to other business in preparing for hosting the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar that was to be held in Kerrville at the Y.O. Ranch Hotel in October. Your Hill Country Chapter worked tirelessly on putting together what we think were great “treat” (no tricks) bags. Thanks to all of our city secretaries and deputy city secretaries who contributed to the “treat bags.”

At the August meeting in Kerrville, Hill Country Chapter members created three hundred “treat bags” for the October TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar. Front row, from left to right: Cheryl Brown, deputy city secretary, Kerrville; Margie Rivera, deputy city secretary, Fredericksburg; Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet; Maria Alvarado, Junction; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; and Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano. Back row, from left to right: Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Pattie Grote, city secretary, Mason; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals; and Kristi Bannowsky, city secretary, Junction. (Those present but not pictured were Lori Carroll, TRMC, city secretary, Boerne; Melissa Grace, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Boerne; and Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch.)
Hill Country Chapter

Above: Shopping and stuffing “treat” bags is hard work! Girls just want to have fun! Front row, left to right: Cheryl Brown, deputy city secretary, Kerrville; Margie Rivera, deputy city secretary, Fredericksburg; Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet; Maria Alvarado, Junction; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; and Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Llano. Back row: Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Pattie Grote, city secretary, Mason; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals; Kristi Bannowsky, city secretary, Junction.

Top left: Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet, and Kristi Bannowsky, city secretary, Junction, “shopping and stuffing” the “treat” bags for the TMCCP Graduate Institute to be held in Kerrville.

Near left: Hill Country Chapter President Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville making sure “treat” bags were ready for transport.
Hill Country Chapter

The Hill Country Chapter held their October meeting in Fredericksburg. It was hosted by Fredericksburg City Secretary Shelley Britton and Deputy City Secretary Margie Rivera at Freidholm’s Bavarian Inn Restaurant. Freidholm’s Restaurant is authentically German. Our special guest was TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, who attended the chapter’s meeting.

The Hill Country Chapter had close to 10 of its members in attendance at this year’s TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in Kerrville. Some even participated in the Athenian Dialogue that discussed the book Mandela’s Way. We hope you all

At top right: The Hill Country Chapter at their October meeting at Freidholms Bavarian Inn Restaurant in Fredericksburg. Front row, left to right: Sabrina Maultsby, city secretary, San Saba; Margie Rivera, deputy city secretary, Fredericksburg; Marie Alvarado, Junction; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Sheila Moore, city secretary, Cottonwood Shores; and TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. Back row, left to right: Lori Carroll, TRMC, city secretary, Boerne; Teresa Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay; Kristi Bannowsky, city secretary, Junction; Melissa Grace, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Boerne; Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Elaine Simpson, TRMC, city secretary, Granite Shoals; Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch; and Kelly Dix, city secretary, Burnet. (Present but not pictured, Toni Milam, city secretary, Llano.)

Inset: TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, at the chapter’s meeting in Fredericksburg.
enjoyed this year’s TMCCP Graduate Institute, from the
guest speaker, Marcel Brunel, president and founder of
the Brunel Group, to the installation of the new TMCA
officers. The Hill Country Chapter would like to thank
2014 TMCA President Art Camacho for a job well done,
and to thank incoming 2015 TMCA President Sherry
Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, College Station, who
has challenged every member of TMCA to make this the
“Year of Service.”

To join the Hill Country Chapter of city secretaries, please
contact President Brenda Craig, city secretary, Kerrville at brenda.craig@kerrvilletx.gov.
Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President Vickie Schmid, TRMC
Deputy City Secretary, Richardson

September Meeting

Hard at work during its September 3 meeting, the Lone Star Chapter approved minutes, treasurer’s reports, the 2014-2015 budget, and the 2014-2015 slate of officers. Members Robyn Battle, TRMC, town secretary, Prosper; Kristy Ashberry, city secretary, Rockwall; Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm; and Jennifer Faircloth, TRMC, administrative assistant, Lucas, were congratulated on receiving their TRMC certification. Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point, was congratulated for receiving her CMC certification. Way to go, ladies!

Kathy Wingo, TRMC, presented educational commentary on “And Then Some,” encouraging members to go above and beyond when called to service. Kathy Wingo also quizzed the chapter on various topics, including petition requirements, posting meeting agendas, and elections.

At the October meeting: TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, and 2014-2015 Lone Star officers: President Vickie Schmid, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Richardson; President Elect Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco; Secretary Alice Holloway, TRMC, city secretary, Pilot Point; Treasurer Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; and Historian Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm.
October Meeting

The Lone Star Chapter installation of officers for 2014-2015 was a wonderful success at the October 8 meeting. TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, administered the oath to each new officer. Art spoke about the importance of the local chapters to TMCA, the dedication of chapter members to serving others, and how being of service has been such a blessing to him. On my very first day as chapter president, I experienced the overwhelming support of the Lone Star Chapter members and their willingness to serve. What an awesome group of people!

Twenty-four committee chairs and committee members were recognized by Immediate Past President Janis Cable, city secretary, Lowry Crossing, with beautiful certificates acknowledging their service to the chapter. Janis Cable was presented with the Lone Star Chapter “Golden Gavel” award for her leadership, dedication, and service as the 2013-2014 Chapter President. Kathy Wingo, TRMC, presented a Character First spotlight on “Joyfulness,” reminding members to look on the bright side and seek to serve. The chapter’s commitment to education and service was demonstrated once again by unanimous vote to provide door prizes at the TMCA Annual Banquet and to work with the North Texas Chapter to plan “something special” for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar attendees. Join us in January 2015 in Frisco to find out what it is!

As the days ahead pass by, each of us will be presented with opportunities to step out of our comfort zone, maybe face a fear or two, and serve in a whole new way. So take a deep breath, say YES, and tap into the most amazing support system around: your local chapter.
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian Ana Valdez
City Secretary, Peñitas

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter met in August and September. We met in South Padre Island and in Alton. In South Padre Island our guest speaker was a representative from the AACT Organization. Flyers were passed out on the 2012 overall voting numbers and stressed the importance of citizens getting out and voting. In September our guest speakers were Alton Fire Chief Javier Garcia and Fire Lieutenant Rober Chavez, who spoke to us about “Fire Safety in the Workplace.” They went over how we can prevent fires and what to do in the case of an emergency.

For those wishing to join the LRGV Chapter please contact President Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr, at hilda.pedraza@pharr-tx.gov. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Also be sure to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lrgvsecretaries.

The cities of the LRGV Chapters members include: Alamo, Alton, Brownsville, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elsa, Granjeno, Harlingen, Hidalgo, La Feria, La Joya, La Villa, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Los Indios, Lyford, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, Port Isabel, Palmhurst, Raymondville, Rancho Viejo, San Benito, San Juan, South Padre Island, Sullivan City, and Weslaco.
Greetings to our fellow chapters from the North Texas Chapter!

A big thank you to Azle City Secretary Norma Zenk, TRMC, for hosting the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter business luncheon on August 20. Mayor Alan Brundrett welcomed our group to Azle. Speaker Jon Stigliano discussed with our chapter attendees how we can all work to build our personal brand. We learned that we all need to be intentional about our behavior to set the path of our success. Conscious thought accomplishes a desired result. We have three control factors: beliefs, behaviors, and abilities. Improve on each of these and you improve your personal brand and your life.

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: the July 16 meeting minutes, the treasurer report for July 2014, and the FY2014-2015 chapter budget. Additionally, chapter member Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Fort Worth,
discussed with the group the International Institute of Municipal Clerks’ CMC and MMC designations, including the IIMC point system and requirements to achieve each designation. Thank you, Mary, for sharing this important information with our group!

Jodi Brown, TRMC, city secretary, Grapevine, hosted our September 17 meeting at the beautiful Bessie Mitchell House Botanical Gardens in Grapevine.

Parks & Recreation Department Director Kevin Mitchell welcomed our group to Grapevine. Speaker Marcel Brunel, a professional development trainer and certified mediator, discussed with us about “Relationship Resolution: People Working Together.” Marcel discussed how our techniques determine our traits and qualities, which lead to our behaviors, which end in our results. We need to build influence and “stay in the dialogue” in order to achieve successful relationships. Dialogue differs from having a discussion: in a dialogue, no one is looking to win. We also discussed the four facets of the “Relationship Model”: Trust, Rapport, Respect, and Value. We create value by achieving goals, solving

Top right: Jon Stigliano, pictured with President Diane Cockrell, TRMC, was the speaker for the chapter’s August meeting.

Near right: Speaker Marcel Brunel at the chapter’s September meeting, addressing the members on "Relationship Resolution: People Working Together."
problems, and meeting needs. We were so lucky to have Marcel visit our chapter. He provided us with so much positive insight and inspired us to learn more and work hard!

President Diane Cockrell administered the oath of office to the 2015 NTMCA board officers: President Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington; Treasurer Carol Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Westworth Village; Secretary Sheila Morales, city secretary, Copper Canyon; and Historian Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville.

The 2014-2015 meeting schedule was presented by incoming President Mary Supino.

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: the August 20 meeting minutes, the treasurer report for August 2014, transfer of $435.00 from membership fund to special project fund, and contributions to scholarship funds for: TMCA Dorothy F. Byrd, TMCA Dr. Joyce Snay, and NTMCA Alyce Deering. Additionally, President Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur, was recognized for outstanding commitment and leadership to the NTMCA over the past year.

Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, North Richland Hills, hosted our October 15 meeting in North Richland Hills. Alicia assembled a fantastic panel of women leaders to discuss “Build-

Attendees at the September meeting:
Laura Bell, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Carrollton
Secretary Carol Ann Borges, TRMC, city secretary, Westworth Village
Tara Brooks, asst. city secretary/rec. mgr., Grapevine
Jodi Brown, city secretary, Grapevine
Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP
Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary, Highland Village
President Diane Cockrell, TRMC, city secretary, Decatur
Treasurer Shannon DePrater, TRMC, town secretary, Cross Roads
Asucena Garcia, TRMC, accounting gen./admin. asst., Decatur
Martha Garcia, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Arlington
Pam Gregg, TRMC, city secretary, Alvord
Susie Hiles, assistant to the city manager, Azle
Veronica Lomas, TRMC, records manager, Southlake
Jess McEachern, city secretary, Bridgeport
Historian Sheila Morales, town secretary, Copper Canyon
Krystle Nelinson, city secretary/mgmt. analyst, Carrollton
Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson
Lori Payne, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake
Diane Rasor, TRMC, city administrator, Newark
Alicia Richardson, TRMC, city secretary, North Richland Hills
Traci Riggs, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Southlake
Cat Schluter, human resources manager, Azle
Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative specialist, TMCA/TMCCP
Amy Shelley, TRMC, city secretary, Colleyville
Monica Solko, TRMC, assistant city secretary, North Richland Hills
Vice President Mary Supino, TRMC, city secretary, Arlington
Kim Sutter, TRMC, city secretary, Euless
Lindsay Wells, TRMC, administrative secretary, Euless
North Texas Chapter

ing Relationships: Balancing Work, Personal and Family.” The panel included: Jennifer Fadden, city manager, Colleyville; Opal Mauldin-Robertson, city manager, Lancaster; Paulette Hartman, assistant city manager, North Richland Hills; and Karen Bostic, assistant city manager, North Richland Hills. Our panelists provided us with invaluable advice on enhancing our relationships with the city manager’s office, and tips on how we can balance our professional, personal, and family relationships. Open and candid communication was a common theme discussed to enhance our relationships. Critical skills for city secretaries that were noted during our discussion included: organization, finesse, positive attitude, diplomacy, seeing strategically, emotional intelligence, and attention to detail.

Panelists were asked what advice they would give a younger version of themselves entering their profession on strategies to build or improve their

Top right: Panelists at the chapter’s October meeting.

Near right: NTMCA Chapter members at the October meeting in North Richland Hills.
professional and personal relationships. Some of the responses provided were: being a better listener, not being so quick to second guess the decisions of others, listen more than you speak, ask a lot of questions and make sure you understand the issue, forge relationships even when it is difficult, have confidence in your skill set, and offer grace. Such phenomenal words of wisdom from some incredibly professional and positive women!

At this meeting, the membership approved the following business items: the September 17 meeting minutes, the treasurer report for September 2014, and the FY 2014 fourth quarter report. Additionally, appointment of Diane Callahan, TRMC, city secretary, Highland Village, as vice president was approved by our membership and the oath of office was administered by President Mary Supino, TRMC.

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 Chapter President 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.

The NTMCA will meet on December 11 at the Diamond Oaks Country Club in Haltom City for our Holiday Celebration. In January we will hold our business meeting luncheon in Irving. Please see our website for more information regarding meetings and upcoming events: www.ntmca.org.
Northeast Texas Chapter

By Gail Weir, TRMC
City Secretary, Ore City

The Northeast Texas Chapter greets autumn with a great big “Welcome!” Who wouldn’t be ready for sweet potatoes, scarecrows, and sweaters?

Of course, the perfect outing for a fall day is the home of First Monday Trade Days in Canton! Our host Canton City Secretary Debra Johnson greeted us in the council chamber with coupons and parking passes.

Chapter President Rosena Becker-Ross, TRMC, city secretary/court administrator, presided over the business meeting, which included awarding the first Deana McCasland Scholarship. The scholarship was begun in memory of Ms. McCasland, who served as city secretary in Overton. This year’s recipient is Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladewater.

Nominations were made for the new chapter officers. Sherry Roberts, TRMC, city secretary/office manager, White Oak, was nominated for president; Doris Crockett, city secretary, Bullard, was nominated for vice president; and Jennifer Studdard, city secretary/director of finance, Nash, was nominated for secretary. The chapter will elect and install these officers at the December meeting, which will be held at our favorite Christmas-time location, Traditions in Tyler, on December 12, at 10:30 a.m.
President Becker-Ross presented a beautiful prize to Ms. Fran Wendeborn, TRMC, retired city secretary, Rusk, for travelling the farthest for the meeting.

Other members attending the meeting were Shelly Ballenger, TRMC, city secretary, Longview; Laurie Kacynarek, assistant city secretary, Longview; Yvonne McCauley, city manager, Van; Lawanna Williams, retired finance director, Kilgore; Deborah Dane, city clerk, Kilgore; and Sereca Huff, city secretary, Van. Following the meeting, the group adjourned to the Trade Days Park and enjoyed an afternoon of shopping and snacking.

By the time you read this, most of the fall colors will be gone. We'll be hanging holly and fir on our doors and mantles as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ and this special holiday time. It is truly a beautiful and busy season. Often we are so caught up in the preparation, we forget the motivation. Lead your family and friends in making sure the most important thing stays the most important thing.

The Northeast Chapter wishes you the many blessings of the season.
By Kimberly Sloat, TRMC
City Secretary, Canadian

The Panhandle Chapter has met twice—August 21 and October 16—for our bi-monthly meetings since the last newsletter. Our chapter meets at The Amarillo Club in Amarillo. Although we usually have a great turnout, our August meeting had low attendance with summer wrapping up. However, we were graced with the presence of TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. Art always brings something interesting to the table while making everyone laugh. We would like to thank Art for taking the time to visit us in the Panhandle.

D’Layne Peeples Carter presented the program at this meeting. She is a lawyer working for Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott. This is the firm handling all of the delinquent property taxes in the Panhandle area. It doesn’t cost the cities any money; the cost is actually passed on to the delinquent property tax owner. D’Layne also gave us a brief rundown of how the company actually started. She answered several questions and was a pure delight to have as a guest.

At our October meeting, Sara Freese, director of aviation for Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport, was our speaker. She is
Panhandle Chapter

in control of the overall operation of the airport. She was very informative on past and present airport trivia. She also gave us an idea of what we can expect in the future with airlines in general and with our home airport in Amarillo. We really enjoyed all the insight she provided.

Members in attendance at the October meeting:

- Treasurer Machiel Covey, city secretary, Clarendon
- Charlene Gardner, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Pampa
- President Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman
- Frances Hibbs, TRMC, city secretary, Amarillo
- Andrea McDonald, TRMC, finance secretary, Amarillo
- Historian Gretchen Mercer, TRMC, city secretary, Canyon
- Patricia Phipps, city secretary, Friona
- Vice President Karen Price, TRMC, city secretary, Pampa
- Stella Sauls, TRMC, city secretary, Borger
- Secretary Kimberly Sloat, TRMC, city secretary, Canadian
- Kristina Solomon, city secretary, Tulia
- Kathy Styles, city secretary, Perryton
- Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis

Panhandle Chapter members at the October meeting in Amarillo.
The Pineywoods Chapter held their quarterly meeting on September 25 in the City of Lufkin at Ralph and Kacoo’s Restaurant. Following lunch, the meeting was called to order. The chapter was pleased to welcome TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, to the meeting, and enjoyed a great presentation entitled “The Value of a City Clerk.” As always, President Camacho did a fantastic job and reminded us all to remember and promote our value as municipal clerks.

Normal chapter business followed with the approval of minutes and financials. The chapter also elected officers for the upcoming year: President Kara Atwood, TRMC, city secretary, Lufkin; Vice President Cinda Garner, city secretary, San Augustine; and Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Boyd, TRMC, city secretary, Center.

The Pineywoods Chapter Clerk of the Year award was presented to City Secretary Laure Morgan, TRMC, city secretary, Hemphill. A chapter scholarship was also awarded to Ellie Monteaux, TRMC, city secretary, Livingston. Congratulations go out to both of these wonderful ladies! The chapter’s next meeting will be held on February 26 in the City of Lufkin.
Members of the Red River Chapter met for our quarterly meeting at Logan’s Roadhouse in Wichita Falls on September 17 at 1:00 p.m. President Linda Byers, TRMC, city secretary, Vernon, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Business of the Red River Chapter was conducted; the June minutes and the treasurer’s report were approved.

Discussion was held on future programs for the Red River Chapter. President Byers reported that a representative from MCCi Records Management will be sponsoring our meeting in December. MCCi works with cities on records and document management, document scanning, business workflow, and open records request management. President Byers reported she is also working with TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Amy Holt on coordinating an Athenian Dialogue with the March meeting. The chapter also discussed the possibility of having records retention training in the future.
Members of the chapter approved a $100 donation to adopt a family from Faith Refuge and purchase Christmas gifts for them. In the past, the chapter’s donation along with the donations of the individual members has allowed us to purchase several gifts for a family. We have found this truly rewarding when we are able to bless another family at Christmas.

The chapter’s Travel Stipend Committee awarded Sandy Page, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bowie, and Kim Hemmi, city secretary, Scotland, travel stipends of $100. These travel stipends help defray travel costs for seminar attendance for those who are currently enrolled in TMCCP or its Recertification Program.

President Byers welcomed guest speaker Russell Schreiber, Wichita Falls Director Public Works. Mr. Schreiber gave a presentation on the Wichita Falls Water Reuse Project, cloud seeding operations, and Evaporation Suppression Project. The presentation was very interesting to the group as our North Texas area continues to battle drought issues.

Our next meeting will be held December 10 at Logan’s Roadhouse. Everyone is invited to attend any of our chapter meetings. For more information about the chapter, contact President Janelle Dolan, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett, at jdolan@burkburnett.org or 940-569-2263.
Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Paula Favors, TRMC
City Secretary, Wharton

August Meeting in Webster

The Salt Grass Chapter, after a three-month summer hiatus, enjoyed fellowship and a fabulous feast along with a presentation from Catherine Fryer, attorney with Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, on “Discrimination Bases on a Hostile Work Environment.”

September Public Information Act Seminar and Meeting

The chapter annually hosts a Public Information Act Seminar in Deer Park, this year being the thirteenth annual event. Featured speakers were Bret Adams, a government information analyst from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC); Leonard Schneider, city attorney, Huntsville; Kellie Bass, telecommunications supervisor, Deer Park Police Department; and Donna Johnson, attorney at law with Olson and Olson LLP, all of whom presented different insights on handling public information and records management. This year’s seminar was host to over 80 registered attendees. The monthly chapter meeting followed the seminar at the end of the afternoon.
October Meeting in Missouri City

Missouri City Secretary Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, hosted the October chapter meeting at her city’s council chambers and provided a wonderful fall-themed luncheon. Richard Wills, regional licensing supervisor, discussed the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission’s procedures, licensing, enforcements, permits, and applications as they relate to the municipal governments.

The group also discussed annual donations to TMCA, nominations for 2015 officers, scholarship and chapter clerk of the year deadlines, and anticipation for the annual installation luncheon to be held at Maggiano’s (Houston, Galleria) on December 10.

Guests are always welcome at Salt Grass events! For more information on the Salt Grass Chapter, please contact 2014 President Crystal Roan, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Webster, at croan@cityofwebster.com.
Members in attendance at the October meeting:

Vickie Berglund, deputy city secretary, Missouri City
Leticia Brysch, city clerk, Baytown
Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy
Anna Evelyn, assistant city secretary, West University Place
Paula Favors, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton
Marisela Garcia, city secretary, Kemah
Olga Garza, city secretary, Southside Place
Maria Gonzalez, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City
Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte
Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place
Becky McGrew, assistant city secretary, Katy
Janice Moore, TRMC, city secretary, Meadows Place
Jennifer Namie, paralegal, Olson & Olson LLP
Heather Neeley, city secretary, Oak Ridge North
Michelle Perez, deputy city secretary, Friendswood
Doris Speer, TRMC, city secretary, Tomball
Sandi Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park
Melinda Welsh, TRMC, city secretary, Friendswood
Lee Woodward, TRMC, city secretary, Huntsville
South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary Belinda Terrell
City Secretary, Whiteface

The South Plains Chapter met on September 17 at Ruby Tequila’s Restaurant in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Seminole City Secretary Debbie Gressett, TRMC.

Chapter President Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa, called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City. He gave a presentation on the value of a city clerk. He also stated that there were currently 942 TMCA members in Texas, a new record (the final record set later was 950).

President Maria Hatchett welcomed members and guests; our guests included Tommy Combs, retired Lubbock deputy city secretary. President Hatchett read correspondence from Wink City Secretary Tonya Todd, TRMC. The June meeting minutes and the treasurer’s report were approved.
Nominations were accepted for the chapter’s 2014–2015 slate of officers: President Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city manager/city secretary, Morton; Vice President Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal; Treasurer Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface; Secretary Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton; Historian Kim Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls; and Director Cynthia Williams.

The chapter will donate a $100 as a door prize for the upcoming October TMCCP Graduate Institute. The chapter will donate $250 to the TMCCP Dorothy F. Byrd and the Dr. Joyce Snay scholarships.

Kim Perez, TRMC, city secretary, Ralls, gave an update on the chapter seminar held on July 18; there were 30 people in attendance, which was a great turnout.

The next chapter meeting will be December 17, hosted by Shallowater City Secretary Amanda Cummings.
The West Texas Chapter was graced by the presence of TMCA President Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City, for their third quarterly meeting held on August 20 at Dee’s Bistro in Odessa. The group enjoyed a delightful lunch while conducting official chapter business. Chapter President Amy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Midland, opened the scholarship application period for two scholarships available from the chapter that can be used to reimburse travel and seminar costs; she encouraged members to apply.

Members listened with open ears to Mr. Camacho’s words of wisdom he kindly shared. In his speech, Mr. Camacho spoke of the different connotations attached to the title of “City Secretary,” and how it typically involves a majority of others not knowing what the position entails, and imagining receptionist-style duties. The lack of awareness can translate to being treated condescendingly, but he imparted
West Texas Chapter

that it is our duty to stand taller in face of struggles and continue to work diligently to achieve great standards for ourselves.

The chapter’s next meeting will be hosted by Odessa in November, and members are excited about the annual Christmas program! ★
Yellow Rose Chapter

By Chapter President Vicki Collins, TRMC
City Secretary, Mansfield

The Yellow Rose Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting on October 9 at Mansfield City Hall. Several members were in attendance and enjoyed a wonderful lunch catered by Cotton Patch. Chapter President Lori Saunders, city secretary, Waxahachie, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Officers for FY 2014-2015 were elected by the chapter members: President Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield; Vice President Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak; Treasurer Susan House, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Mesquite; Secretary Kisha Morris, city secretary, DeSoto; and Historian Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville. Congratulations to our new officers.

President Saunders gave a packet of seeds symbolizing their role to the newly elected officers present at the meeting. Each officer received a yellow rose.
Yellow Rose Chapter

which has become a tradition in the chapter. (Secretary Kisha Morris and Historian Dara Crabtree were not present.)

Other matters taken care of during the business meeting were the approval of the August meeting minutes and an update on the chapter financials.

The Nominating Committee presented their nominations for the chapter committees. Everyone was in agreement with the nominations.

Autumn is in the air but the Yellow Rose Chapter continues to “bloom” with new memberships and visitors attending the bi-monthly meetings. Sherry Reeves, TRMC, city secretary, Grandview, and Cindy Gross, TRMC, city secretary, Balch Springs, were welcomed with open arms at the October meeting.

The Yellow Rose Chapter holiday meeting is December 4, hosted by the City of Cedar Hill. We welcome you to come and visit us.

For those wishing to join the Yellow Rose Chapter, please contact President Vicki Collins, TRMC, at [vicki.collins@mansfieldtexas.gov](mailto:vicki.collins@mansfieldtexas.gov). Our meetings are held bi-monthly at 11:30 a.m. Y'all Come On Down Now, Ya Hear! ★

From left to right: Vice President Dana Argumaniz, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak; President Vicki Collins, TRMC, city secretary, Mansfield; Treasurer Susan House, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Mesquite. (Not pictured: Secretary Kisha Morris, city secretary, DeSoto and Secretary Dara Crabtree, TRMC, city secretary, Seagoville.)
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