

NORTH TEXAS REGION AND CORPUS CHRISTI HOPE TO LASSO CITIES TOGETHER FOR THE 2018 WARRANT ROUNDUP

by, **Matthew Freeman, Frisco and Gilbert Hernandez, Corpus Christi**

The North Texas Region and Corpus Christi will be participating in a 2018 Warrant Roundup.

Press releases will be issued around February 9 announcing that the 2018 Warrant Round will begin in February into March.

CONTINUED ON 10

Court Certification Program SPEEDS up!

In 2017, Level III court certifications shattered the 2005 record of 7 clerks becoming certified that year. This year, thirteen clerks obtained their Certified Municipal Court Clerk (CMCC) title. Certification & Education Co-Chair Pat Riffel says “The level of professionalism and the visibility that the program has garnered in the past few years have made it very attractive to both clerks and the cities they work for. With more and more cities requiring certification, clerks are realizing the value, not only for professional development, but for career advancement.”

“The knowledge and training that I have had through each certification level has enabled me to advance from an entry level clerk to a Court Administrator. Obtaining Level III is one of the highest accomplishments of my career.”
- Patti Towne, City of Murphy

CONTINUED ON 10



SEE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES PAGE 4



SEE STATE AQUARIUM PHOTOS PAGE 6



SEE BANQUET AWARDS PAGE 7



WHO RECEIVES THE LORNA NELSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD?

Named after our founder of the organization Lorna Nelson who founded TCCA in 1972 while working for the City of Deer Park. Her idea behind the organization was that clerks would have a place to exchange thoughts and information with one another to better themselves in their respective positions. Although Ms. Lorna, as we so affectionately called her, is no longer with us we would not exist as an organization without her. I think this has become an organization that she would be just as proud of today.

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TCCA'S AFFILIATION WITH THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

by **Landra Solansky, Seguin Vice President**

In a recent conversation with a fellow court clerk, I was asked why TCCA's affiliation with the Texas Municipal League (TML) is so important. I thought it was a great question and decided it would be beneficial to share with the entire TCCA membership.



VP Landra Solansky represents TCCA with TML for hurricane relief

TCCA is one of 21 organizations that are affiliated with TML, with each affiliate having a representative on the TML Board. The term of office for the affiliate representative is two years, with a maximum of four years for any one person. The Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA), the Texas City Management Association (TCMA), Texas City Attorneys Association (TCAA) and the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT) are just a few of the affiliate members that come to mind. Members of these associations are most likely the people we work closely with on a daily basis. I would encourage you to visit TML's [website](#) for a complete list of TML Affiliate Groups.

The Constitution of the Texas Municipal League provides that the purpose of the organization is "to advance and sustain the interests of the cities of Texas". One of the many ways TML assists Texas cities is by representation during a legislative year. During the 85th Legislative Session, TML staffers worked tirelessly to track bills that were of interest to our cities. As you know, a few of those bills directly affected our courts. Out of 6,800 bills that were introduced in the regular session, over 2,000 of those were city related. Of the 1,220 bills that were passed, over 290 bills were city related. In addition to their lobbying efforts,

TML staff members track the daily progress of each bill upon which TML has taken a position. City officials along with TML staff members frequently provide testimony during a legislative session.

TCCA has an opportunity to showcase our organization each year at the TML Conference. On even years, we set up a booth with information about TCCA and the Certification Program. This is an excellent time for TCCA representatives to speak directly with city managers, mayors and council members about the educational opportunities available through TCCA.

With 2017 being an odd year, we sponsored an educational session featuring Ryan Turner, General Counsel and Director of Education for TMCEC at the TML Conference in Houston on October 6th. Mr. Turner presented a session titled "The Effects of Ferguson and the Future of Fines and Court Costs in Texas" to 132 city officials. He explained the effects of the new laws on Municipal Courts and the challenges we will face in the future. Several officials from my city attended and I believe this class changed the way they viewed court operations.

In show of support and solidarity, TML partnered with the Houston Food Bank on a community service project that benefited 600 relief organizations in 18 southeast Texas counties affected by Hurricane Harvey. During the 2017 Conference, TML had a bin set up for canned food donations in the registration area. They also coordinated an opportunity for several of us to volunteer at the Houston Food Bank. I was proud to participate in this project as a representative of TCCA.

I look forward to representing TCCA on the TML Board for the next two years. If you have any questions about our affiliation with TML, please feel free to contact me.

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Skype and Facebook Live Prove To Be a Success

by **Robert Martinez, Jr., West Lake Hills**

It's not the first time the discussion has come up regarding reaching members in more ways than one, but the first actual attempt finally came on November 3rd when the Central Texas Chapter held an education class on Court Costs. It was pretty exciting because I know that I have personally been talking about trying to make this happen for over a year now.

Our class was 2 hours and four clerks Skyped in and watched for the entire time. Those clerks were Celia O'Dell, Prosper; Osiris Marquez, Dallas; Janet Hage, Jarrell; and Mara Dudley, Llano. During the class, at one point, we had a total of 9 TCCA members actually watching via FB Live. The FB viewers were very interactive posting their comments and questions.

Everything has trials and tribulations but luckily we didn't have issues with Skype while we were connected. I practiced with those clerks a few days before the class to try and work out the kinks. During the FB live feed, we had a short disconnection but quickly were back online. The viewers were immediately commenting on what happened. Shows that we had their attention.

None of this could have happened without Rhonda Kuehn agreeing to be our speaker and wanting to be a part of this education opportunity. The Chapter Steering Committee has had this as a goal for some time. She did great! It's awesome to have so many dedicated clerks to help make new things possible.

State and Chapter Elections Result in New Faces and Names

December 2017 completes the terms of office for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and 3 Director's at Large. Local Chapters also held elections. Earlier this year TCCA members had an opportunity to nominate candidates and vote for their choice, electronically. The results of the State election were announced at the Annual Business Meeting during conference and Local Chapter results are listed below.

State Board



Landra Solansky, Seguin
Vice President



Kimberly Kierce, Richardson
Treasurer

Directors At Large



Jason Contatore,
New Braunfels



Jennifer Dorsett,
Haslet



Brittany Rychlik,
Missouri City

Local Chapters

Central Texas: **Vice President**– April Christiansen, Cedar Park; **Treasurer**– Wende White, Cameron

Freedom Trail: **Vice President**– Viviana Farnsworth, Terrell Hills; **Treasurer**– Stacy Martin, San Antonio

Gulf Coast: **Vice President**– Paul Rex, Jersey Village **Treasurer**– Connie Hayley, Texas City * **With the election of Paul Rex as Vice President, the position of Secretary becomes vacant. At the December 8th chapter meeting, the members nominated and voted to appoint Gerri Alfaro, Texas City, to fill the unexpired term of Secretary effective Jan. 1, 2018.**

North Texas: **Vice President**– Sheli Masterson, Irving; **Treasurer**– Katy Tagg, Arlington **Director-at-Large**– Janis Fletcher, Sherman and Celia O'Dell, Prosper

Northeast Texas: **Vice President**– Lona Maxted; **Treasurer**– Rosena Becker-Ross

South Texas: **Vice President**– Adrienne Dill, Corpus Christi; **Treasurer**, Angela Gaona Corpus Christi

West Texas/Panhandle: No nominations

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2018 TCCA Board

2017 Corpus Christi conference's attendees provide feedback; State Electronic Voting turns out Low



95%

Approval of new Branding/Banner Displays



100%

Liked that the Exhibit space was easy for navigation



97%

Agreed that registration kiosks were easy and fast



81%

Said they would be attending in 2018

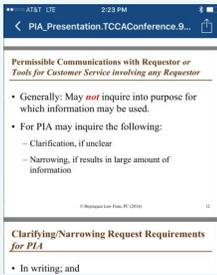
- SAVE THE DATE -

Aug. 1 through Sept. 15
May 15, 2018
October 7-10, 2018

Electronic Voting begins
Conference Registration Opens
TCCA Conference -
Hilton Dallas/Plano Granite Park

For the 2017 State Elections, TCCA had 914 eligible members but only 164 voted. (17.94%) Voting was open for 45 days. 81.51% of the membership did not participate in voting. For Chapter Elections, 252 voted out of 930 eligible members. (27.09%). Voting was open for 1 week.

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LOCAL CHAPTER TABLES



88%

Liked conference gift a day

73%

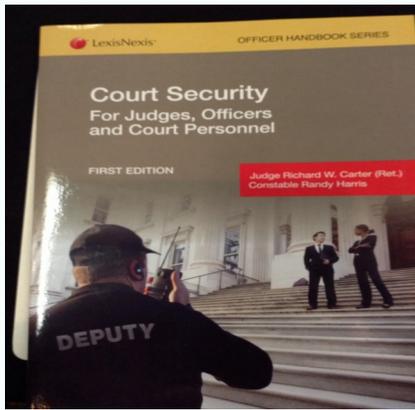
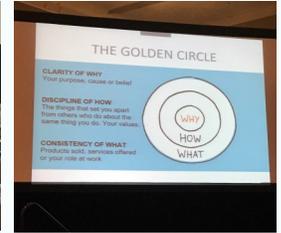
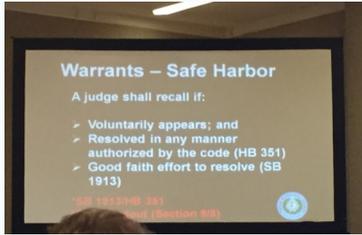
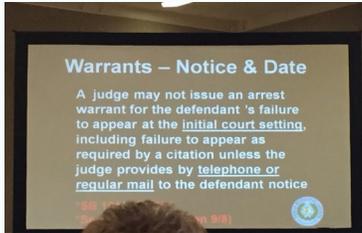
Accessed EDU materials in App

68%

Played the new in-app

Conference Education taps both Judicial and Professional Development classes

Offers 20 hours of educational credit!



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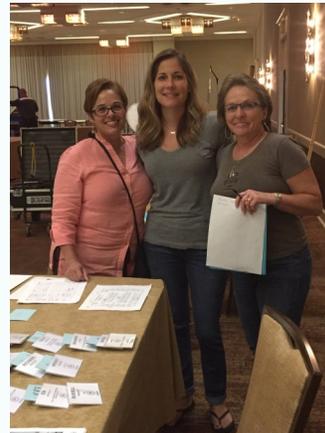
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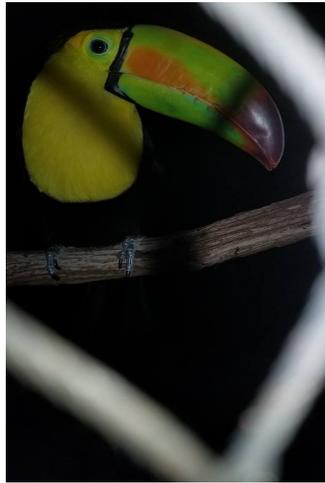
Award for TCCA's Education & Certification Committees Outstanding Achievement in Education goes to Robby Chapman, Director and Program Attorney for TMCEC

State Aquarium - continued from Page 1

Out of those who joined, 92% responded that they enjoyed the banquet venue. Please make sure YOU join our [Facebook page](#) to see many more photos, participate in education opportunities and connect with clerks from across the state.



Texas State Aquarium



Corpus Christi, 2017



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This award recognizes a service, program, task or endeavor performed by an individual in a court profession, serving in a non-judicial capacity, which benefits the entire membership in a distinctive way by showing dedication and commitment.

Winner, Francis Anita Cook, Texas City Jail Clerk

“Our first clerk to receive an award tonight is such a hard worker and willing to help in any way she is asked. She is knowledgeable on any desk you put her on. She takes on tasks that may not always be hers and is willing to help anyone else gain knowledge. You can count on her to be at work and, sometimes, have to convince her to take some time off. She is such a devoted daughter away from work. She is also so level-headed and is willing to listen and help find solutions.”

Winner, Court Clerk, Janet Hage, City of Jarrell

“Our next clerk was trained as a prep session facilitator and jumped in with both feet--her knowledge and enthusiasm makes her extremely successful at this task. Participants raved about her session and have asked that she train for Level II so they can have her in their next prep session also! She always has a smile and a good word to share- She used numerous hours of her own time and her own finances to create an amazing Level 1 Jeopardy game--she was gracious enough to donate the game for use by other facilitators. She is a real asset to the program and we are thrilled to have her.”

Winner, Court Clerk, Daniel Williamson, City of Center

“This clerk had some big shoes to fill. He stepped into court not knowing anything. He has learned the court system well. He goes beyond the call of duty. He wants to know how everything works. This clerk is very respectful and always willing to help anyone. If he does not know the answer he will call someone until he finds out the answer. I have worked with a lot of people in my life but never worked with someone that is so eager to learn. I would say that he is very deserving of this award.”

Winner, Court Services Coordinator, Jennifer Bozorgnia, City of Irving

“There was a revamp of the certification prep sessions this year-not only was this clerk extremely supportive of the change, she was instrumental in helping train new facilitators, by co-teaching sessions with them, offering advice and support. She facilitated multiple times this academic year and is available whenever needed. Her enthusiasm and support for the program is much appreciated.”

Winner, Court Administrator, Linda Rose, Universal City

“Not only is this clerk an outstanding Court Administrator and Leader, she is also the ultimate Professional! She is happy to be "behind the scenes" and never asks for anything other than a simple "thank you". She stepped up every time something needed to be done at the Chapter level and never complained. Her dedication to this association has set a great example for every member of TCCA. She served as the Treasurer for the Freedom Trail Chapter for many years.”



Laura, Jennifer, Rebecca, Erika, Linda, Luevada, Daniel

Winner, Court Administrator, Rebecca Vinson, City of North Richland Hills

“Our next deserving clerk has worked tirelessly to merge the Incode Court Software and the Brazos ticket writers to create the process to allow the tickets writers to create and print a probable cause affidavit from the hand held or laptop device. This process was just a wish until this clerk took on the project and created the actual document. She worked closely with both vendors to create the correct format to make the process work for both the police department and the court. This function allows more accurate racial profiling information and eliminates double work since the probable cause affidavit can be downloaded into the court software. Since many courts use both of these vendors, I feel her dedication and persistence made this process a success that will benefit these departments as well other Texas courts. She did not accept the “it doesn’t do that” excuse. It’s people like her that allow the court to progress with the latest and greatest technological techniques available.”

Winner, Deputy Court Clerk, Erika Gleghorn, City of Missouri City

“Over the last 2 years this clerk has grown into an exemplary court professional. Daily she displays the professionalism in her service to the public that I hope all public servants in our profession show. She does not become “rattled” with irate customers nor does she take it personal when customers take out their frustrations on her. She truly understands that the customers we see in our field are typically having their worst moments and it has absolutely nothing to do with us as clerks. She strives to provide customers with all their applicable legal options regardless of charge or behavior so that she provides fair and equal treatment to all at her window. She also continues to further her own education both through TCCA/TMCEC and with formal education so that she can be the best court professional possible.”

The following people have been nominated for the Distinguished Service Award but unfortunately, they were unable to attend conference.

- City of Irving-Michelle Chewning
- Missouri City-Monika Whitsey
- Missouri City-Tanya Munoz
- Van-Julie McGowan

EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award recognizes an individual in the court profession, serving in a non-judicial capacity, who has continually demonstrated through commitment, extraordinary performance in the development of a program, task performed, involvement and action on behalf of the association that benefits the entire membership on an ongoing basis. Recipients of this award must have earned the Distinguished Service Award previously. This award may be received only once.

Winner, Chief Deputy Court Clerk, Laura Garza City of Corpus Christi

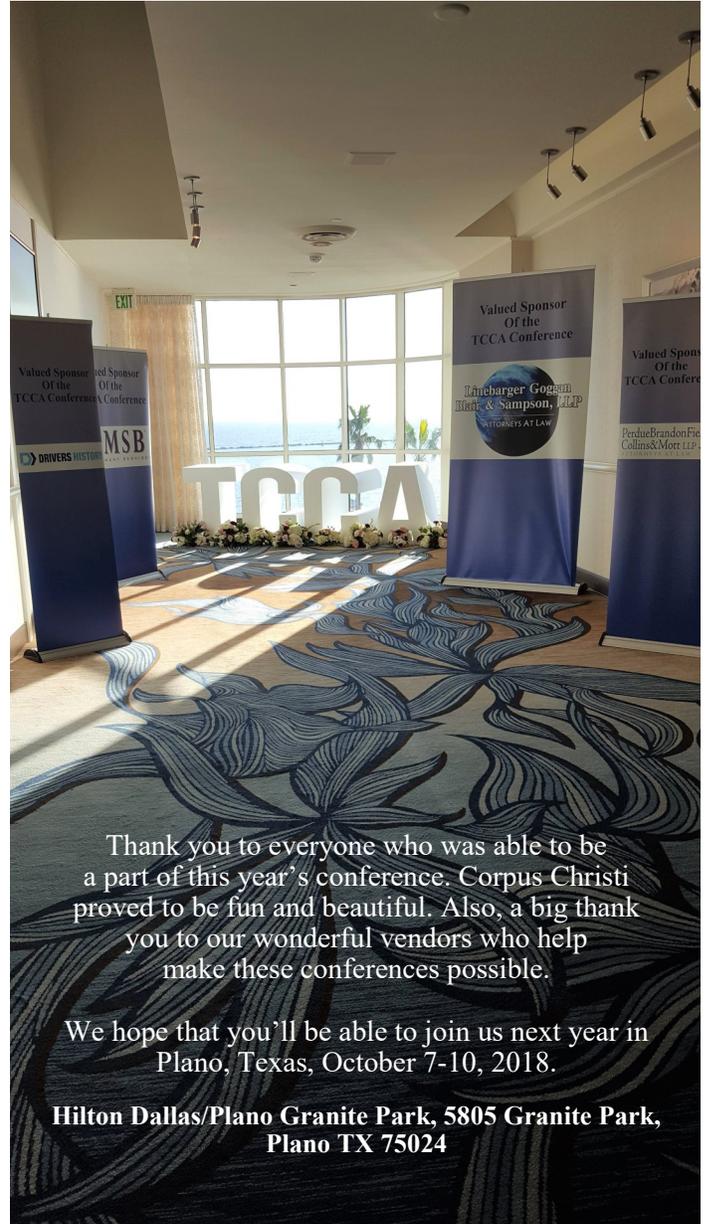
“Our first extraordinary clerk has worked incredibly hard on board assignments and been a huge team player in working on this year’s conference as well as things going on in her region. While hosting education, serving on committees and building her executive board she has always remained positive and supportive of the TCCA board and Association business. This clerk has worked so hard to pull the South Texas chapter back into formation and reach out to the South Texas cities for education, involvement and inclusion into TCCA support.”

Winner, Court Administrator, Luevada Posey, City of Killeen

“This clerk took the vendor committee to a whole new level by implementing new ideas brought to her by the conference planning committee and turned it into a huge success. She took her time to actually put together very detailed policies and procedures so that when the next person took this committee on they would have a great map to follow for success. She always worked incredibly hard to meet the needs of all the vendors while being fair and impartial. She went out of her way to ensure that sponsors were treated with integrity and respect for what they willing to share with TCCA and the support that they give to TCCA each year. It is so refreshing to see how a vision is brought to reality with such a sense of honor and integrity.”

The following people have been nominated for the Extraordinary Achievement Award but unfortunately, were unable to attend conference.

Missouri City-Norma West



Thank you to everyone who was able to be a part of this year’s conference. Corpus Christi proved to be fun and beautiful. Also, a big thank you to our wonderful vendors who help make these conferences possible.

We hope that you’ll be able to join us next year in Plano, Texas, October 7-10, 2018.

Hilton Dallas/Plano Granite Park, 5805 Granite Park, Plano TX 75024



EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Excellence Award is one of the highest honor awarded by the Texas Court Clerk's Association. It recognizes the exemplary performance of an individual in the court profession, serving in a non-judicial capacity, who brings honor, public awareness or enhances the image of the Association, and whose actions through major achievements, benefit the entire membership by consistently demonstrating professionalism and the pursuit of excellence. The recipient of this award must have previously received the Distinguished Service and Extraordinary Achievement awards. This award may be received only once in a lifetime.

Winner, Landra Solansky, Court Administrator, City of Seguin

"This year our recipient of the Excellence award is a member of TCCA and serves a very important role on our Board. She has shown her willingness to help in any way she can. This clerk has taught for TCCA/TMCEC countless times over the years, and has traveled all over the state for one day clinics. Her passion for the certification program has led her to also facilitate test and prep sessions. She offers moral and mental support to fellow colleagues and is willing to see through anything she may begin. This clerk is also a mother, wife, and grandmother when she is not busy being an excellent Court Administrator. She has been a strong and inspiring leader as the former President of her chapter. Her level of enthusiasm is beyond compare. Ladies and gentlemen, please help me to congratulate our 2017 recipient of the Excellence Award."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD

This next award recognizes the accomplishments or services of an individual, group or company who has demonstrated through their actions and exceptional contributions, those attributes that benefit the entire membership and reflect the ideas and standards of the Association. The award will be presented to an individual, group or company in a court setting serving in a judicial or non-judicial capacity, or otherwise in a position related to the judicial system either by affiliation or acquaintance, be it a vendor or others qualified to conduct business with the Association. This award nomination will be determined by the Board of Directors on an earned basis and will not necessarily be awarded annually.

Winner, David Preciado, City of Arlington

"This individual has unconditionally served this association and its members with honest, integrity, diligence, respect, dedication, professionalism, patience and understanding. It has always been an honor to work with him on any project because he does so with a team player attitude. Even if he didn't agree with a decision he always maintained a united front for the entire membership proving and showing his integrity and professionalism. It is a huge job he has maintained and he has served this entire membership and association with the utmost diligence and competency. I am so proud to have worked with and beside him for many years and I appreciate everything he has done for this association, the members, the board and myself. A HUGE thank you goes to him for all he has sacrificed through all the years."

LORNA NELSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award recognizes the countless amount of time dedicated to the Association, knowledge, innovation, ideas, accomplishments or services of an individual(s) who has greatly contributed to the development and growth of the Association and the Education Program. The award will be presented to an individual(s) in a court setting serving in a judicial or non-judicial capacity, or otherwise in a position related to the judicial system by affiliation or partnership with the Association. This award nomination will be determined by the Board of Directors on an earned basis and may not be awarded annually. This award may be received only one time.

Winner, Court Administrator Rhonda Kuehn, City of Brenham

"Our final award of the night rarely needs any introduction. In fact, this person's name is well recognized among our profession, association, and beyond. Being nominated for this award by multiple people is no surprise for this amazing professional and mentor. I asked some of those same people to put into words why this person deserved such an honor, some were speechless and others could not stop giving me words. This clerk is one of the humblest people I know, not to mention very smart and quick to answer questions in our field. You will often find this recipient working on TCCA business when many of us are out living life, her dedication and passion is endless. She is role model for professionalism, education, and integrity. She has served in many capacities for TCCA at both the state and chapter level; serving her city for over 20 years. In what spare time she has, she is a wife, and mother with 2 amazingly talented children. She is truly an individual each of us should want to be like. She has personally been one of the most important people in my career mentoring me on so much over the years, and I would often times be lost without her. She is a great example of what being a Court Administrator should be. It is the perfect choice that my dear friend who means more to me than words can fully explain is receiving this award tonight. Please stand to congratulate our recipient of the 2017 Lorna Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award."



The process will be the same as previous years with the exception that stats will not be collected among all participating agencies and there is no type of registration. However, agencies are encouraged to keep their own stats as they deem appropriate. No press conference has been scheduled nor at this time are agencies planning a press conference. If any members of the law enforcement agencies would like to coordinate an effort, we would be happy to help spread the word.

Warrant Roundup Timeline:

Matthew Freeman: mfreeman@friscotexas.gov

Gilbert Hernandez: gilberth@cctexas.com

FEBRUARY 9, 2018

- 1st day to mail out notices
- Provide Media with press release on warrant round-up details and dates

FEBRUARY 24, 2018

- 1st day of actual arrests

MARCH 4, 2018

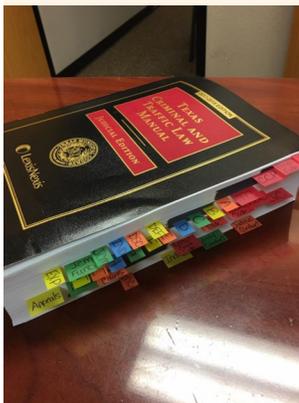
- Conclude roundup
- Stats will not be collected but feel to share among your constituents

MARCH 2018

- 2018 Warrant Roundup Follow up meeting
- Friday, March 2018, TBD

What's In Your Warrant Roundup Tool Box?

- Contact your Collection Agency; most send the notices for you
- Try to collaborate with neighboring agencies; make a post on the [Yahoo Listserv](#) to see other forms and get ideas
- Send out warrant robo-calls
- Budget for the coming year for radio, billboard, postcard notices



continued

A full list of all certified clerks can be found on page 16 of the newsletter. Congratulations to all those who reached your goal and for those who are determined!

“For me, it was about personal development and a goal I set for myself. We do not receive any compensation for being certified at any Level. Education is very important to me, it is something that can't be taken away from you. Our city does pay for any training/ educational development; and to me that is perk enough to want to do more in this profession.” - Tiffany Totah, City of Victoria

“It is something that I am very proud of accomplishing and would not trade the experience for anything else. I am very proud of it!” - Paul Rex, Jersey Village

“As tough as it was I never gave up and having the support from my supervisors and peers at work was a big plus! After deciding to go for it I ended up learning a lot about myself personally and professionally.” - Amy Baldwin, City of League City

“All ready to go! I saw someone do this years ago, and it has helped me SO MUCH! Just thought I'd share in case it may help someone else!” - Haley Rodgers, Roanoke

The Court Clerk Certification Program

Sponsored by The Texas Court Clerks Association in cooperation with the Texas Municipal Courts Association, the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, and Texas State University in San Marcos.

Need to know your [CMCC number](#)?

Education & Certification Committee share NEW education hours

TJCTC (Texas Justice Court Training Center)

Up to 12 hours on the Criminal Track for Justice of the Peace Clerks only. Municipal Court Clerks may not obtain credit for this training

Crossword

Merry Christmas to you! Test your knowledge about TCCA and the Great State of Texas. Have a chance at winning a \$25 gift card donated by Tammy Odom, from the City of Texas City. Please email your answers to bwright@sugarlandtx.gov no later than 3pm on December 19th. The winner will be announced Live via TCCA's Facebook page and you will be contacted directly. When I count to three. **1, 2, GO!**



Hurst Christmas decor



League City Halloween



Vendor Expo



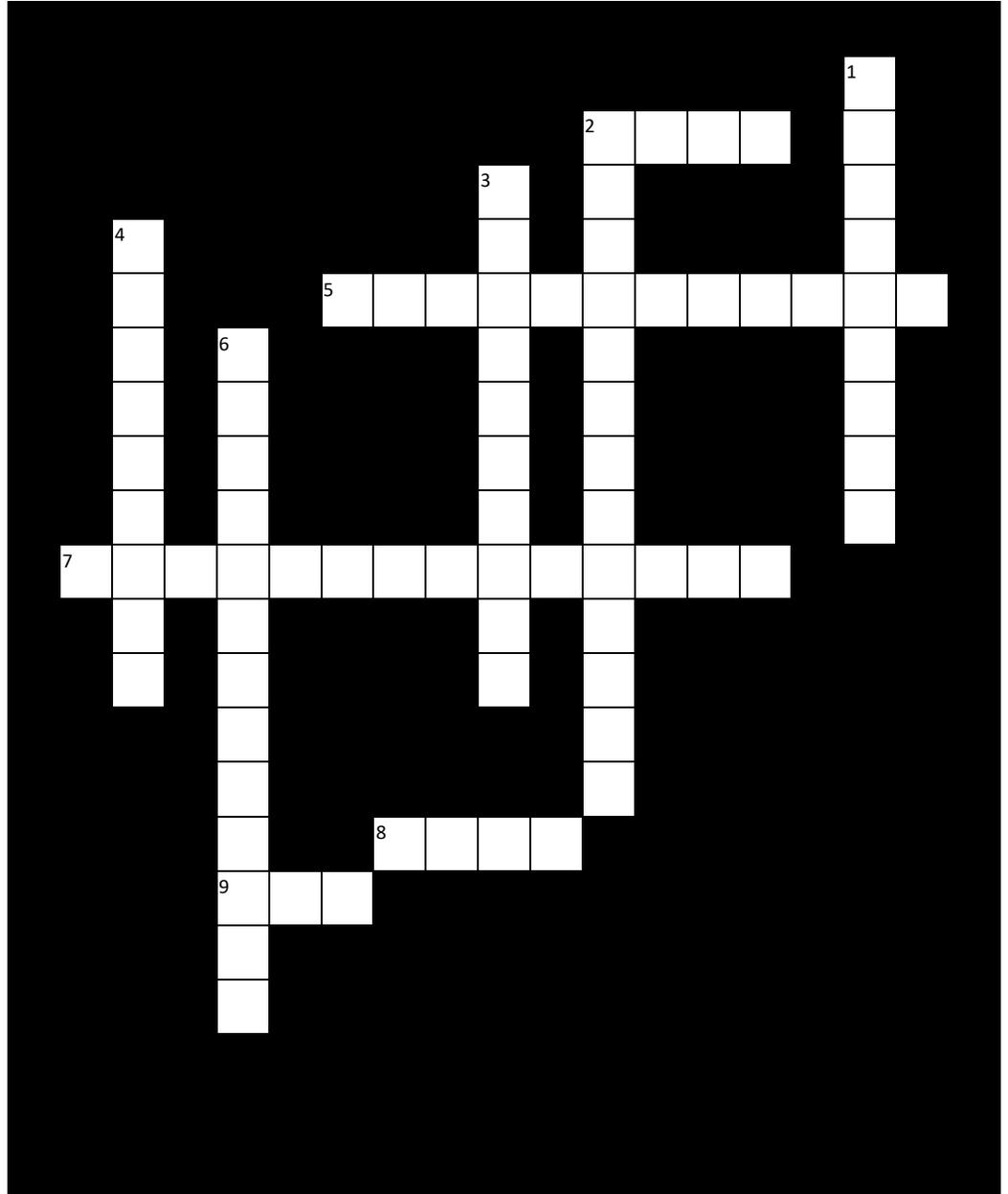
Forest Hill #MCW



Ft. Worth Halloween



Business meeting. Can you find yourself?



ACROSS

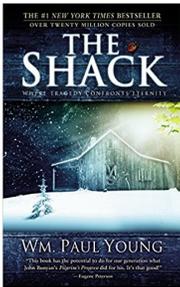
- 2. What city was Dr. Pepper invented in?
- 5. Who is TCCA's current West Texas Chapter President?
- 7. What is Texas' official state shell?
- 8. What year was TCCA established?
- 9. How many flags have flown over Texas in its history?

DOWN

- 1. _____ is the only natural lake in Texas.
- 2. What was TCCA's 2017 conference theme title?
- 3. Which vendor was a Titanium Sponsor in in this issues newsletter?
- 4. What is the name of TCCA's newsletter?
- 6. Which past North Texas President said "We cannot lead where people don't want to go but cannot ignore where we need to go"?

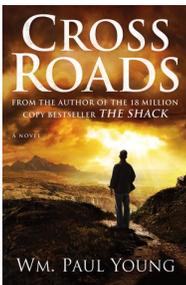
READ ME!

What books have you read Click the cover to find out more.



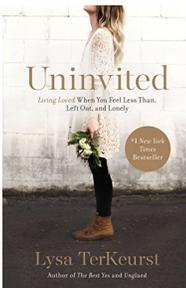
Marie Barringer, College Station

The Shack by William P. Young. A grieving man receives a mysterious, personal invitation to meet with God at a place called "The Shack."



Marie Barringer, College Station

Cross Roads by William P. Young (Sequel). Cross Roads is a 2012 Christian fiction novel. The book was released on November 13, 2012 by Faith Words and centers on a self-centered businessman who discovers another world after being struck comatose by a sudden ailment



Haley Rodgers, Roanoke

Uninvited by Lysa terKeurst. One of my favorite books is Uninvited. This was one of those "highlight every other sentence and re-read that chapter again" type books. This book is about ... the left-out, lonely, rejection, and less than feelings we have all dealt with. You may be one of those people with tons of friends and family and find that this book speaks to your hearts desires as well. This book is full of grace, love and

truth. "Live from the abundant place that you are loved, and you won't find yourself begging others for scraps of love." I highly recommend this book, especially to women, we are all searching for value, acceptance, worthiness, love. Don't let someone else define who you are, this book will show you WHOSE you are. God's love is not based on your accomplishments, your status level, or how many likes you receive on social media. Go GET THIS BOOK.....And then share it with another young lady.

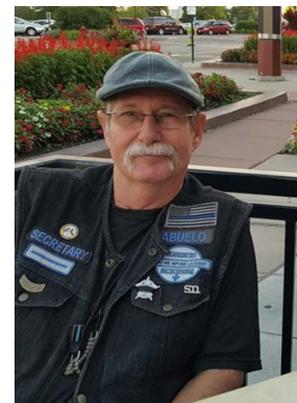
THE MISSION OF THE TEXAS COURT CLERKS ASSOCIATION IS TO PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH A COURSE OF QUALITY JUDICIAL EDUCATION ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISHING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

JOIN OUR MISSION



TCCA President Expresses her thanks

A special thank you to Dale Cuthbertson for always taking photos for TCCA but especially for donating your time to take professional photos for our conference attendees to include in their membership profile on the TCCA website. A special thank you also to Hilda Cuthbertson for her patience while Dale spent his time doing these photos for TCCA. We appreciate you both so much! Great job on the photos and we love you both!!



Reader's TIP

● "If you're looking to find a good deal on Level III books for studying or just for a good read, you can find them at abebooks.com" (Gabby Scott, Snyder) "I was able to find some of the Level III books at my local library" (Michelle Smith, Houston)



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Principal Office: Austin, Texas. The attorney responsible for the contents of this advertisement is Carmen Perez.

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Have you logged in to check your renewal status?

Your TMCEC Personal Academic Profile has many of the answers you seek!

<http://register.tmcec.com/web/online>

Number of Clerks Certified at Each Level as of August 31, 2017:

Level I – 693

Level II – 540

Level III – 81

It is NOT necessary for you to file a “Renewal Application” if you are a Certified Court Clerk Level I or II AND have attended a 12-16 hour TMCEC program or the TCCA Annual Conference. These renewals are done automatically within a few weeks, given proper completion of the “Record of Attendance”.

The deadline to complete your required hours of education and renew your certification is August 31st, 2018. If you need additional education hours, do not delay.

Once logged in, click on the “Certification Renewal” tab to show the most current renewal year. For example, if you have already renewed for FY17 it will say “2017-2018 Yes”. Written renewal confirmations **will no longer** be mailed and all of your information will be available to you on your online personal profile.

Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham
TCCA Education & Certification Co-Chair



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Approved Providers for Education Credit

GCAT (Governmental Collectors Association of Texas) - TBD

TCAT (Teen Court Annual Conference) - TBD

TCCA (Texas Court Clerks Association)

20 hours approved for 2018

TMCA (Texas Municipal Courts Association) - TBD

TML (Texas Municipal League) - TBD

NCSC (National Center for State Courts)

Not all courses may be approved. Please inquire before registering/attending a NCSC course

ICM (Institute for Court Management)

NACM (National Association of Court Managers)

Not all courses may be approved. Please inquire before registering/attending a NACM course

TDLR (Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

Approved Training for Court Interpreters

TSL (Texas State Library) Webinars (up to 8 hours)

TMCEC (Texas Municipal Courts Education Center)

TMCEC Live or Archived Webinars (up to 8 hours)

TJCTC (Texas Justice Court Training Center)

Up to 12 hours on the Criminal Track for Justice of the Peace Clerks only. Municipal Court Clerks may not obtain credit for this training

Free One Day Clinics

The TCCA Education Committee in partnership with TMCEC will offer a free One Day Clinic in McAllen on February 8th. A testing site will also be held the day after at the McAllen Public Library. In addition to 8 hours of education, these clinics offer a great opportunity to meet and network with other clerks in the area as well as learn additional information about TCCA and the Certification Program. Registration is available online only thru the TMCEC [website](#).

Certification Testing

Membership Status Verified – To receive the \$75.00 reduced testing fee, you must be a member in good standing of the Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA) or Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) at the time you register to test. Membership is verified and those who are not a member of either organization will be invoiced for the balance due. Testing results **will not** be released until all outstanding fees are paid. To ensure that there are no delays in obtaining certification, please ensure that you are a TCCA or TMCA member in good standing before registering to test or remit the correct fee for non-member testing.

Upcoming Testing Opportunities

- January 10th – San Antonio – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- January 24th – Galveston – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- February 1st - Austin – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- February 9th – McAllen – 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
- February 13th – Houston – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- March 7th – Addison – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



- 62 Highest number of employees participating in the certification program
- 57 Highest Level I Certified Clerks



Since Nov. 7, 2000, fatalities resulting from motor vehicle crashes on Texas roadways have numbered 59,388. The leading causes of fatalities continue to be failure to stay in one lane, alcohol and speed.



200 city officials attend “The Effects of Ferguson and the Future of Fines and Court Costs in Texas” taught by Ryan Turner from TMCEC.



Fiscal Year 2017, 474 cities participated in the Certification Program, a **25%** increase from FY 2016.

**Certifications from
January-November, 2017**

Level I (127)

Angela Pon (Wilmer)
Isabel Garcia (Brownsville)
Debbie Morales (Brownsville)
Paula Dale (Addison)
Jennifer Henry (Lake Dallas)
Esmeralda Macias (Los Fresnos)
Erica Marroquin (Georgetown)
Tony McBride (Houston)
Maria Gamboa (Brownsville)
Kristen Campbell (North Richland Hills)
Kenny Whitehead (Austin)
Rebecca Lewis (West Columbia)
Velvet Aldaco (Denton)
Frank Trevino (Corpus Christi)
Samantha Grimes (Melissa)
Susana Galvan (Jacksonville)
Alicia Ramirez (Addison)
Jacqueline Guerra (Edinburg)
Rachel Smith (North Richland Hills)
Gabriel Castro (Allen)
Jodie Garza (Yoakum)
Katonya Johnson (Wylie)
Rachel Ramirez (Kerrville)
Tereza Reyes (Cleveland)
Fredy Ruiz, (Dallas)
Michelle Mack (Grapevine)
Patricia Brooks (Austin)
Rocio Montalvo (Plano)
Krystal Montemayor (Plano)
Amayrani Rios (Plano)
Rosalee Asad (Plano)
Sonia Corona (Leon Valley)
Angelina DeJesus (Round Rock)
Maria Bell (Victoria)
Ramona Batchelor (Bertram)
Josefina Ruelas (Uvalde)
Amanda Martinez (Grand Prairie)
Heather Spivey (Eddy)
Ann Horner (Copper Canyon)
Leticia Urbina (Portland)
Vanessa Vasquez (Dallas)
Beverly Brown (Haltom City)
Carolina Trujillo (Richmond)
Christine Ellis (Westlake)
Brenda Campagna (Houston)

Karina Luna (Denton)
Ginger Adams (Onalaska)
Aurora Zamora (Kingsville)
Erika Gleghorn (Missouri City)
Victoria Beave (Castle Hills)
Amberley Shelby (Arlington)
Jennifer Chesnut (Burlleson)
Katie Potts (Haslet)
Teresa Jones (Itasca)
Sofia Penalver (Seguin)
Whitney Spence (Southlake)
Devin Williams, (Plano)
Stacey Manor (Grapevine)
Mark Cohan (Big Spring)
Jana Reed (Moody)
Sara Villalobos (Southlake)
Yolanda Gomez (Cibolo)
Sandra Perez, (San Antonio)
Amanda Carlisle (Seabrook)
Guadalupe Garcia (Arlington)
Berretta Webb (Arlington)
Erica Weiss (Midlothian)
Kim Serrata (Milford)
Judy Rejcek (Ennis)
Samantha Wheeler, (Longview)
Geraldine Keller (Eules)
Oveana Davis (Sugar Land)
Joanna Davila (Mesquite)
Leta Hatzenbuehler (Allen)
Zayda Wakley (Midland)
April Mathews (Richardson)
Sandra Monroy-Irish (Fulshear)
Sue Ellen Gonzales (Elgin)
Martinette Packer (Fort Worth)
Suzie Cavallo (Bay City)
Aimee Roe (League City)
Tona Shiptlet (Whitewright)
Kaitlynn Jasinski (Conroe)
Adrienne Dill (Corpus Christi)
Esmeralda Vasquez (Friendswood)
Jasmine Rios (Belton)
Ashley Anderson (Desoto)
Daisy Guillen (Duncanville)
Dana Scott (Danbury)
Mariah Carney (North Richland Hills)
Rachael Lynch (Grandview)
Robin Smith, (Lago Vista)
Katelynn Townsley (Blue Mound)
Heidi Van Gossen (East Bernard)
Brandi Brown (McKinney)
Elizabeth Barr (Lake Jackson)

Alysia Ybarra (College Station)
Susan Lust (Austin)
Kelsey Parsons (Webster)
Rosabelle Rueda (McKinney)
Jenny Lawson, (McKinney)
Parthenia Brown (Fort Worth)
Emily Cramer (Ingleside)
Stephanie Garcia (Corpus Christi)
Lois Nunnally (Arlington)
Lisa Sechrest (Quinlan)
Kasie Harper-Urbe (Arlington)
Erin Pack (Denison)
Jessica Stephens (The Colony)
Margaret McIntosh (Port Aransas)
Kristin Ortiz (Midlothian)
Courtney Burrell, (Conroe)
Jennifer Cleghorn (Forth Worth)
Lauren Maynard (Quitman)
Valerie Gonzalez (Brady)
Natacha Valdez (Lake Worth)
Janie Cano (Brownsville)
Juan Sandoval (San Antonio)
Amber Bennett, (San Marcos)
Sonia Alegria (Fort Worth)
Patricia Costa (Denton)
Belinda Cinque (College Station)
Sharon Fabrega (Duncanville)
Renee O'Neill (Lake Dallas)
Gloria Terrazas (Austin)
Shirley Herriage (Forth Worth)

Level II (51)

Katherine Alcauter (Austin)
Sonia Alegria (Fort Worth)
Tiffany Bagwell (Weatherford)
Amber Bennett (San Marcos)
Jason Biggs (Forth Worth)
Courtney Broussard (Woodville)
Angela Castillo (Pasadena)
Adriana Castro (Houston)
Belinda Cinque (College Station)
Patricia Costa (Denton)
Amanda Cox (Belton)
Criselda Curry (Baytown)
Kelly Dennis (Sachse)
Yadira Duque-Espinoza (Elgin)
Maria Duran (Seabrook)
Tabitha Edwards (Garland)
Sharon Fabrega (Duncanville)

Kristen Fleming (Longview)
Kimberly Gamble (Houston)
Diane Gomez (San Antonio)
Marianne Greer-McKinney (Duncanville)
Ana Guillot (Baytown)
Leigh Anne Harrington (Nederland)
Abby Hernandez (Carrollton)
Vanessa Herrera (Seguin)
Shirley Herriage (Fort Worth)
Angelita Hunter (McKinney)
Courtney Kinkel (Lewisville)
Elaine Lawley (Arlington)
Veronica Lowe (Willow Park)
Janet Maldonado (Grapevine)
Crystal Martinez (Cedar Park)
Lauren McPhate (Granbury)
Alexander Ocanas (Wylie)
Renne O'Neill (Lake Dallas)
Juan Paredes (Forth Worth)
Ryan Rogers (Dallas)
Juan Sandoval (San Antonio)
Aldijana Sarkic (Richardson)
Frances Suarez, (Magnolia)
Gloria Terrazas (Austin)
Sandra Urbina (Corinth)
Margaret Van De Plas, (Belton)
Crystal Vasquez (South Padre Island)
Angelica Vasquez (San Antonio)
Ashely Vinson (Coppell)
Neoso Walker (Longview)
Christi Zelenak (Castle Hills)

Level III (13)

Amy Baldwin (League City)
Carla Bonham (Joshua)
Janis Fletcher (Sherman)
Sally Forbus (Longview)
Jennifer Hale (Friendswood)
Jeremy Leonard (Desoto)
Janie Oliver (Northlake)
Lawrence Rex (Jersey Village)
Tiffany Totah (Victoria)
Patti Towne (Murphy)
Jessica Utton, (League City)
Erin Westmoreland (Lockhart)
Brittany Wright (Sugar Land)



B is for Board



Executive Board:



Lisa Howard, Hurst

President

lhoward@hrsttx.gov



Landra Solansky, Seguin

Vice President

lsolansky@seguintexas.gov



Paul Rex, Jersey Village

Secretary

prex@cijersey-village.tx.us



David Preciado, Arlington

Treasurer

david.preciado@arlington.gov



Tammy Odom, Texas City

Immediate Past President

todom@texas-city-tx.org

"We cannot lead where people don't want to go but cannot ignore where we need to go." Ralph Ferguson, North Texas President (Garland, Texas) - 1989

Chapter Presidents:



Veronica Mickell, Round Rock

Central Texas President

vmickell@roundrocktexas.gov



Jennifer Bozorgnia, Irving

North Texas President

jbozorgnia@cityorirving.org



Laura Garza, Corpus Christi

South Texas President

lauragar@cctexas.com



Karen Armstrong, Greenville

Northeast Texas President

karmstrong@ci.greenville.tx.us



Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham

Gulf Coast President

rkuehn@cityofbrenham.org



Jeanne Wilson, Big Spring

West Texas President

jwilson@mybigspring.com



Diana Olack, San Antonio

Freedom Trail President

diana.olack@sanantonio.gov

Kimberly Kierce, Richardson
kimberly.kierce@cor.gov Technology

Pat Riffel, Friendswood
priffel@ci.friendswood.tx.us
Ethics, Certification and Education

Sean Leonard, Southlake
sleonard@ci.southlake.tx.us Internal Audit

If you are interested in serving on one of the TCCA Committees, please complete a Committee Member Request [Application](#)

B is for Board continued



Directors at Large:



Jaime Brew, Sugar Land

Scholarship Chair

jbrew@sugarlandtx.gov



Brittany Rychlik, Missouri City

Technology Co-Chair - CVENT

Conference Planning Committee



Jennifer Billings, Dayton

Merchandise Chair

jbillings@daytontx.org



Gloria López Carter, Dallas

Legislative Chair

g.carter@dallascityhall.com



Robert Martinez, Jr., West Lake Hills

Publications Chair

rmartinez@westlakehills.org



Wende White, Cameron

Certification & Financial Program Manager

wwhite@cameron.net



Scholarships available but often not applied for

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicant must be a regular member in good standing with the Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA).
2. Applicant must have been employed a minimum of one year in a municipal or justice court.
3. Applicant must be actively pursuing or maintaining certification in the Texas Court Clerks Association Certification Program.
4. Members of the TCCA Scholarship Committee, TCCA Education & Certification Committee, TCCA Board of Directors and TCCA Chapter Board of Directors are not eligible for scholarships during an active term.

There are two different deadlines so make sure to **save the dates**.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

TCCA Education Scholarships	TCCA Chapter Scholarships
1. Applicant must submit the prescribed application and a statement stating how his/her educational and professional goals will be enhanced by completion of the TCCA Annual Conference.	1. Applicant must submit the prescribed application and a statement stating how his/her educational and professional goals will be enhanced by completion of the TCCA Annual Conference.
2. This application must be received between March 1st and March 15th.	2. Applicant may only apply for a scholarship through their assigned chapter.
3. Any application received after March 15th will not be accepted.	3. This application must be received between April 1st and April 15th.
4. Applicants will be notified on or before March 30th.	4. Any application received after April 15th will not be accepted.
	5. Applicants will be notified on or before April 30th .



State and Local Scholarship Winners: **Top:** Frances C., Texas City ; Brittany G., Sansom Park ; Dominique G., Missouri City ; Christina D., Willis ; Kendra B., Sugarland **Bottom:** Diana G., Forth Worth ; Tammy C., Irving ; Belinda H., River Oaks ; Denise G., Crystal City

Wende White, Scholarship Co-Chair says that TCCA offers 10 scholarships per year in the amount up to \$1,000.

The Central Texas Chapter has \$2,000 available for Chapter scholarships. Chapter Scholarship Chair April Christansen said “The Central Texas Chapter does not have a cap per individual. Amounts awarded are dependent on need, and the number of applications received.” She also noted that Chapter scholarship funds apply only to conference registration, lodging, and travel, but not meals. Funds awarded for registration are paid directly to TCCA from the Chapter, and funds awarded for lodging are paid directly to the hotel, rather than the recipient, however travel costs are disbursed to the recipient. No scholarship applications were received in Central Texas last year.

Stacy Martin with the Freedom Trail Chapter also did not have any applicants last year. “For 2018, Freedom Trail will be offering one(1) \$250.00 scholarship for the annual TCCA conference. Our Chapter scholarship is only for TCCA Freedom Trail chapter members.

Please review the complete guidelines on the [Scholarship page](#). APPLY!



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Principal Office: Austin, Texas. The attorney responsible for the contents of this advertisement is Carmen Perez.

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Northeast

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10 clerks from Northeast Chapter attend Annual Conference

Thank you for being a part of TCCA and our Chapter. The Northeast Chapter Fall meeting was held on September 19th in the lovely City of Edgewood at the Lumberyard Café. We had 14 members in attendance. After our meeting we enjoyed fresh watermelon and cantaloupe at the vegetable stand down the road.

Our total membership for 2017 is 27 members. We'd love for you to join us.

Karen Armstrong; Chapter President



Northeast travels the distance for TCCA



Rosena Boykins Scholarship Award

Rosena Becker-Ross from the City of Mount Enterprise is awarded the Chapters scholarship award. Rosena also serves as the Chapter Treasurer and chair multiple committees.



Chapter members at the Texas State Aquarium during the awards banquet at the 2017 Conference

Central Texas

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Chapter loses Treasurer but not a friend

Chapter President Veronica Mickell shares that Wende White from the City of Cameron will be leaving the court business. "Wende's last day with the court is on December 15. She will surely be missed. We'll need to appoint a new Treasurer at our January Chapter meeting on January 12, 2017 in the City of Lampasas."

Earlier this year Wende was given the Extraordinary Achievement Award for the Central Texas Chapter.

Happy New Year!



Group photo - Nov. 3rd Chapter Meeting



Mara, Cathy, Barbara, and Dianna



Rhonda, Robert and Esther



Leslie and Kelsey



Luevada and April

Gulf Coast

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Chapter President is awarded highest honor

THE LORNA NELSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Congratulations goes out to our members Chrissy Dahse of Willis and Amy Baldwin of League City as they were selected to receive the 2017 Gulf Coast Chapter Scholarship to attend the Annual TCCA Conference.

Before the new year starts I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has participated in our education classes over this past year. Beginning in March, 2018, Chapter meetings will be held on Mondays in the Missouri City Municipal Court located at 3845 Cartwright Road Missouri City, Texas.

Please visit the Gulf Coast Chapter web page to register to attend education sessions and chapter meetings. We have multiple Chapter committees if you are interested in networking with surrounding cities and furthering your understanding and education.

Rhonda Kuehn, Chapter President



Brenham Judge Bill Kendall teaching a class for the Gulf Coast Chapter on Admonishments in Texas City on November 3rd

North Texas

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New educational topic offered this year; "Basic Self-Defense for Court Clerks"



Ft. Worth open house



Chapter members at the Texas State Aquarium during the awards banquet at the 2017 Conference

Dear North Texas Chapter Members:

It has been such an honor to serve as your 2016-2017 Chapter President. Together, over the last year we have accomplished so much. We have expanded membership, offered additional educational opportunities and re-aligned Chapter priorities based on your input. THANK YOU for your support of our Board and our initiatives. We couldn't do it without you.

Congratulations to all of those who experienced personal accomplishments, as well! From achieving certifications to well-deserved promotions, I've loved celebrating with you!

I'm excited to lead us into 2018 with so many great things planned. I encourage you to get involved. Attend education. Attend business meetings. Participate in a committee. Attend social events. YOU are what makes our chapter great. I can't wait to see what this next year brings us.

Best Wishes,

Jennifer Bozorgnia, NTX President

West Texas & Panhandle

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West Texas President Retiring
 Board set to meet in March to discuss the future of the Chapter

by **Robert Martinez, Jr., Director at Large**

Jeanne Wilson, Court Clerk for the City of Big Spring announced her plans to retire earlier this year. She's served as West Texas' Chapter President for 9 years and also was the Nominations Chair for the Texas Court Clerks Association for the last 8 years.

This leaves the Chapter with one Officer. I called and spoke with Gabby Scott, Treasurer. She said she understands their Chapter covers a lot of territory. "I know that sometimes it seems impossible but let's keep this Chapter alive and strong. The connections I've made, the knowledge I've learned is very important and valuable to me. I don't want to lose that and I don't want others to lose that".

After discussing the distance issue, Gabby and I continued to chat about other reason for the possible disconnect .

Our conversation turned next to what she has gained by being a part of TCCA. "I've learned things while working for the City of Snyder that quite possibly my bosses probably didn't even know were available to be taught. I learned about non-cash credit, judgments, and accountability, among other judicial and professional development topics. It was because of these classes that I had heard about, and knew that we needed help in certain areas so I started to participate with the organization. I know Snyder is safer because of what we have implemented from my training. When you network, you have that instant connection of knowing that someone out there has been through this before." I agreed with Gabby and added, "They may not be near but they're a phone call away, e-mail, Listserv, Facebook." We both laughed at how true that statement was.

I asked for her input on what the West Texas Chapter should do next. She responded, "I'd like to see the organization come together and use every resource available to save this Chapter and help this Chapter grow before there is even a thought of dissolving it. We have a lot of clerks in this region, including the Panhandle, but we don't have anywhere near the certification numbers. Are these small towns really getting the education they need? Maybe the biggest holdout is that cities aren't allowing their clerks to participate for all the reasons that we already know of. We have to do a better job at educating what the product is and what the benefits are. The product is TCCA." And knowledge is the benefit. For

instance, I mentioned that court costs are not my forte, and knew that many clerks in my area felt the same way. So we planned and got West Lake Hills to host a class on court costs. Now I feel a lot more comfortable answering questions about court costs but also understand what we should be doing back at the office. While we are on the topic of court costs, please make sure you are familiar with all of the court costs and their permitted uses. There are a number of costs available to help pay for travel and education costs. Perhaps this could help West Texas Chapter members to attend more training! If you need a court cost refresher, go back and watch the class held in Westlake Hills.

We agreed that it is impossible for any one person to have all the answers and that's OK. Don't let the fear of what you don't know keep you from participating in something that will help you grow.

The TCCA Board of Directors will discuss the future of the Chapter at their Spring Meeting in March. In the meantime, TCCA President Lisa Howard says "It breaks my heart to think that we might have to dissolve another Chapter but any members in the West Texas and Panhandle areas will be absorbed into the region that they fall into should we be forced to dissolve the West Texas Chapter. We are not going to forget about them; Jeanne and Gabby have worked very hard."

As the next Chair of the Chapter Steering committee one of the items we are going to focus on is how we move forward in reaching current members and ask, "What do you want from this organization? How can we improve as we go into the new year?" Rhonda Kuehn and Constance White are also a part of the committee. [Join us.](#) For education, we've started the ball rolling with Central Texas providing the first Skype and Facebook Live class. Though there will be internet connection issues, and cities that don't yet allow the use of these media platforms, remember this quote always, "We cannot lead where people don't want to go but cannot ignore where we need to go." Ralph Ferguson, North Texas President (Garland, Texas) - 1989



Jeanne W. & Robert M., 2015 Allen TCCA Conference



Linda Gossett, Retired West Texas San Angelo clerk continuing her education



Robert M. meets West Texas Treasurer Gabby Scott

Freedom Trail

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Nydia Olaque attending Red Mass



Freedom Trail President, Diana Olack

Freedom Trail shoots to Facebook Live for their March education class.

Each fall, St. Mary's University School of Law welcomes the start of the new judicial year

The 2017 Red Mass will took place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017, at San Fernando Cathedral located in San Antonio, Texas.

The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, was the principal celebrant and homilist. The Hon. Kevin Patrick Yeary, Justice of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, offered welcome remarks.

The tradition of Red Mass dates back to 1245 in Europe when both the bench and bar attended the Mass together at the beginning of each judicial session. The name is derived from the scarlet robes worn by judges and red vestments worn by priests in honor of the Holy Spirit. Red Mass is celebrated throughout the country for the purpose of requesting God's blessings and guidance on the administration of justice.

The tradition was revived in San Antonio 62 years ago by the St. Mary's University School of Law and the [Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio](#), who organize the annual event with representatives from San Antonio legal organizations, the judiciary and the State Legislature.

The School of Law is grateful to the [Archdiocese of San Antonio](#) to be welcomed each year to the San Fernando Cathedral for this beautiful and solemn event.



Chapter members at the Texas State Aquarium during the awards banquet at the 2017 Conference



Freedom Trail representing TCCA



#SAPD

South Texas

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Laura Garza at the Aquarium



Adrienne Dill representing Corpus Christi



Corpus Christi, 2017 TCCA Conference

Double the amount of Education

You do not have to be present to win

The goal of the South Texas Chapter is to promote education, innovation, and integrity which produces confidence, passion, and success for our individual courts and cities. One of the ways that we meet these goals is through the education provided by the chapter. A big hurdle for South Texas Courts is the expense and distance for available training. The South Texas Chapter has hosted training opportunities in different cities in South Texas to reach those that may not have been able to attend due to travel budgets and coverage for their positions. Another benefit of the trainings held through the South Texas Chapter is that the education provided can be used towards the Clerk Certification program. Our mission for this next year is to provide at least double the amount of training that has been offered in 2017 – some of which may be provided through video conferencing. I am excited for the growth of all Court Clerks and hope that you will join me in making these trainings possible and successful through your participation in the South Texas Chapter. I wish you the best in the upcoming new year!

Laura Garza, South Texas President

Chapter members at the Texas State Aquarium during the awards banquet at the 2017 Conference



Chapter members at the Texas State Aquarium during the awards banquet at the 2017 Conference

Getting To Know You

Tracy Ventura on Treasures and Blessings

My name is Tracy Ventura, Court Clerk for the Liberty Hill Municipal Court. This is a short story of my two closest court friends and how we met. The first is Ruth Sandoval, Court Administrator with the Lakeway Municipal Court. Ruth and I have been friends and coworkers since 2015 and we both work for Judge Kevin Madison. When I ventured to the Johnson City Municipal Court from Victoria, TX, I was new to Incode and new to Judge Madison's policies and procedures. Ruth was always there for me, guiding me through all of the trials and tribulations while I was learning the ropes of running our "sister" courts. She has been my #1 supporter in managing day-to-day operations in the ever-changing world of Municipal Court, and I truly treasure her friendship.



I can't go without mentioning my court buddy Debbie Landrum, Municipal Court Administrator for the Town of Little Elm. Debbie and I became friends while she worked at the Granite Shoals Municipal Court, and I was with Johnson City. Debbie has always been a great source to bounce ideas off of, especially during those fun dinners in Marble Falls. Her friendship inside the court world and out has been a true blessing in my life.

Ruth, Debbie and I are all cheering for each other and offering endless support as we all pursue our Level III certifications. Thank you ladies for always having my back!!!!

Membership runs January 1 through December 31

REGULAR : SUSTAINING : HONORARY

If you have not already renewed for 2018, please [renew](#) your membership soon so you don't lose out on the valuable benefits of membership. Your \$40 Membership fee payable to Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA) can be mailed to:

Texas Court Clerks Association
Kimberly Kierce, TCCA Treasurer
2100 E Campbell Rd
Richardson, Texas 75083



A True Friend by Debbie Landrum

I moved out of Texas and the Court Administrator role in 2008, then returned in 2013 as Court Administrator for the city of Granite Shoals. At that time, Tracy Ventura was the Court Administrator for Johnson City (now in

Liberty Hill), I reached out to her for guidance with Incode and to bring me up to speed with all the changes that occurred while I was out of the Court world. She invited me to come to her Court for some one on one training. That was the beginning of not only an awesome professional relationship, but a great friendship. We would meet regularly for dinner at our favorite places, "On the Rocks" in Horseshoe Bay and Chili's in Marble Falls. In 2015, I moved away from the area when I accepted the Court Administrator position in Little Elm. We still see each other at TCCA and TMCEC conferences. We pick each other's brains on court issues, policies and procedures. Tracy is a true friend, a special person, and a valuable resource among peers in the Municipal Court arena. Thank you Tracy for all you do and who you are!

Retired Administrator, Kathryn Wells-Vogel talks life after Court; pitches municipal court fictional short stories

I started my career in August of 1990 as an Assistant Court Clerk for Justice of the Peace Precinct Three in Bexar County. For nearly 27 years there was not a single moment of my life in which I was not employed by a Texas court. For more than 21 years I served in municipalities across the state holding the positions of Deputy Court Clerk, Municipal Court Clerk, Municipal Court Administrator, Municipal Court Manager, and Director of Municipal Courts. During that time, I became a Certified Municipal Court Clerk, a Certified Public Manager, a Certified Court Manger, and a Certified Court Executive. On the last day of June, 2017, I retired.

My dreams of early retirement started when I was diagnosed with cancer. While recovering I realized I was eligible to retire in just a few, short years. I also realized how badly I missed my home state of Kentucky.



And so, I started planning.

A year later, however, fate stepped in and I answered the call to become Court Director in a West Texas municipality. With only two years left to retirement, I promised them five years of service. As it turned out, I gave them nearly nine. No doubt I would still be with them today were it not for the fact I suffered an injury which resulted in chronic pain. So, this year, I decided to retire and concentrate on healing.

Since retiring I have had surgery. I'm two months post-op and my recovery is shaky but promising. I'm also in the process of renovating my retirement cabin, "CliffHouse", on Lake Cumberland in my home state of Kentucky. Each morning I strap on my neck brace and, once all the critters have been fed, tackle a myriad of projects that keep me on my feet from the time I get up to the time I go to bed. It's quite the opposite of when I was working and tackling projects that kept me sitting in front of a computer monitor for hours on end. The nature of the tasks may be different, but the tenacity and determination is the same.

In the future I'd love to volunteer my time to the Education Center. I'd also like to pick up court consulting projects and/or interim leadership roles for courts in transition. Writing has always been a passion of mine so I'd love to become more involved with TCCA's newsletter. Perhaps one day I'll find myself writing a series of fictional stories with municipal court as the setting and court clerks as the main characters!

Riding into the new year!

by Lea Ness

If we haven't met before I am Lea and I work for the Hutto Municipal Court. I've been with Hutto since 2003 and a member of TCCA since 2005. I was recently given the official title of Court Administrator and like many of you I have my Level I certification and currently working towards achieving my Level II.

In 2009 TCCA had their conference in Abilene, Texas and that's where I met Robert. We hit it off! I knew clerks from my surrounding chapter area but Abilene is about 3 1/2 hours west of Hutto. Everything was unfamiliar to me and Robert was from Abilene. Ever since we've stayed connected. Not only do we share our ideas and forms with each other, we've gotten to meet a lot of new clerks at chapter meetings and conferences. When you make a connection with a clerk, hold onto to that. If you find yourself in a dilemma and don't know the answer to something you will always have someone to turn to and not feel stuck.

Last year Robert and I got to experience our first plane ride together when we flew to Tyler's annual conference in Phoenix. You can only imagine the laughs we had. I'm looking forward to 2018 and I encourage everyone to get out there and get involved and make that connection. Thank you Robert for being a friend.





Retired but not tired

by Elaine Brown

I feel so honored and blessed to be asked to share life after retirement. Bottom line, IT IS Fabulous!! Basically, I was not ready to retire because I loved my job and my profession! Little did I know, retirement does not necessarily mean quitting what you love! My retirement date was February 28, 2014, but continued to facilitate for TMCEC and the Gulf Coast Chapter until 2017. Also, I have been fortunate enough to contract with several courts in analyzing procedures and assist in improving court systems. This is a very rewarding experience and keeps me involved.

In my first year, I was mentored by Iola Pickul of West University Place and Janell Kucera of Sugar Land. They always checked in on me and were available with any questions or concerns I might have had during those early times. Then, as I got involved in the Gulf Coast Chapter, many members offered assistance. As I received knowledge and experience, I wanted to reach out to others as a mentor to help any way I could. But, my suggestion to all who are in the process of obtaining certification and experience, get involved anyway you can in your local

Yahoo! Listserv: How to get the best answer and remember it

by Robert Martinez Jr., West Lake Hills

There are three total Listservs; one for TCCA and the other two are for TMCEC. Each hold their own importance for clerks that use them across the State with a total of over 700.

In order to get the best possible response and answer here are a few tips I follow:

Is your subject relevant to your question? If this is an emergency, hang up and dial 9-1-1. "Help!" may not get you the help you're seeking. A specific subject line alerts others immediately if it's something they can assist with or need to pass up. Time is valuable, take time to put a detailed subject line.

Make a new post for a new question. Sometimes we ask a question within a post that may not be relevant to the underlying question and then sometimes we just throw in another question. First, "Does your court file VPTA/FTA's?" and then someone replies down the feed, "What is the court cost?" Although relevant, you might not get the answer as soon as you need it. Less so if about 5-7 clerks have already replied. That new post just might find itself in the delete folder thinking that surely it's been answered by now. Better safe than sorry.

Every court is different. Always remember that items shared on the Listserv have been approved by the court sharing their process, idea, forms, etc. You may want to run everything by your judge and/or city prosecutor before changing or implementing anything for your court but don't reinvent the wheel.

Can't find that post? Did you know that at the bottom of every e-mail there is a small area that says: **VISIT YOUR GROUP**

If you click on **VISIT YOUR GROUP** it will take you to the homepage of the Listserv. Scroll down towards the bottom of the page and you'll find a calendar that goes by year and month. Click on the number and search. (that's the amount of posts for that day)

chapter and Texas Court Clerk Association. Let someone know you are willing to volunteer. TMCEC is always looking for candidates to facilitate courses. You will get the training needed and will benefit from the experience.

In the years I was the Court Administrator for the City of Katy, I was allowed to attend all educational opportunities available through our local Gulf Coast Chapter, TMCEC and National Center for State Courts. In 2005, I obtained my Level III Certification as Certified Municipal Court Clerk and was in the First graduating class under NCSC to receive the Certified Court Manager from the Institute for Court Management in 2010. Education is the most important key to success in the Court Profession. Whether you are in a small or large court, education is essential. My time spent on the Education Committee was the most satisfying years.

Now for retirement, IT IS wonderful. My husband, John and I have visited London twice and have been to Portugal, Spain, France, and Belgium. We have been on two transatlantic cruises (one including Boston, New York, Bermuda and the Bahamas), three cruises to the Western Caribbean, one to the Eastern Caribbean, an Alaskan cruise and a wonderful 10 day vacation in Hawaii!! We are currently planning a 2 week trip to Greece this year to visit my relatives. After that, we are staying home!! Which is the best place in the world!!

Mara Dudley, with the City of Llano shared "I've been a part of the Listserv probably since 2006-2007. What I've found most helpful is that anytime something I find valuable is posted, I move it over to a Listserv folder I created with subfolders organized by subject. When a complaint is shared, I move it to my complaint folder!"

"I love the listserv!" **Victoria Henson, with the City of Magnolia** said when I called her to get her input. She's a frequent poster. "Everyone is so nice, caring and what's great is the forms and the information they're willing to share". She's faithfully been a part of the Yahoo! Group since about 2013.

"The listserv has a wealth of information and with limited resources for some courts it's good to know that when someone posts a question they're going to get some good responses. We are all a team and a team is as good as how much we are willing to contribute" fellow poster **Debbie Landrum with the city of Little Elm** shared. She's been assisting on the listserv for as long as she can remember.

TCCA Group Email Addresses

Post Message: texascourtclerks@yahoogroups.com
Subscribe: texascourtclerks-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Unsubscribe: texascourtclerks-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

TMCEC Clerk Group Email Addresses

Post Message: texasmunicipalcourtclerks@yahoogroups.com
Subscribe: texasmunicipalcourtclerks-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Unsubscribe: texasmunicipalcourtclerks-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

TMCEC Administrator Group Email Addresses

Post Message: tmcecadministrators@yahoogroups.com
Subscribe: tmcecadministrators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Unsubscribe: tmcecadministrators-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com



Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you all!

I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support of TCCA and to extend my deepest gratitude to the many volunteers that spend countless hours dedicating their time to make this organization such a success. It is so refreshing to have so many people that choose to volunteer their time to assist this Association in accomplishing our goals and objectives.

I would like to thank **Tammy Odom**, our past President and Conference Planning Chair, for all her hard work on making the 2017 conference such a great success! Tammy and the Conference Planning Committee, along with Chapter Presidents, worked very hard prior to and during conference to make it such a HUGE

success. The education, networking, vendor exhibit, events, food, and camaraderie were exceptional! I was very impressed with the speakers and the education that we received as well as the venue for the banquet. It was an experience that I will never forget!

A HUGE thank you to our Sponsors this year! They are a large part of our conference success and I appreciate all the exhibitors that chose to be Sponsors and give their support to TCCA.

I would like to welcome our new Board Members, elected in October, and who will begin their terms of office in January 2018. Your new Directors at Large are **Jason Contatore** of New Braunfels, Freedom Trail Chapter; and **Jennifer Dorsett** of Haslet, North Texas Chapter; and your new Treasurer, **Kimberly Kierce** of Richardson, North Texas Chapter. I look forward to working with each of you as you serve TCCA and the membership in your new roles.

Membership renewals for 2018 kicked off November 1st so don't forget to renew your TCCA membership. I encourage you to reach out to those cities close by you and encourage them to become members and maybe get involved in some way.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the current Board for a very successful year

and the hard work and dedication that they have put forth in making this Association what it is today. Please join me in thanking those Board Members who will be stepping down after their years of service to TCCA and it's membership: **Jaime Brew** of Sugar Land and **Wende White** of Cameron.

A special "Thank You" to **David Preciado**, Arlington, for all his years of service on the TCCA Board and the last 18 years as TCCA Treasurer. It was my honor to serve with him and I appreciate all his advice, wisdom, and dedication while I have served as your President. Thank you so much, David, for always being such a gentleman, a leader, and a guide - you will forever be in my heart.

I am looking forward to 2018 and all that the new year promises and hope that each of you will continue to pray for our members, colleagues and leaders. Please continue to pray, offer financial/material support, and/or volunteer your time to those effected by Hurricane Harvey. It is such a blessing that we can help others in their time of need and, in return, you will receive an abundance of gratitude for whatever you are able to give.

Many Blessings to you all until we meet again!

We would like to thank you for being a part of TCCA and say thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition as well as our vendors. Within this newsletter you'll find multiple hyperlinks that will direct you to pages within TCCA's website such as on the Chapter Corner's page, Scholarships, and among others. Some links may require that you login to TCCA. We hope that this edition and future editions serve as a "Go To" resource for you.

If you'd like to share your city's logo or your story; please email it to rmartinez@westlakehills.org and we will do our best to see that it is featured in the next issue of the newsletter. The Scribe is published twice a year, June and December. Our committee also takes part in posting on TCCA's [Facebook page](#) with news and upcoming events. Happy New Year from your Publications Committee.

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Jaime Brew, Sugarland : April Christiansen, Cedar Park : Mara Dudley, Llano : Jennifer Dorsett, Haslet : Robert Martinez, Jr. West Lake Hills : Michelle Smith Houston : Brittany Wright, Sugar Land