

The Scribe

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Conferences Hit By Rising Inflation

We all hear it and see it on the news, the economy, the economy, the economy. However, the reality of rising inflation is being felt in every aspect of our lives. Yes, even TCCA has been affected. Each year the conference committee chairperson is faced with an ever increasingly difficult task of hosting an amazing conference on a tight budget.

Hotel expenses from food to audio visual to meeting rooms have been increasing. Also, individual cities are having to pay more to send delegates with travel expenses and hotel accommodations rising each year.

The TCCA Board has been trying to keep the cost of the conference to it's members as low as possible. However, this year, the Board was forced to increase the conference registration fee for dele-

gates. The current fee of \$150 per delegate has now increased to \$200. Compared to other organization's conference fees, this is still a bargain.

TCCA has also discussed other ways of balancing the conference budget. One suggestion was to minimize the conference to two and a half days from the current three and a half days. Another suggestion was made to eliminate the all-inclusive nature of the conference. For example, individuals would be responsible for all or some of the meals that are currently provided. These are merely suggestions at this point, but TCCA would like to hear from you on these suggestions as well as other ideas you may have to cut costs.

If you would like to share your opinion, please send

an email to jsullivan@ci.sealy.tx.us and the suggestions will be reviewed at the TCCA Board of Directors Mid Year Meeting, which will be held April 3, 2009 in Abilene.

Members voted to hold the 2011 Conference in Southlake, Texas. Hotel expenses in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area are much higher than in other parts

TCCA Scholarships available.
Visit www.texasclerks.org
for more information.

of the State. Members should consider this when preparing next year's budget. The hotel expense in Southlake has been projected to be approximately \$189 per night. TCCA offers scholarships, so if your city is going through tough times, apply for a scholarship so you don't miss out on a great conference.



TCCA has new tool: www.surveymonkey.com

TCCA has a new tool for staying connected with the membership. Members may be familiar with survey monkey, which was recently used to request opinions regarding TCCA membership levels.

The Board agreed that this valuable

tool could be used in many areas of TCCA. The Bylaws Committee will soon use this website to obtain opinions from TCCA members regarding proposed bylaw changes.

If you are not currently receiving regular emails from Jennifer Sulli-

van regarding TCCA news, please send an email to jsullivan@ci.sealy.tx.us so your address can be added to the TCCA email listing. By updating your email information, you will be able to stay current with news and TCCA-sponsored projects.

MTSI News you Can Use

2nd Annual Municipal Traffic Safety Conference - May 2009

Texas is known for many things, The University of Texas, Longhorns, bluebonnets, being the Lone Star State and many other features that make Texas stand out among the other states. However, Texas is a stand out nationally in drunk driving deaths as well. Experts estimate that 70 Texans are injured or killed in alcohol-related crashes every day. In Texas, someone is hurt or killed in an alcohol-related crash every 19 minutes, and drunk driving claims five lives every day.

Drunk driving is *the most frequently committed violent crime* in our country. And, in Texas, this crime is committed more frequently than in any other state. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 1,569 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes in Texas in 2006, and more than 63,500 people were injured. The percentage of crashes which are alcohol-related in Texas (45%) is far above the national average (39%).

One way we can come together as a community to address this serious concern is

to attend the May TMCEC Traffic Safety Initiatives three-day conference that is geared specifically to municipal courts and city officials to address traffic safety. Judges, clerks, and city officials are invited to attend.

Traffic laws are about public safety, not fines, not gross revenue. The enforcement of such laws are necessary to prevent injuries and save lives. Yet, Texas, continues to lead the nation in traffic-related fatalities. Creating a community culture that prioritizes traffic safety requires that city council members, city managers, law enforcement, and municipal courts approach traffic safety with a unified focus.

While at the conference some of the sessions you will have the opportunity to attend are: *Blood Warrants, Booster Seats/ Child Safety Seats, How Municipal Courts Can Make a Difference, Red Light Cameras & Enforcement, OMNI Base Failure to Appear, Community or Problem Solving Courts, Aggressive Drivers, Young Drivers, DUI, Distracted Driving, Judges in the*

Classroom, and much more.

The TMCEC Traffic Safety Conference will be on May 27-29, 2009 in Austin at the Omni Southpark Hotel. Priority will be given to those who did not attend the 2008 Municipal Traffic Safety Conference. Space is limited so be sure to make your reservation today. For more information, please visit the TMCEC Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives website. www.tmcec.com click on Municipal Traffic Safety Initiative. There are many benefits in attending this conference; however, one of the main benefits is bringing together a variety of people, such as city officials, to see how each person's role is important in addressing the seriousness of traffic safety.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to gather educational resources on traffic safety. Let's join together and show that Texas no longer wants the title of being #1 in Drunk Driving Deaths!

See you in May! For more information, contact Lisa Robinson, TMCEC TxDOT Grant Administrator at robinson@tmcec.com or 800.252.3718.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SURVEY COMING SOON

The Bylaws Committee will soon send an email to all registered members regarding a new membership survey. If you do not receive an email from Jennifer Sullivan, Bylaws Committee Chairperson, by February 15, 2009, please contact her at jsullivan@ci.sealy.tx.us or 979.885.6733 x 103. The survey will be facilitated through www.surveymonkey.com and will be available to all members in February. This is your chance to make your voice heard.

The information that was collected from the 2008 survey was used to prepare the 2008 proposed bylaw changes. However, in a tight vote, the proposed bylaws were not approved. The Bylaws Committee was asked by the membership to revisit the issue and the committee will request your opinions through survey monkey. They will use this information to compile any necessary bylaw changes to reflect the majority opinion from TCCA members.

Many individuals stated that they were not educated on the survey results, the proposed bylaw changes or the reasons for the changes. The Bylaws Committee is committed to gathering opinions, proposing the will of the majority of the members and educating members on the reasons for the possible proposed changes. If at any time, you have questions regarding the proposed bylaws, the survey or any other bylaw-related subject, please feel free to contact anyone on the Bylaws Committee: Jennifer Sullivan at jsullivan@ci.sealy.tx.us; Lisa Howard at lhoward@ci.hurst.tx.us; Fred Garcia at fred.garcia@sanantonio.gov; or Michele Sanchez-Rodriguez at mrodriguez@mybigspring.com.

Rebecca Stark Honored by TCCA and TMCA

TMCA recognized Rebecca Stark, Chief Clerk of the Austin Municipal Court as the *Clerk of the Year 2008*. During the last eight years in Austin, Ms. Stark has applied her “seemingly boundless energy” to improvements in the Court in the implementation of an electronic case management system with web access, initiating the annual State-Wide Warrant Round-Up, and developing a comprehensive collection and compliance program. Ms. Stark is active as a member and officer in the TCCA and is a highly-

rated presenter for TMCEC.

Rebecca was also honored by the Texas Court Clerks Association at the 2008 Annual Conference with the organization’s highest honor—the *Excellence Award*. Rebecca has served on the TCCA Board of Directors and also as the Central Texas Chapter President. She currently chairs the TCCA Legislative Committee and keeps members abreast of current legislative progress. Congratulations Rebecca!



Warrant Round-Up Coming Up

It’s time to get started with the **2009 Great Texas Warrant Round Up**. After receiving a lot of input on dates, the round up arrests will begin on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Roundups should be concluded no later than Monday, March 16th. Notices will be mailed three weeks earlier on or around Friday, February 13, 2009. These are the main dates, but

they must not be shared with the media yet. A number of press conferences are scheduled on or near the date the notices are mailed so we don’t want the information distributed to the media before then if possible. Last year, a number of media outlets contacted us about the date and they were just told “we will be having one in the Spring and will

make an announcement closer to the date”. It worked!

To participate, go to www.cityofaustin.org/court and download the form. You can also see a list of participating agencies.

—Rebecca Stark, Austin Municipal Court

Scribe Editor: Jennifer Sullivan, Sealy Municipal Court

The Scribe is published semi-annually by the Texas Court Clerks Association. Articles for the next newsletter must be submitted by May 15, 2009. Send articles, editorials, job postings, etc. to Jennifer Sullivan at jsullivan@ci.sealy.tx.us or to new contributing editor Carol Talley at ctalley@cityofspringtown.com.

Job postings and news articles may also be published to TCCA’s website:

www.texasclerkclerks.org.

Please send information to be placed on the website to Julie Kubeczka at jukubeczka@cityhall.cityofalvin.com.



Deadline for submissions for the next edition of The Scribe: May 15, 2009.

TCCA Recognizes Members At Awards Banquet

The Texas Court Clerks Association recognized the following members at the 2008 Annual Banquet.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Lesa Keith, Justin	Kathy Collie, Gonzales	Kitzy Daniels, Austin
Lisa Howard, Hurst	Susan Delephimne, Italy	Deanna Horton, Bastrop
Edna Boykins, Center	Esther Henry, Hurst	Bonnie Townsend, Lockhart
Tedda Bender, Marlin	Linda Gossett, San Angelo	Rene Mendiola, Corpus Christi
Nora Rodriguez, Corpus Christi		

EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AWARD

Tracie Glaeser, Lewisville	Crystal Black, Fritch	Pat Riffel, Pearland
Diana Zulauf, Salado	Jennifer Sullivan, Sealy	Phyllis Mathison, Bastrop
Kimberly Kierce, Richardson	Julie Kubeczka, Alvin	Elaine Brown, Katy
Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham		

EXCELLENCE AWARD

Rebecca Stark, Austin

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Lois Wright, TMCEC



Shona Bohon and Lesa Keith, Justin



President Shona Bohon and Bonnie Townsend, Lockhart



Kathy Collie, Gonzales and Shona



Tedda Bender, Marlin receives award from President Shona Bohon

Congratulations to Becky Marino of Galveston and Betty Seals of Midland upon their recent retirement from their respective cities. On behalf of TCCA, we would like to wish them a very happy and healthy retirement!

Courts Celebrate Municipal Courts Week

WOW...WHAT A WEEK!!!!!!!!!!!!

The week of November 3rd, 2008 was a busy week for many courts across the region. Municipal Courts Week this year was acknowledged November 3rd thru November 7th, 2008. For those courts that had the opportunity to celebrate the acknowledgement it was not only educating but rewarding. Municipal Courts Week is a week just for courts at the municipal level to not only be acknowledged for the tremendous amount of work accomplished but to educate the public by holding mock trials, handing out educational coloring books to children, and safety pamphlets to parents. Here are just a few examples of how some courts celebrated the week.

The City of Pearland had a baked potato pot luck luncheon, having a proclamation read, and the Judge hired a masseuse to treat the staff to 15-minute chair massages. To educate the public, they created a display with coloring books, crayons, and growth charts in the community center of TXDOT. Texarkana celebrated by having cake and coffee to acknowledge the hard work of Annette Hill, Carol Brown, Edna Whitehead, Sally Bess, Victoria Godfrey and Bailiff Monte Blundell with a certificate of appreciation for their dedication to the court and the community. Bastrop ran videos in the court room, served cookies and coffee and handed out traffic safety sheets for children to color. Tom Bean held a mock jury trial with the Tom Bean Police Department, the Senior Economics class from the high school and had an article printed in the paper about the trial. Lisa Howard with the City of Hurst treated clerks to lunch and a friendly game of C-O-U-R-T (the court version of BINGO), they played every day until every one had the opportunity to win \$5.00 gift cards to local restaurants and ended the week with a pizza party. The City of Katy involved 3rd graders in a mock trial on Safety Seats – one little girl was going to tell her daddy that she was not going to get into the car with him unless he wore his seatbelt - SUCCESSFUL TRIAL. The Mayor of Mount Enterprise presented the City Attorney Joe Shumate an award for all of his years of service and the Mount Enterprise ISD Senior Government class convicted Mr. Potato Head of speeding in a mock trial. Balch Springs handed out colors and coloring books and lunch was provided to the staff by the Judge and the Prosecutor; a council person provided them with a continental breakfast. Groesbeck's Mayor, City Administrator, and Judge presented Michelle Nance with a proclamation; Brazoria's council did a proclamation as well. Sealy held a mock trial with the YAC (Youth Advisory Commission) involving minors in possession of alcohol and had the transcript of the docket printed in the local newspaper.

As you can see, there are many ways to celebrate the week, educate the public, make future career choices for the next generation, and make the court process less evasive by helping the public to simply understand. To court staff everywhere, THANK YOU for all you do, to the judges and prosecutors, THANK YOU for your guidance and participation. Please budget time for this amazing week every year...you never know who you will touch or whose life you will change.



Students from Mount Enterprise Senior Government class convicted Mr. Potato Head of speeding in a mock trial



Katy Court Administrator Elaine Brown helps "Judge Knows the Law" and "Court Clerk Does All the Work" through a mock trial conducted by local 3rd graders

TCCA Salary Survey Committee Gets Thumbs Up from TML

A group of TCCA members has been diligently working to promote more options for cities when filling out and utilizing the TML Annual Salary Survey. The TML Salary Survey Committee is comprised of Chairperson Jennifer Sullivan, Sealy; Wanda Kelly, Shenandoah; Lynda Kilgore, La Porte; Geralyn Mingo, Port Arthur; and Luane Petrash, Webster.

Many Texas cities rely upon the *TML Salaries and Benefits Survey* as a foundation for their budget process. The survey results allow local governments to make meaningful compensation decisions based upon market trends.

The committee reviewed countless job descriptions submitted by TCCA members for court-support personnel. The committee used these job descriptions to form five major job titles and job summaries to submit to TML for approval. Currently, there is only one job title and job description that cities can choose from on the TML Salary Survey form—Court Clerk. This means that the job information for a court administrator was rated by cities in the same manner as that for a court cashier or other court personnel of different job titles.

The Committee realized that there were numerous job titles from different cities with similar job descriptions. They also did not want to submit too many titles to TML to the point that it would complicate the process. The Committee decided on five titles and descriptions. The titles and descriptions are as follows:

COURT ADMINISTRATOR/COURT MANAGER/COURT DIRECTOR

Manage the non-judicial functions of the Municipal Court, including staffing and direct supervision of non-judicial court personnel. Statutes refer to position as *The Clerk of the Court*. Design and implement policies and procedures and administer the day to day operations of the court including budget and financial analysis. Make recommendations for purchases, capital items and additional court personnel. Maintain information technology resources and various automated court information and management systems. Research, compile, evaluate and analyze the court statistical data and required reports. Education: Bachelor's Degree in a related field or experience equivalent; License/Certification: Level III Certified Municipal Court Clerk preferred; Experience: 5 years supervisory in a related field.

COURT CLERK - SENIOR

Responsible for assisting the court administrator/manager/director with the administration and operations of the Municipal Court. Work involves the supervision of some or all court support staff, and includes the exercise of judgment within established guidelines and policies. Participates in all phases of the court's clerical and legal activities as required. Assists in making recommendations for development and implementation of programs, policies and procedures to improve efficiency and increase productivity of court operations. Education: Associates degree in a related field or experience equivalent; License/Certification: Level II Court Clerk Certification preferred, Experience: 2 years supervisory in a related field.

COURT CLERK - NON-SUPERVISORY

Responsible for all of the non-judicial operations of municipal court, excluding supervisory duties. Statutes refer to position as *The Clerk of the Court*. Implement procedures that will be administered in the daily operations of the court. Prepare budget recommendations and financial analysis. Responsibilities may include but are not limited to: processing citations, collecting fines and fees, scheduling hearings, court dates, and trials, maintaining the warrant database, preparing court dockets, jury charges and summons, assisting with the preparation of complaints, appeals, case transfers, judgments, corresponding with defendants and attorneys, serving as courtroom clerk, data entry, legal research and reporting convictions to DPS. Education: Associates Degree in a related field or experience equivalent; License/Certification: Level II Court Clerk Certification preferred; Experience: 2 years in a related field.

COURT CLERK - DEPUTY

Responsible for assisting with the daily operations of the municipal court requiring a specialized knowledge of court operations and municipal court law while possessing strong organizational and basic accounting skills. Responsibilities may include but are not limited to: processing citations, collecting fines and fees, scheduling hearings, court dates, and trials, maintaining the warrant database, preparing court dockets, jury charges and summons, assisting with the preparation of complaints, appeals, case transfers, judgments, corresponding with defendants and attorneys, serving as courtroom clerk,

Continued on page 7

TCCA Salary Survey Committee –Cont.

data entry and reporting convictions to DPS. Education: High School Diploma/GED; License/Certification: Level I Court Clerk Certification preferred; Experience: 1 year in related field.

COURT CLERK – SPECIALIZED FIELD

Responsible for providing specialized support for the court in a specific field including but not limited to compliance, warrant and bond processing, court date scheduling and docket creation, payment negotiation, indigents and community service, language interpreting, financial accounting of fines and fees, juveniles, court hearings and court records. Provides specialized customer service utilizing specific areas of court procedures. May be assigned to work in a variety of specialized units within the court. Education: High School Diploma/GED; License/Certification: Level I Court Clerk Certification preferred; Experience: 1 year in a related field.

The TCCA Board of Directors approved the job titles and summaries and they were then sent to TML for review. On November 19, 2008 Rachael Pitts with TML sent confirmation to TCCA President Shona Bohon that the five proposed job titles and summaries, submitted by the TCCA Committee would be added to the TML annual survey. TML relies on the help of The Waters Consulting Group, Inc. to compile and determine job titles and summaries. After reviewing the proposed information, they stated that they would be included in the next version of the *TML Salaries and Benefits Survey*.

Additionally, Rachael Pitts, TML Assistant Director of Member Services commented to President Shona Bohon, "As a side note, Stacy Waters, said that you should be commended for the quality of the job titles and descriptions that you submitted. (I second that!) We will use yours as a model for any other submittals." This

is great exposure for the Texas Court Clerks Association with TML.

Please inform your Human Resources Department and/or City Managers that there are now more options available on the TML Salary Survey when classifying court-support personnel.

What is next for the TCCA Salary Survey Committee? They will soon use survey monkey to perform an intensive survey of all courts in Texas. This survey will include salaries, size of staff, certification pay, caseload, Judge, Prosecutor and Warrant Officer/Bailiff information, etc. The results will be available as an invaluable tool to court managers when making budget and personnel requests.

If you have any questions regarding the Salary Survey Committee projects, please contact Committee Chairperson Jennifer Sullivan at jsullivan@ci.sealy.tx.us.

The Legislative Process Has Begun!

Legislative Committee Chairperson Rebecca Stark has been hard at work filing TML resolutions and keeping TCCA updated with proposed and filed legislation. Filing started this month and there are already a few bills which have caught her eye.

HB 141—Insurance Proof Dismissals - relating to evidence of motor vehicle financial responsibility; providing a penalty. Creates an offense of not having the proof to show an officer and sets a \$10 dismissal fee.

HB195—Pre-trial Hearings - relating to pretrial hearings in criminal cases. Must provide them upon request and must be within 30 days of the trial date.

SB55—Required Judicial Training - relating to judicial instruction for judges who hear complaints against children alleging violations of certain misdemeanor offenses. 2-4 hours annually.

SB 61—Safety Seat Fine to State - relating to the offense of failing to secure a child passenger in a motor vehicle and to fines for the offense. Changes age to 8 and height; lowers fine to not more than \$25 and the entire fine collected goes to the State.

You can view the bills in full at www.capitol.state.tx.us.

Editorial—Bylaws

In writing this article, I do not wish to represent the TCCA Board, but instead I'm writing as a **member** of the Texas Court Clerks Association. I have had the opportunity for several years to serve on the TCCA Bylaws Committee and in doing so have seen many issues that have brought emotions and feelings to the business meeting. I was a witness to this at the meeting this October in Corpus Christi.

The issue on the table was whether vendor-related members should be able to serve on TCCA committees, vote or hold office. To give you some background, the issue developed when the Board became aware that members were becoming involved in business relationships with TCCA vendors, whether while they were still an active court clerk or they retired to do so. President Shona Bohon sent out a membership survey to all TCCA members to get members' perspectives on this issue. Out of 950 members, 164 responded to the computer survey. The results were made available to all TCCA members in an effort to educate members on the upcoming meeting issue.

From the opinions gathered, the Bylaws Committee prepared proposed bylaw changes that would directly reflect the will of the majority of the membership, according to the survey. The majority opinion expressed was that members that become business partners or employees of vendors should still be able to maintain their certification, but should not be able to influence TCCA business by voting, holding office or serving on committees. The proposed changes were then sent out to all members via email, made available on the website,

mentioned in *The Scribe* and handed out to each delegate as they signed in for the 2008 Conference.

With all of this information distributed, the Board did not want to bog the meeting down by going over the results of the survey or the proposed bylaw changes again. However, I now realize this was a mistake. Many in attendance stated that they were confused by the issue in which they were asked to vote. The proposed bylaws did not pass in a tight 61 to 54 vote. At the conclusion of the meeting, a motion was made by a member asking the Bylaws Committee to go back to the drawing board. So, we will again ask for specific feedback from you regarding the vendor membership issue through a survey. Again, we will use this information to prepare proposed bylaw changes based on the majority opinion.

I ask that everyone take responsibility as a member to educate yourself on the survey results that will be given to you, read over the proposed bylaw changes and if you have any questions, contact a bylaw committee member.

I also ask that members vote based on facts, not emotions. TCCA is a professional organization of court-support personnel. The issue is not that anyone is trying to "ban" long time friends, but instead the goal is to maintain the professional appearance we have worked so hard to achieve. It is this appearance of impropriety that, especially as court clerks, we should strive to uphold. If this vote would have passed, the result would not be that Margaret Robbins or long time members would have been "banned" from TCCA, it would merely mean that their new relationship with TCCA would be protected. We will always appreciate and respect their knowledge and con-

tributions to TCCA. But, when a member chooses to go to work for a vendor, their relationship changes with TCCA and therefore, their primary point of view changes. Again, no one is questioning the integrity or dedication of our members that choose to go to work for vendors, the goal is merely to maintain our organization's creditability and build an enriched relationship with them as vendors.

Restricting vendor-related member's rights to vote, hold office or serve on committees does not cut off any resources, because our vendors are always a part of TCCA. However, we must protect the potential influence of a vendor to dictate policies and procedures for the organization. We can still include our vendor-related members without allowing an appearance of influence which could be perceived as a conflict of interest from another valued vendor.

Let us finally look at the history of why TCCA exists. Our bylaws begin: "The Association shall be made up of two sections, municipal court clerks and justice court clerks." In trying to be flexible, TCCA has created additional levels of membership to include judges and vendors, because they are important to our association. But TCCA should first and foremost serve the needs of court clerks. However, I do believe proposed bylaws could allow this, while still allowing vendor-related and other membership levels to maintain certification. It is a win-win situation. We still can maintain our strong relationship with long time members, and they can maintain their valuable certification.

Again, these are my personal thoughts as a member and I hope you will choose to keep up to date with this issue and make an informed opinion based on integrity and facts.

—Jennifer Sullivan, CMCC

Letter from the President

Dear TCCA Members,

Where does the time go? 2008 has gone by so quickly. If you were unable to attend the Annual Conference in Corpus Christi, you truly missed out. Rene Mendiola and Nora Rodriguez did an outstanding job hosting the conference. The weather was absolutely gorgeous compared to just a few short weeks prior to the conference. My thoughts and prayers still go out to those affected in any way by Hurricane Ike.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients this year. I hope each of you will make a mental note to nominate someone in your court or local chapter when they do something above and beyond the call of duty. It's so important that we recognize one of our own when they do something that benefits our Association and shines favorable light on our profession. Keep up the good work!

As a result of the elections held in October, some board members will be taking on new roles and responsibilities as they continue to serve the membership. Local chapters will also be electing Chapter Presidents so you will soon see some new faces on the board. To the 2008 -2009 board members, I look forward to working with each of you during the next year. Thank you for your willingness to serve and represent the membership.

Mark your calendars now to attend

the 2009 Annual Conference in Abilene, October 5th – 7th. Teresa Borcik is already hard at work to ensure that the conference is educational and enjoyable.

Congratulations to those of you who became certified at either Level I, Level II or Level III this year. I encourage those of you at Level I and Level II to set your sights on the next level. I know with a little hard work, lots of studying and determination that you will be successful in obtaining the next level of certification! For those of you who became Certified Municipal Court Clerks – congratulations on a job well done. You've worked so hard and should be so proud of your accomplishment.

At the close of the conference we had 945 members! Don't forget to renew your memberships for 2009. If you know of someone who is not a member, take the time to visit with them and let them know what a wonderful opportunity they have when they become part of such an amazing organization. We want to hit that 1000 mark in 2009!

The Board of Directors have their work cut out for them in 2009. We have two big items to tackle in the new year. One will be to continue to work on drafting proposed changes to the Bylaws to address concerns regarding members whose relationship



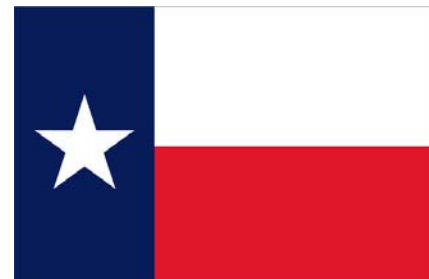
with TCCA changes once they become an owner in or an employee of a vendor. The Bylaws Committee will bring on additional members this year in an effort to solicit input from all across our membership when proposing changes. Please feel free to contact the Bylaws Committee Chair or myself if you have any questions about this issue. Secondly, the Board will be looking at a variety of ways to control the costs associated with hosting a conference. This will be challenging as hotel, travel and meal expenses continue to increase. The Board will do everything we can to make conference attendance affordable for cities while maintaining the same level of excellence in which you are accustomed.

Congratulations on another successful year. I look forward to seeing you in the year ahead. Best wishes to you and yours for a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

—Shona Bohon, TCCA President

Elizabeth Labori with the Town of Sachse has recently achieved her Bachelor's in Applied Arts and Science! She is the first in her family to receive a degree. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

Board Members/Committee Chairpersons



President Shona Bohon, Midland—sbohon@midlandtexas.gov TML Representative

Vice President Tracie Glaeser, Lewisville—tglaeser@cityoflewisville.com Education Committee

Treasurer David Preciado, Arlington—david.preciado@arlingtontx.gov

Secretary Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham—rkuehn@ci.brenham.tx.us

Directors At Large:

Julie Kubeczka, Alvin—jukubeczka@cityhall.cityofalvin.com Scholarship/Website Committee Chair

Elaine Brown, Katy—ebrown@cityofkaty.com Certification Financial Officer/Nominations/Vendor Committee Chair

Susan Delephimne, Italy—italy-sly@sbcglobal.net Public Relations/Merchandise Committee Chair

Jennifer Sullivan, Sealy—jsullivan@ci.sealy.tx.us Bylaws/Publications/Salary Survey Committee Chair

Pat Riffel, Pearland—priffel@ci.pearland.tx.us Chapter Steering Committee Chair

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Kathy Collie, Gonzales—municipalcourt@cityofgonzales.org Freedom Trail Chapter President

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Edna Boykins, Center—eboykins@ci.center.tx.us Northeast Texas Chapter President

Crystal Black, Fritch—cdblack@amaonline.com Panhandle Chapter President

Rene Mendiola, Corpus Christi—renem@cctexas.com South Texas Chapter President

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Historian

David Galvan, Irving—dgalvan@ci.irving.tx.us

Internal Audit Committee Chair

Teresa Borcik, Abilene—teresa.borcik@abilenetx.com

2009 Annual Committee Chair

Leah Huff, Southlake—lhuff@ci.southlake.tx.us

2010 Annual Committee Chair

Rebecca Stark, Austin—rebecca.stark@ci.austin.tx.us

Legislative Committee Chair

Please welcome Carol Talley of Springtown to the TCCA Publications Committee. She assisted in the writing and editing of this edition of The Scribe. We look forward to more wonderful articles from Carol.

Corpus Christi Hosts Informative Conference

The Corpus Christi Municipal Court hosted a well-attended informative conference in October 2008. Speakers spoke to members on topics such as "It's All in Your Head; Court Clerks and Thinking Preferences", "Further Down the Road Towards Optimism" and "Demographic & Cultural Transition and Their Impact on the Workplace in Texas".

Members also enjoyed an outing to Brewster Street Ice House where music and dinner was provided Monday evening. The Annual Banquet held Tuesday night

recognized members who have gone above and beyond in TCCA and in their individual courts. See page 4 of this edition of *The Scribe* for a list of award recipients. The entertainment that evening was both hilarious and inspirational provided by "The Happy Show".

The Texas Court Clerks Association would like to welcome everyone back in October 2009 to Abilene, Texas for the next Annual Conference. Registration forms will be available online next Spring at www.texasclerkclerks.org.



Corpus Christi Municipal Court staff welcome TCCA members at the registration booth



TCCA Members, pictured above, attended the TCCA Annual Conference for the first time. TCCA Board Members welcomed the new attendees at the *First Timer's Orientation* on Sunday.

Are you a member of TCCA?

Now is the time to renew your TCCA membership! The membership year runs January through December. You can access the membership application online at www.texasclerkclerks.org. Regular membership is \$40, which includes membership into a chapter in your

area. Chapter affiliation information and chapter maps are also available online.

In order to save cost, TCCA will no longer mail membership certificates, unless directly requested by the member. TCCA will continue to mail membership cards as proof of mem-

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