

The Scribe

2016 TCCA Annual Conference: Discovering Natural Treasures



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Conference delegates gathered in the hotel lobby for a group photo in their conference t-shirts.



TCCA Election Results

December 2016 completes the terms of office for the positions of President, Secretary, and 3 Director's at Large. Earlier this year TCCA members had an opportunity to nominate candidates and vote for their choice. The results of the election were announced at the Annual Business Meeting during conference and are as follows:

President:

Lisa Howard, Hurst



Secretary

Paul Rex, Jersey Village



Directors at Large:

Gloria Carter, Dallas



Jennifer Billings, Dayton



Robert Martinez, Westlake Hills



Congratulations!

A Message from Your 2016 Annual Conference **Titanium** Sponsor

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"The Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson law firm has not only been attending but has also been a top sponsor for the TCCA conference for many years. We feel it is important to give back to organizations that take pride in their members and who work diligently each and every year to educate and perfect its profession. This is very evident of your organization because we work hand in hand with many of these dedicated court administrators and clerks across the state who are members of TCCA and attend this conference each and every year. TCCA is not only a great organization but also a family and we consider it an honor to be a part of it."

Bryan Groce, Director of Operations, TX Fees and Fines

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Houston, TX 77081

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Bryan Groce, speaking to a captive TCCA audience at the Sunday evening Conference Orientation.

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

Certified Court Managers

Municipal Court Employees Achieve Certification from the Institute for Court Management

On August 10th, 2016, forty-five municipal court administrators, clerks, managers and supervisors from municipal courts across Texas graduated from the Court Management Program (CMP) of the Institute for Court Management (ICM). ICM is the educational arm of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in Williamsburg, Virginia. NCSC, founded in 1971, is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership, research, technology, and education services to the state courts. The program was co-sponsored by the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center in Austin (www.tmcec.com). Since 2000, over 500 court professionals from across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have achieved certification.

Prior to participation in the CMP final seminar on Purposes and Responsibilities of the court, attendees in the program completed five core courses in court administration: *Court Performance Standards*, *Fundamental Issues of Caseflow Management*, *Managing Court Financial Resources*, *Managing Human Resources*, and *Managing Technology*.

The court administrators, clerks, managers, and supervisors completing the course of study were recognized in a ceremony held at the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin, Texas. The certificates were presented in a ceremony by Presiding Judge Barbara Hervey of the Court of Criminal Appeals and Presiding Judge Ed Spillane of the College Station Municipal Court. Each graduate is recognized by ICM as a Certified Court Manager (CCM).

Contact: Hope Lochridge, Executive Director, TMCEC 512.320.8274

(see pg. 7 for list of 2016 Graduates)



In Remembrance; Iola Pickul

The Texas Court Clerks Association becomes like a family when you become involved. We lost another family member in September. Iola Nelson Pickul, who served as the Court Clerk for the City of West University for 34 years, was my mentor. A lady who knew municipal courts and who was always there to lend an ear, a helping hand and guidance wherever needed. Being placed as the Court Clerk in the City of Katy, I had little knowledge of the law and even less in court procedures. Iola took me under her wings, taught me, gave me advice and basically, told me what to do to keep my head above water when I thought I might drown. She also told me what not to do and sometimes that is just as important!

Iola was President of the Gulf Coast Chapter of TCCA in 1986-87. In 1991, was awarded the Outstanding Service Award to Municipal Courts of Texas from the Texas Supreme Court. When the Gulf Coast Chapter decided to have the award for Clerk of the Year in 2000 for our Chapter, Iola received the honor of being the First Gulf Coast Chapter Clerk of the Year.



After suffering a heart attack while working, Iola decided to retire. She felt after 34 years, it was time to turn the reins over. I often thought of her through the years and always wanted to let her know how important she had been to me and many others but never had the opportunity. Then, after my retirement, my husband and I took a 14 day cruise to Alaska. And, sitting at a table in the dining room was Iola and her husband John. She was so happy being on that cruise celebrating their 60th anniversary and John's 80th birthday. We visited on several occasions and she was full of questions about the clerks she knew, what changes had been made and what was happening with court procedures and technology. Needless to say, that was my opportunity to visit and tell her how much she meant to me and others. I told her that I wanted to give to young clerks the inspiration and excitement in our profession as she had given me. That spark appeared in her eyes and her enthusiasm was evident just discussing and remembering her profession. It's in the blood and is always there. We planned on reuniting when we returned to Texas but two weeks later she was called home. RIP, Iola Pickul, the Texas Court Clerks Association thanks you for all you've given to our profession and the organization.

Institute for Court Management 2016 Texas Graduates: *(Continued from pg. 6)*

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Courtney Acklin, Palestine | Karen Armstong, Greenville | Marie Barringer, College Station |
| Rosena J. Becker-Ross, Mt. Enterprise | Cynthia Beraza, McAllen | Jennifer Billings, Dayton |
| Jennifer Bozorgnia, Irving | Lisa Brady-Howard, Hurst | Sherri Brandt, Katy |
| Jaime Brew, Sugar Land | Robby Chapman, TMCEC | April Christiansen, Cedar Park |
| Connie L Crenshaw, Luling | Christina S. Dahse, Willis | Donna Dugger, Center |
| Chad Eixmann, Bryan | Dianna L. Faulkenberry, Decatur | Karen Fetchko, Plano |
| Mark Goodner, Woodcreek | Cecilia C. Harris, Austin | Juliette Helsham, Harker Heights |
| LaTrice Johnson, Coppell | Kimberly D. Kierce, Richardson | Rhonada Kuehn, Brenham |
| Elizabeth Labori, Lewisville | Catherine Leloux, Georgetown | Claudia Lemon, Boerne |
| Fawn Anderson Mackey, Sealy | Holly Mangold, Arlington | Joni R. May, Hudson Oaks |
| Yolanda McKnight, Austin | Sherrie Norred, Victoria | Tammy Odom, Texas City |
| Luevada Posey, Killeen | Connie Rodriguez, McAllen | Brittany Rychlik, Sugar Lane |
| Suzu Seitzler, Waco | Barbara Shannon, Leander | Landra Solansky, Seguin |
| Alicia St. Cyr, Richland Hills | Christine Valdovino, Round Rock | Patricia Veliz, Schertz |
| Deborah Waters, Rockwall | Constance R. White, Burleson | Janelle Williams, Galveston |
| | Jeanne Wilson, Big Spring | |

Body Language “Don’ts”

1. Slouching
2. Exaggerated gestures
3. Watching the clock
4. Turning yourself away from others
5. Crossed arms
6. Inconsistency
7. Exaggerated nodding
8. Fidgeting with or fixing your hair
9. Avoiding eye contact Eye contact that's too intense
10. Rolling your eyes
11. Scowling
12. Weak handshakes
13. Clenched fists
14. Getting too close



Read the full article from Forbes.com [here.](#)

2017 TCCA Conference Info



- **October 8 – 11, 2017**
- **Corpus Christi Omni Hotel & Spa**
- **Tentative Deadlines:**
 - **March 15, 2017 – Scholarship Applications Due**
 - **April 15, 2017 – Chapter Scholarship Applications Due**
 - **August 15, 2017 – Deadline to Register & Book Hotel Room**
 - **August 31, 2017 – Deadline to Register for Exam**

EMAIL ALERT!

TCCA uses CVENT for conference registration and for other email updates and notifications. You may receive TCCA news and updates from TCCA email accounts OR from CVENT for various email alerts!

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Congratulations Connie Crenshaw!

As the Freedom Trail Chapter President, it is with mixed emotions that I share with you the news of Connie Crenshaw's retirement in January 2017. Connie was sworn in as the Municipal Court Clerk for the City of Luling November 6, 1996. She realized the importance of education early in her career and started her journey to become a Certified Municipal Court Clerk in June of 1999 when she passed her Level I Certification. She passed her Level II Certification just a month later and began working on her Level III soon after.

Some of you may know that Connie is a very determined lady, what you may not know is the fact that she was on her way to

becoming the first Certified Municipal Court Clerk in the State of Texas when local flooding destroyed her computer and with it, the journal that she had worked so hard to perfect. Connie did not let that set her back, she started the tedious process of recreating her work and completed her Level III on November 27, 2001, she was the second CMCC in the State. I always enjoy sharing her story with other Clerks when they are struggling with a test or doubting their ability to move to the next level.



I recently had the opportunity to ask Connie to summarize her experiences over the last 20 years, she

replied, "It has been a most interesting 20 years going from sharing a very small office with the Assistant Chief of Police with manual record keeping of docket books to a real, proficient Court with advanced technology and room for 3 Clerks and a Judge with a REAL court room." When I asked her what she would miss the most, Connie simply said, "Along the way, I have made many special friends and associates with a very extensive network. What I think I will miss the most when I retire is the close friends that I have had the privilege of knowing and working with. I hope that we will still keep in touch."

Connie has been very active in the Freedom Trail Chapter for many years and she will be greatly missed. Please join me in congratulating our friend and colleague on her new journey. Best wishes to Connie and her Husband John, safe travels to you and enjoy life's blessings.



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2016 Award Recipients

Distinguished Service

- Karen Armstrong
- Luevada Posey
- Geri Alfarro
- Brittany Wright
- Robert Martinez
- Gaylan Hearn
- Cecilia Servin
- Tiwana Brown
- Viveanne Lucas
- Otilia Velasquez
- Maria Cristina Duran
- Karen Lemay
- Donna Dugger
- Catherine Long
- Claudia Lemon
- Joni May
- Laura Garza

Extraordinary Achievement

- Landra Solansky
- Brittany Rychlik
- Matthew Freeman
- Lona Maxted

Excellence Award

- Jaime Brew



Lorna Nelson Award

Tammy Odom

Board of Director's Award:

TMCEC Staff: Hope Lochridge, Crystal Ferguson, Ryan Kellus Turner, Regan Metteauer, Deadra Stark, Pat Ek, Patty Thamez, Robby Chapman, Molly Knowles, Demoine "DJ" Jones, Mark Goodner, Avani Bhansali



Representing at TML Annual Conference

One of my duties as Vice President of TCCA is to serve as the Association's representative on the Board of Directors of the Texas Municipal League. I have had the pleasure of attending three Board Meetings this year. The final meeting of the year was held October 4th in conjunction with TML's Annual Conference in Austin. (Yes, that was the week before our TCCA Conference!)

On even-numbered years, TCCA reserves a booth in the exhibit hall at the TML Conference. Not only was this my first time to work this booth, it was also my first time to attend the TML Conference. The vendor exhibit is amazing and includes a huge variety of exhibits. I was down the aisle from the Texas Municipal Clerks Association (City Secretary's Organization) and across the aisle from a company that sold heavy equipment to grind tree stumps.

We displayed a map of Texas with every TCCA Member City marked with a pin. Delegates were looking to see if their City was "on the map", checking our membership list to see if their Court Clerk was a member of TCCA and of course entering the drawing for our door prizes! We handed out brochures that included information about our organization and everyone seemed to enjoy picking out their "fun ribbons". It was an incredible experience and I enjoyed meeting people from all over the State. I was most impressed that City Managers, Mayors and City Council Members were taking the time to talk to us about the Certification Program and educational opportunities we offer TCCA Members.

A BIG special "thank you" to Bonnie Townsend, Court Administrator for the City of Lockhart and Rhonda Kuehn, Court Administrator for the City of Brenham. Bonnie and Rhonda took time out of their busy schedules to work our booth. Bonnie and I were so busy on the first day, we forgot to take a picture. I would also like to mention Suzanne Hochstein with Suzanne's Designs in Luling, Texas. Suzanne put together the gift baskets for our door prizes and donated her time and materials to us at no cost. Honorable mention goes to my very own "Conference Husband" for packing, unloading, hauling and assisting with the set up all of our equipment.



Conference Fun



Training & Testing

| Date: | City: | Chapter: | *Topic: |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 13, 2017 | Cedar Park | Central | Bond Forfeitures |
| January 30, 2017 | Fort Worth | North | TBD |
| February 10, 2017 | Texas City | Gulf Coast | Bond Forfeitures & Personal Safety |
| February 24, 2017 | McKinney | North | TBD |
| March 10, 2017 | Round Rock | Central | Service Animals |
| March 10, 2017 | Sugar Land | Gulf Coast | Admonishments & Signs of Child Abuse |
| April 5, 2017 | Denton | North | TBD |
| April 28, 2017 | Wylie | North | TBD |
| May 10, 2017 | Irving | North | TBD |
| May 12, 2017 | Temple | Central | Leadership |
| June 1, 2017 | Arlington | North | TBD |
| June 23, 2017 | Hurst | North | Certification Testing |
| July 14, 2017 | Cameron | Central | TBD |
| July 31, 2017 | Fort Worth | North | TBD |
| August, 9, 2017 | Irving | North | TBD |
| September 8, 2017 | Llano | Central | TBD |
| September 27, 2017 | Denton | North | TBD |
| October 8-11, 2017 | Corpus Christi | TCCA Annual Conference | |
| October 30, 2017 | Fort Worth | North | TBD |
| November 3, 2017 | West Lake Hills | Central | Court Costs/Fees |

** Education topics may not yet be approved.*

****See [Chapter websites](#) for more info on training****

Free One Day Clinics and Additional Testing Opportunities!

The TCCA Education Committee in partnership with TMCEC will be offering the following One Day Clinics in 2017:

February 2, 2017 – McAllen – Doubletree Suites
 April 20, 2017 – Beaumont – Holiday Inn & Suites

Testing:

February 3, 2017 – McAllen Public Library – 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
 April 21, 2017 – Beaumont Municipal Court – 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

* Register early as space is limited. Please see TMCEC's Academic Schedule for registration info.

2015-2016 Certification Fun Facts

- ◆ As of August 31st, there were 607 clerks certified at Level I; 492 at Level II; and 68 at Level III.
- ◆ There are 379 Texas cities participating in the Certification Program.
- ◆ The City of San Antonio had the highest number of Level I Certified Clerks with 53.
- ◆ The City of Houston had the highest number of Level II Certified Clerks with 22.
- ◆ The City of Webster was the only city with two Level III Certified Municipal Court Clerks.
- ◆ The City of San Antonio had the highest number of employees participating in the Certification Program with 58.
- ◆ The City of Houston had the second highest number of employees participating with 52.

**~ Rhonda Kuehn,
 Education & Certification Chair**

Future TCCA Conference Dates & Locations

October 8—11, 2017:
 Corpus Christi—"Oceans of Change"

October 7—10, 2018:
 Location TBD

TCCA Certification Program—What You Need to Know

The Texas Court Clerks Association's Certification Program just celebrated its 20th anniversary. This program has helped provide professional development and educational growth to court clerks. The certification program continues to grow and thrive; and there are many, many people behind the scenes that work diligently to keep this program successful.

Over time, the certification program has made some minor updates to the program. Here are some updates that you should be aware of:

Registration Cost for Testing

The test registration fees for Level I, II and III is \$75 for TCCA and TMCA members. Test registration for non-members is \$150. If taking Level II and Level III in parts, the cost for TCCA and TMCA members is \$25 per part and for non-members \$50 per part.

Please be aware that if a clerk indicates on their test registration that they are a TCCA or TMCA member, then their membership will be verified to ensure that the correct registration fee has been paid.

Also, some clarification must be made regarding which organization should receive test registration and fees. If a clerk wants to test at a TMCEC hosted site, then the clerk must complete the TMCEC test registration form and send payment to TMCEC. If a clerk wants to test at a TCCA hosted site (TCCA Annual Conference or Chapter sponsored test site), then the clerk must complete the TCCA test registration form located on the TCCA website and either pay online through PayPal or mail a check or money order to the Certification Program Financial Manager. TCCA does not allow transfers or refunds of testing fees.

Level II Exam

The Texas Court Clerks Association's Education Committee voted to allow clerks to take the Level II exam in parts. This change went into effective October 1, 2016. If a clerk still desires to take all three parts of the Level II exam at one time, they still have the opportunity to do so.

(Cont. pg. 19)



TMCEC'S NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

TRACIE GLAESER

Ms. Glaeser began her career in municipal court at the City of Round Rock and remained there as Court Administrator for 21 years. In 2007, she moved to the Dallas area and joined the Municipal Court team at the City of Lewisville as the Court Manager. Tracie retired from Lewisville in March 2012 to move back to the Austin area to be closer to her family.

Ms. Glaeser completed her Certified Court Manager's certificate with the National Center for State Courts, Institute for Court Management in February 2010 and was the 11th clerk in the state of Texas to become a Certified Municipal Court Clerk. Ms. Glaeser achieved her Level I certification in 1998, Level II certification in 2002 and achieved Level III certification (CMCC) in 2003. Additionally, she completed Leading, Educating and Developing (LEAD), a 40 hour program sponsored by Weldon Cooper and held at the University of Virginia Leadership Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia.

During her career, Ms. Glaeser has been active in the Texas Court Clerk's Association and the Texas Municipal Courts Association serving in a variety of positions ranging from Chapter President to serving the membership on the Board of Directors as Vice President. She has served the Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) as a member of the TMCEC Education Committee and Texas Court Clerks Association (TCCA) as the Chair of the Certification Program Education Committee from 2006 to 2011.

Ms. Glaeser is a certified instructor for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center for more than 15 years and has continued to serve as faculty for the "New Judges and Clerks", Court Administrators, Level III Assessment Clinic and the ICM program. Additionally, she has been active as an instructor for Citizens Police Academy, a variety of leadership and management classes and has been a regular panel member for software and imaging instruction with MCCI-Laserfiche. Ms. Glaeser is an approved instructor for the Clerk Certification Program for continuing education hours provided by the TCCA chapters.

Ms. Glaeser joined the TMCEC team in September of 2016 as Program Coordinator.

See Page 16 to learn more about Tracie!



Welcome

Q & A With Tracie

(continued from pg. 15)

What interested you most about the idea of working for TMCEC?

I dedicated many hours of my career in Municipal Court Administration working with other courts, mentoring and sharing ideas while teaching for TMCEC, Facilitating Prep Sessions for Level I & Level II, and chairing the TCCA Education Committee. I remember when I was initially asked to teach for TMCEC some 20 years ago, I was terrified. Margaret Robbins finally convinced me that teaching others was one of the best ways to learn. She was completely right about that. I was fortunate to work with very knowledgeable judges and prosecutors in the courts I retired from. I learned so much from each of them. I won't fail to mention that I learned equally as much from my coworkers and city administrative staff. So my answer is really that I am participating in the "Learning Process". I think it is my life-long passion.

I always envisioned myself ending my career as an employee of TMCEC and a servant to courts across the State of Texas. There is so much to learn about Municipal Court and it is such an honorable profession. In my early learning process I needed resources and TMCEC was always there for me. I just want to give back to the Municipal Court Community in the same way I was given to.

What are you enjoying most about your work so far w/ TMCEC?

The team at TMCEC is completely amazing and I mean all of them! It is such a pleasure being a part of a team that works so strongly together and shares the passion for educating court staff at all levels.

Additionally, I am so glad that my employment with TMCEC began first of the academic year and in a legislative year. I really feel this will give me a full picture of the busiest time for TMCEC and Texas Municipal Courts.

I am very excited to be involved in the Certification Program again. I dedicated a great deal of my personal time over a period of 20 years to serve the TCCA membership and clerks across the state in the area of education. I can't tell you how important that was to me. I learned so much from so many clerks and judges along the way. I remember when I began my Deputy Court Clerk position in Round Rock in 1985 and my access to training and education was very limited. The resources Texas Municipal courts have available to them now is outstanding and I believe TMCEC provides some of the best education for courts in the country.

Having been the Education Chair for so many years, the most exciting thing to date is becoming involved in serving the Certification program again. I worked directly with Hope Lochridge, Margaret Robbins, Jo Dale Bearden and Tessa Madison. Each of these ladies were a part of building my passion for working in the Municipal Court profession.

One of my roles as Program Coordinator is to organize meetings and hotel accommodations for the programs throughout the year. This is a new and exciting responsibility.

Can we expect to see any changes to the program now that you are on board?

I think the most significant change we will see is an increased use of technology and automation in the administration of the certification program. I also hope to see the volume of certified clerks continue to increase. Robby Chapman has done an excellent job in promoting the program with clerks across the state. Most importantly, Robby and I will continue to work together to find ways to improve the program and encourage learning.

What else should we know about you?

I have been married to Jerry Glaeser, Sr. for 36 years who has always supported me in my career. We have 4 fabulous children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. I love to grow things! Mostly things to eat, but digging in the dirt is my go to stress relief. I love wildlife and the outdoors.

2017 Warrant Round Up

As many are aware, the City of Austin organizes and coordinates Texas’s annual warrant round up (WRU) event. Following the national attention focused on courts as a result of the Ferguson, Missouri investigation, Mary Jane Grubb, Clerk of the Austin Municipal Court, was contacted by several large stakeholder groups, asking that a name change be considered. As a result, Mary Jane reached out to past warrant round up participants in a series of emails and surveys, seeking input on the subject. In her emails, Mary Jane noted that compliance is ultimately the goal of the warrant round up, not arrests, and that a name change, while not changing the actual efforts of courts and law enforcement, could help to improve the public’s perception and understanding of the purpose of the event.

The results of the first survey indicated that 85% of the respondents were open to changing the name of the WRU, and 93% would still participate in the event if the name was changed. The 2nd survey sought suggestions for potential new names for the WRU. The 3rd survey then asked respondents to vote between keeping the name “The Great Texas Warrant Round Up,” or changing it to the most popular alternate name from Survey #2, which was “Statewide Warrant Resolution Campaign”. 61% of the respondents voted to retain the event’s existing name. Accordingly, the 2017 event will again be called the “Great Texas Warrant Round Up”.

Municipal Court Week November 7th-11th



TMCA/TMCEC PRESIDENT, OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR FY 16-17

Honorable Michael Acuña, was elected to the position of President Elect. Judge Acuña received his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center in 1993. In 1999, he was hired by the City of Dallas as the Assistant Chief Prosecutor. He has been a full-time municipal judge there since 2004. Judge Acuña was the Region III Director on the board from 2013–2016 and was the co-chair for the board’s Education and Budget and Finance Committees. He also served as a member of the Bylaws Committee.

Honorable Robin A. Ramsay filled the position of 2nd Vice President. Currently, Judge Ramsay serves as the Presiding Municipal Judge for the City of Denton and as an alternate Mental Health Magistrate for Denton County. Judge Ramsay received his Juris Doctorate from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Judge Ramsay most recently served as the chair for the board’s Personnel, Policy and Compensation and Website Committees. He has served as a member of the Annual Meeting and Legislative Committees.

Honorable Robert C. Richter, Jr. continues in his duties as Treasurer. He received his law degree from Baylor University in 1971. Judge Richter is the Associate Judge in Missouri City, Stafford and Simonton. He has served as a municipal prosecutor for various local courts in the Houston area. Judge Richter has also served as a member of the board’s Budget and Finance, Website and Personnel, Policy and Compensation Committees.

Honorable Danny Rodgers was elected as the Region II Director. Judge Rodgers received his law degree from the Baylor School of Law in 1981. He began his service as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Fort Worth in 1996 and was promoted to Deputy Chief Judge in 2012. Judge Rodgers has served on the board’s Education, Legislative and Membership Committees.

Janie Krakowski, newly elected Region IV Director, currently serves as the Municipal Court Clerk and City Secretary for the City of Coffee City. She is also a member of the Texas Municipal League Small Cities Council.

Honorable Kathleen Person was elected to the position of Region VI Director. Judge Person currently serves as the Municipal Judge for the City of Temple and has held that position since 2003. Judge Person served as the board’s Past President in 2015 - 2016. She has also chaired the Bylaws Committee and co-chaired the Annual Meeting Committee. Judge Person has also served on the Legislative and Personnel, Policy and Compensation Committees for TMCA.

Honorable Michael L. Davis, newly elected Region VIII Director, was elected to the position of Municipal Judge for the City of Conroe in 2010. Prior to that, he spent forty years as a Doctor of Chiropractic in Conroe.

Honorable Horacio Pena, Jr. was elected to the position of Region X Director as a new board member. He received his Juris Doctorate from St. Mary’s University in 1983. Judge Pena currently serves as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mission and City of Palhurst. He was appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to serve as State District Judge for the 92nd Judicial District Court from 2005 – 2006.

TMCEC is a project of the Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) and is funded by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. TMCEC provides judicial and legal education for municipal judges, clerks prosecutors and other court support personnel through its monthly regional seminars and its 800-telephone line. TMCA is an association which monitors legislation, attorney general opinions and changes in case law to ensure that municipal courts in Texas remain up-to-date on the law.

For further information, please contact:

Honorable Stewart Milner, Presiding Judge
City of Arlington
P.O. Box 90403, Mail Stop 63-0200
Arlington, Texas 76004
817.459.6980
stewart.milner@arlingtontx.gov

Certification Program (cont. from pg. 14)

Receiving Test Results

In the past after a clerk took the certification exam, the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center mailed the results to the clerk. As of October, TMCEC is now posting test results online. When a clerk goes to the TMCEC website (<https://register.tmcec.com/web/online>) he or she will log into their profile account and click on the "Clerk Certification" tab. Towards the bottom of the "Clerk Certification" page there is a section called "Test Results" which is where the test results will be posted. Please note that actual grades will not be posted.

Please remember that it may take at least 45 days for test results to be posted.

Certification Program Financial Manager

The Certification Program Financial Manager is a huge undertaking. There are hundreds of transactions that are processed throughout the year. In addition to keeping track of the expenses that must be paid to keep the certification program in operation; there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to make the certification program operate successfully. This work is performed solely on a volunteer basis by court administrators/court clerks. These individuals sacrifice countless hours keeping the certification program operational in addition to performing their duties as court administrators/court clerks.

Effective January 1, 2017 Jaime Brew, the current Certification Program Financial Manager, will be stepping down from this position after serving for 3 years. The TCCA Education Committee has appointed a new Certification Program Financial Manager to start on January 1, 2017. The new certification treasurer will be Wende White from the Cameron Municipal Court. All test registration fees being paid by check or money order will no longer be sent to Sugar Land. Instead, a post office box will be set up for the TCCA Certification Program and payments for test registration fees for TCCA sponsored testing will need to be sent to the new address. Once the new post office box is set up, the TCCA Education/Certification Committee will make sure the information is sent to the membership; however, the information will also be printed on test registration invoices.

The TCCA Education Committee has assigned a permanent assistant for the certification treasurer; the assistant will be Dianna Faulkenberry from the Decatur Municipal Court. Kimberly Kierce will continue to maintain the TCCA online test registration sites. Rhonda Kuehn, TCCA Education Chair and Pat Riffel TCCA Education Co-Chair will continue to oversee all aspects of the certification program and provide assistance where needed.

The TCCA Education Committee will continue to work with our partners (TMCEC, TMCA and Texas State University) to take the Municipal Court Clerk Certification Program to the next level and become one of the premier certification programs in the nation.

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OVER
50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

MVBA

**MCCREARY VESELKA
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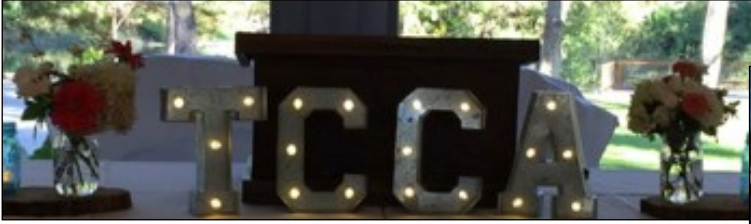
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2016 Awards Banquet



2016 Awards Banquet




A Message from the TCCA Conference Planning Chair

Hello Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to send a special thank you to everyone who worked to make the 2016 Texas Court Clerk Conference a great success!

- *Rhonda Kuehn* and the rest of the *Education Committee* for bringing us such an amazing group of educational topics and speakers!
- Luevada Posey for working tirelessly to give us an awesome vendor show, this is a tremendous responsibility and you handled it like a PRO!
- Lesa Keith and Jennifer Dorsett for working the Merchandise Table!
- Brittany Rychlik and Kimberly Kierce for your work on C'vent registration!
- David Preciado for keeping us on track with our budget!
- Lisa Howard and Jeanne Wilson for the coolest door prizes ever!
- Paul Rex, Rhonda Kuehn, Jaime Brew, Brittany Rychlik, Dana Karl, Christine McMains and Veronica Brockington for the beautiful job on the awards banquet!
- The Conference Hubbies for being so awesome and going the extra mile: Ray Mickell, Greg Eakens, Arthur Alfaro, Joe Solansky and Larry Odom!!!
- Sheli Masterson and Gerri Alfaro for being the most awesome "bus babes" ever!
- Wende White for jumping in and doing anything she was asked to do!
- Delena Franklin for your insight and encouragement!
- Pat Riffel, Dianna Faulkenberry, Matthew Freeman and Lesa Keith for helping with Certification Testing, Facilitator Training and Prep Sessions!
- The Freedom Trail Chapter and Bonnie Townsend for jumping in and totally taking care of registration!
- Luevada Posey and Veronica Brockington for hauling, toting, stuffing and organizing 150+ conference bags and conference t-shirts!
- Gerri Alfaro because without her there would be no t-shirts!
- Veronica Brockington for a great conference orientation!
- The San Marcos Fire Department for the Color Guard and Bagpipers!
- San Marcos VFW Chaplain Tom Tvrdik for the invocation!

(Continued on pg. 23)



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The Scribe—New Committee Chair

Hey guys! For those of you who I have not met or do not know me, I'm Robert Martinez Jr. and am the Court Clerk for the City of West Lake Hills. I started my career in 2005 with the City of Round Rock and have worked in small to large courts throughout the State. I'm Level II certified and excited to say that I'm a new Facilitator for TMCEC with their new Ready, Set Go! study sessions, formerly known as Prep Sessions. I am a member of the Texas Court Clerks Association and currently serve as your new Director at Large, and will be the new Chair of the Publications Committee (The Scribe). I look forward to sharing stories and articles submitted, sharing your ideas and achievements with our fellow members and keeping you current on TCCA news. If you'd like to either continue to be a part of the Publication committee or become a new committee member I welcome you to our group. Without the help from so many people The Scribe would not exist. Contact me at rmartinez@westlakehills.org for more information.



Merry Christmas!

Conference Planning "Thanks" (Continued from pg. 22)

~Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Prewitt for fitting us into her very busy schedule!

~Our awesome speakers: Leah Huff, Detective John Schiller, Detective Scott Jackson, Chief Albert Martinez, Robby Chapman, Mark Goodner, Kimberly Kierce, Chad Eixmann, Chris Giordano, Lt. Gary Connella, Brettany Boozer, Soila Villarreal, Dr Erin Foley, and Marilyn Sherman.

~Annual Business Meeting Attendees for asking great questions and getting involved in YOUR organization!

~Mary Jane Grubb for making the trip from Austin to talk to us about the Warrant Round Up!

~All of those who sought a position on the Board of Directors for your willingness to serve!

~The staff of the San Marcos Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center!

And last but certainly not least, ALL of the other amazing folks who ran, totes, hauled, fetched, set up, took down, organized and just did what needed to be done! YOU GUYS ROCK!

Smiles,
Tammy Odom
Conference Planning Chair



We Want to Know What YOU Want to KNOW!

Please tell us if you have a suggestion, topics or issues that you would like to see covered in a future edition!

The next edition of TCCA's newsletter **The Scribe** will be published in June 2017. **The Scribe** will be published on the TCCA's website. The deadline to submit an article for this edition is May 15, 2017.

For questions, or to submit an article, please contact the **TCCA Publications Committee Chair**

TCCA Board of Directors

(effective Jan. 1, 2017)

Executive Board:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| President | Lisa Howard, Hurst | lhoward@hursttx.gov |
| Vice President | Landra Solansky | Isolansky@seguintexas.gov / TML Rep., Membership |
| Immediate Past President | Tammy Odom, Texas City | todom@texas-city-tx.org / Conference Planning, Advisory |
| Secretary | Paul Rex, Jersey Village | prex@ci.jersey-village.tx.us / Bylaws, Public Relations |
| Treasurer | David Preciado, Arlington | david.preciado@arlingtontx.gov |

Directors At Large:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Robert Martinez, West Lake Hills | rmartinez@westlakehills.org |
| Brittany Rychlik, Sugar Land | brychlik@sugarlandtx.gov |
| Jennifer Billings, Dayton | jbillings@dayontx.org |
| Gloria Carter, Dallas | g.carter@dallascityhall.com |
| Wende White, Cameron | wwhite@camerontexas.net |
| Jaime Brew, Sugar Land | jbrew@sugarlandtx.gov |

Committee Chair:

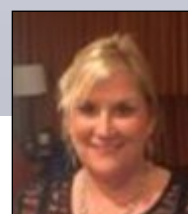
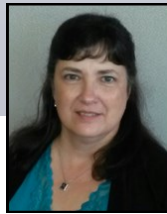
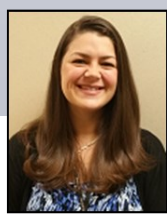
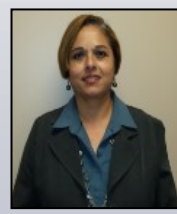
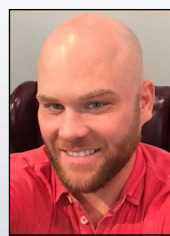
Publications, Chapter Steering, Historian
 Technology
 Merchandise
 Legislative
 Certification & Financial Program Mgr.
 Scholarships

Chapter Presidents:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Veronica Brockington, Round Rock | vbrockington@roundrocktexas.gov | Central Texas / Vendor |
| Landra Solansky, Seguin | Isolansky@seguintexas.gov | Freedom Trail / Membership |
| Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham | rkuehn@cityofbrenham.org | Gulf Coast / Certification and Education |
| Jennifer Bozorgnia, Irving | jbozorgnia@cityofirving.org | North Texas / Membership |
| Karen Armstrong, Greenville | karmstrong@ci.greenville.tx.us | Northeast Texas / Historian, Membership |
| Jeanne Wilson, Big Spring | jwilson@mybigspring.com | West Texas / Nominations |
| Laura Garza, Corpus Christi | lauragar@cctexas.com | South Texas / Public Relations, Bylaws |

Other Committee Chairs:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 |



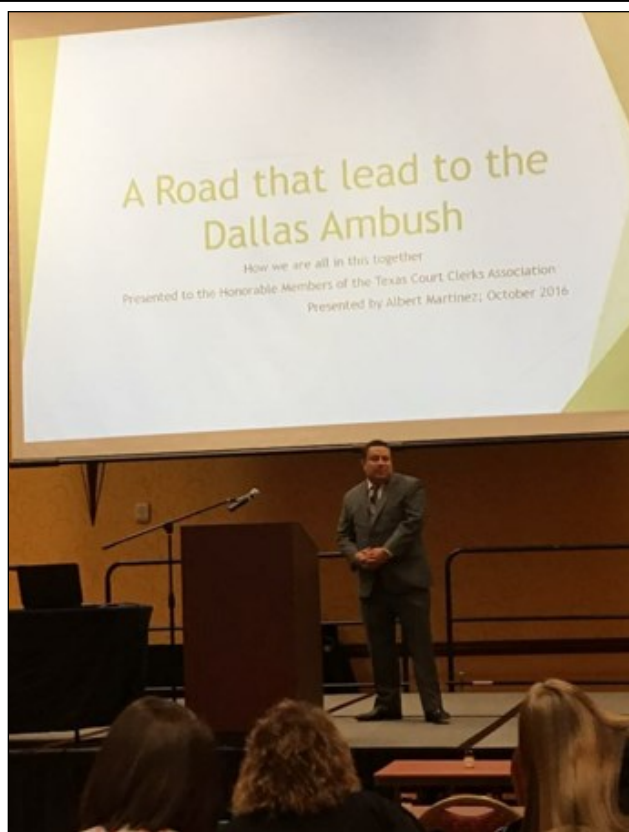
Amazing Education at Conference



Speaker Marilyn Sherman tells the delegates: "Why Settle For the Balcony? How to Get a Front Row Seat in Life!"



Amazing class on Drug Cartels and Gangs by Detectives Jackson and Schiller with the San Antonio Police Department.



Deputy Chief Albert Martinez, of the Dallas Police Department spoke to the delegates about the July 7, 2016 ambush of Dallas law enforcement officers.

On that day, all 7 DPD stations sent unit(s) to assist with the scheduled protest. The Southwest station that Deputy Chief Martinez oversees, lost 3 of their officers that night in what ultimately claimed a total of 4 DPD officers. So it was not only a tragic loss, but a huge loss to Southwest. The fifth officer lost was not DPD, but a transit DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) officer.

Deputy Chief Martinez's passionate presentation "A Road That Lead to the Dallas Ambush; How We Are All in This Together," was incredibly powerful, and earned a standing ovation from TCCA delegates.



Panel discussion with Tammy Odom, Chad Eixmann, Chris Giordano and John Morris—How to Establish a City Marshal's Office



Chapter's Corner

North Texas

A big Congratulations to **Lisa Davis** of Wylie for becoming our #68 **Certified Municipal Court Clerk!**

We are so proud of all of our members who take the time and initiative to become certified. You are all a great testimony to the dedication and professionalism of Texas Court Clerks! If you want to know more about becoming certified at any level, please reach out to any of our board members.

Membership:

As of December, the North Texas Chapter has 416 members. TCCA is now accepting applications for 2017 renewals. Remember current memberships expire December 31, 2016, so if you haven't already submitted your renewal... do it today! You should have received an email from TCCA guiding you through the new process to complete it online. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact any of the following:

Web and Technology Chair: Kimberly Kierce
(Kimberly.Kierce@cor.gov)
Membership Co-Chair: Jennifer Bozorgnia
(jbozorgnia@cityofirving.org)
Membership Co-Chair: Karen Armstrong
(karmstrong@ci.greenville.tx.us)



Congratulations to your newly elected 2017 Chapter Board of Directors:

| 2017 Board of Directors: | |
|--------------------------|--|
| President*: | Jennifer Bozorgnia (Irving) |
| Vice President: | Elaine Biles (Arlington) |
| Secretary*: | Melissa Rodriguez (Haltom City) |
| Treasurer: | Katy Tagg (Arlington) |
| Director-at-Large: | Sheli Masterson (Irving) |
| Director-at-Large*: | Matt Freeman (Frisco) |
| Director-at-Large: | Vacant |
| Director-at-Large*: | Yolanda Kvaal (Frisco) |

*Positions newly elected as of December 9th Business Meeting

Congratulations to those who achieved their certification at Level I or II since August of 2016!

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| April Culley , Van Alstyne | Level I |
| Rachel Castro , Irving | Level I |
| Kimberli Walker , DeSoto | Level I |
| Chelsea Hollis , Denton | Level II |
| Jason Biggs , Fort Worth | Level I |
| Ryan Rogers , Dallas | Level I |
| Norma Larios , Grapevine | Level I |
| Jessica Wells , Decatur | Level I |
| LaMysa Laney , Fort Worth | Level II |
| Tiffany Bagwell , Weatherford | Level I |
| Sherrie Dast , Boyd | Level I |
| Susan Morris , Sherman | Level II |

Visit the North Texas Chapter on our website at www.tccanorthtexas.com!

Northeast Texas

Chapter Election Results:

President: Karen Armstrong, Greenville
Secretary: Linda Faulkner, Mt. Enterprise

Chapter's Corner

Central Texas

2016 Election Results:

President: Veronica Brockington, Round Rock, Secretary: Chad Eixmann, Bryan

Congratulations to....

-Robert Martinez for being elected by our membership to serve in the role of TCCA Director at Large, and also for receiving a Distinguished Service Award! Robert will be serving as the new Publications Chair!

-Sarah Friberg of Manor Municipal Court for becoming the 66th Certified Municipal Court Clerk!



-Wende White of Cameron for being asked to fill the role of Certification Program Financial Manager.

-Cedar Park Municipal Court clerks hold up their Court Clerk Certifications. This is the first time that every clerk at the CPMC has been certified at some level!!

South Texas

2016 Election Results:

President: Laura Garza, Corpus Christi, Secretary: Gabriela Flores, Corpus Christi

The City of Corpus Christi has a new Municipal Court Director, Gilbert Hernandez, who was appointed in July 2016. Hernandez was most recently the Court Administrator in the City of McKinney, and he has over 17 years of municipal court experience. **Congratulations!**

South Texas Clerks learn about Legal Advice vs. Legal Information, and Indigence issues on November 3rd, at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.

Eager to learn 😊😊😊😊 South Texas Chapter



Chapter's Corner

Freedom Trail



Texas Court Clerks Association
Freedom Trail Chapter
Chapter's Corner

Greetings from the Freedom Trail Chapter:

We are busy working on our training topics for what looks to be a very productive 2017! San Antonio has been very active in offering educational opportunities this past year. The new training schedule will be posted on the website as soon as we confirm the dates.

The Membership voted to move our quarterly business meetings to Universal City in 2017. This location is centrally located and we are hoping we will be able to increase attendance at the meetings.

Officers of the Chapter are :

Landra Solansky, Seguin, Current President
Kristine Hayman, Lockhart, Vice-President
Diana Olack, San Antonio, Secretary
Linda Rose, Universal City, Treasurer

ELECTION RESULTS

Diana Olack, City of San Antonio, will be the new President of the Freedom Trail Chapter.

Congratulations to Paula Burgess, City of La Vernia, the recipient of the Chapter Scholarship for the 2016 Conference in San Marcos! We will end 2016 with 137 members.



Chapter's Corner

West Texas

No nominations for the positions of Chapter President or Secretary were received.

Gulf Coast

Congratulations to Brenda Kent who will be retiring on December 31st from the City of Shoreacres. We wish you a very healthy and happy retirement!

Congratulations also go out to Jaime Brew with the City of Sugar Land. She was recently recognized as a Community Hero by Forever Families, an organization that helps with adoption and foster care placement in Fort Bend County.

2017 Chapter Meetings

March 10th

June 9th

September 8th

December 8th

*Chapter meetings are held at the Sugarland Municipal Court 1200 Hwy 6 Sugarland, Texas.

Gulf Coast Chapter Election Results:

President: Rhonda Kuehn, Brenham

Secretary: Paul Rex, Jersey Village

Upcoming Education Sessions:

December 9, 2016 – Sugar Land – 10am-noon – The Teenage Brain & Leaders vs. Managers

February 10, 2017 – Texas City – 9am to 4 pm – Bond Forfeiture & Personal Safety

March 10, 2017 – Sugar Land – 10am- 3pm – Admonishments & Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect & What to Do

*Please visit the Gulf Coast Chapter [web page](#) to register to attend education sessions and chapter meetings.

Upcoming Testing:

May 2017 – Jersey Village – TBA

August 2017 – Texas City - TBA

Chapter Committees:

If you would like to serve on one of the committees listed below, please contact the Committee Chair listed below:

Chapter Table: Tiwana Brown and Kenneth McGehee – Brenham – tbrown@cityofbrenham.org or kmcgehee@cityofbrenham.org

Education: Brittany Rychlik – Sugar Land and Paul Rex – Jersey Village – brychlik@sugarlandtx.gov or prex@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

Historian: Viveanne Lucas – Sugar Land – vlucas@sugarlandtx.gov

Meeting Hostess: Kendra Beverly – Sugar Land – kmurray@sugarlandtx.gov

Officer Nominations: Karen Lemay – Seabrook - klemay@seabrooktx.gov

Public Relations/Awards Nominations: Karen Lemay – Seabrook – klemay@seabrooktx.gov

Publications/Newsletter: Brittany Wright – Sugar Land – bwright@sugarlandtx.gov

Scholarships: Viveanne Lucas – Sugar Land – vlucas@sugarlandtx.gov or Connie Hayley – Texas City – cbranch@texas-city-tx.org

Website: Brittany Rychlik – Sugar Land – brychlik@sugarlandtx.gov

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Letter From the President

TCCA President

Dear Fellow Court Clerks,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS & 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 truly takes a village to run this Association and accomplish the many goals we have set for propelling us into the future and encouraging success for court clerks across Texas.

I would like to Thank Tammy Odom, our past President and Conference Planning Chair, for all her hard work on making the first Board-planned conference such a great success! Tammy and the Conference Planning Committee, along with Chapter Presidents, worked very hard to plan our 2016 conference in San Marcos and it was 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.

Furthermore, I would like to welcome our new Board Members, elected in October, to the Board of Directors: Jennifer Billings of Dayton, Gulf Coast Chapter and Robert Martinez of West Lake Hills, Central Texas Chapter, who will begin their terms of office in January. I look forward to working with you both the next 2 years.

Don't forget that we have a Facebook page for the Texas Court Clerks Association, this page is a private page, where only those approved to see our posts are allowed. Please visit and become a member. I would like to encourage the local Chapters to create a Facebook for their members as well. This would be an additional way to post information and events.

Additionally, our website will be changing soon. We have begun development on a new site that will hopefully be seamless on your side and much more manageable on the backside for the website managers. Please be patient with us while we work through this transitional period. We will keep you updated.

Memberships will be managed a little differently with the new membership management tool. Typically, membership renewals will not open until around December 1st of each year. The new membership portal will allow you to upload a current photo so that there will be a face with the name and I am very excited about that for all of us. It will be nice to put a face to a name so I strongly encourage everyone to try to upload a current photo of yourself during the application process.

Please take the time to thank your Chapter Board Members for all their hard work behind the scenes trying to help this Association be all that it can be as well as a great experience for all the members. Change is inevitable and keeps things from becoming stagnant. If you embrace the change, it will make it easier. Resistance to change just prolongs the inevitable. "Resistance is futile" a line from a well-known movie!!

Furthermore, I would like to thank the 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 this Association and its membership: April Christensen of Cedar Park, Central Texas Chapter and Luevada Posey of Killeen, Central Texas Chapter. These ladies have done an amazing job and I am so grateful for the time I have been able to serve with them.

I personally would like to send a HUGE thank you to all of my Board Members!! Without them we could not do what we do!! Thank you!!

I am looking forward to 2017 and all that the new year promises and hope that each of you will continue to pray for our Law Enforcement Officers, this country, our President and all those that serve this GREAT STATE of Texas!

Many Blessings to you all until we meet again!

