



News and Tidbits

December 2014

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President's Message:



Season's Greetings! I am really looking forward to a wonderful holiday season and to our Holiday Party on December 11th in Haltom City.

Thank you to Diane Cockrell, City Secretary, Decatur, for hosting our November 12th business luncheon at the fabulous Decatur Civic Center. Marti Miller graciously returned to the NTMCA and spoke to us about "Going for the Gold: Building economic Development in our unique cities by appreciating and valuing the best assets we have...The Human Capital in our towns, workplaces and communities!"



**Marti Miller
November Speaker**

Marti shared with us some special lessons regarding making and developing relationships. One big take away for me was hearing Marti say "Relationships, Relationships, Relationships". She encouraged us to think about the greatness each one of us brings to our respective cities. We are the face of our cities in many ways and we need to make sure we let our DNA (Dynamic Natural Abilities) shine!

Marti encouraged all of us to take the time to find the 'gold' in the people around you and ask them about their story. While at work, keep your eyes open for the 'gold'. If you see a good idea,

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2014 Holiday Luncheon



See you at this year's
Christmas Luncheon on
Thursday, December 11, 2014
11:00 a.m.

This year's Christmas Luncheon committee has worked very hard in getting everything just right!

The venue is ready:
Diamond Oaks Country Club,
5821 Diamond Oaks Drive North, Haltom City, TX

The meal is set:
Chicken w/ garlic cream sauce; herb roasted new potatoes;
grilled mixed veggies; & chocolate mousse YUMMY

The entertainment is lined up:

compliment that person and tell others. Never underestimate the power of your influence. Look for opportunities and blessings around you, even when some of your challenges feel like failures.

Marti has such a positive attitude and it's contagious! After one of Marti's talks, I always feel uplifted and grateful to be a part of this amazing organization. We are all very blessed to have a network of colleagues and friends to rely on for encouragement and support.

November Meeting Summary

- October 15, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

Expanding our Membership

The NTMCA is always looking to expand our membership and meet new Clerks in our area. For our current members, please remember to submit your membership renewal payment and send applications to Carol Borges. And, please get the word out about how fantastic our Chapter is and reach out to your neighboring clerks to attend a meeting and participate in our group.

Thank you Holiday Committee

A big thank you to Holiday Committee members Linda Rhodes, Norma Zenk, Jesica McEachern & Asucena Garcia who have planned an amazing event for us this year! Hope to see you in Haltom City on December 11th to celebrate "It's a Wonderful Life".

There is a whole lot of "gold" in this association - let's all take the time to look around and see the gold and tell someone that they're special and doing an amazing job! Give Thanks!

I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Family Feud game . . .
can't wait to hear the answers to those silly questions!

Merry Christmas to All and Make it a Wonderful Life!

**Submitted by Norma Zenk,
(Azle)**

Alyce Deering Scholarship Silent Auction



One final "SHOUT OUT" for donations for our Alyce Deering Silent Auction fund raiser at this year's Christmas Party on December 11th.

Please take a minute out of your day and contact Norma Zenk (817-444-7101; nzenk@ci.azle.tx.us) to donate any item or gift card to this very worthy cause.

The Alyce Deering Scholarship Fund has been granting city secretaries in our chapter scholarships since its creation in 2006. Alyce was an incredible role model and mentor to all city secretaries. At seminars and NTMCA meetings, Alyce always greet you as if she'd known you forever . . . with open arms and a great big smile. It was interesting how she seemed to know everyone's name, even if you were not a certified city secretary. She was an amazing woman and her legacy lives on through the NTMCA's Alyce Deering Scholarship Fund!

**Submitted by Norma Zenk,
2014 Christmas Luncheon Committee & Alyce Deering
Scholarship Fund Committee
(Azle)**

Upcoming Meetings

December 11 Holiday Luncheon	Haltom City
January 15	Irving
February 18	Copper Canyon
March 18	Colleyville
April 1 - Professional Seminar	TBD

2015 Professional Seminar



Group Photo - November 12, 2014 - City of Decatur

Mary Supino, President

Membership Drive

With the start of our new fiscal year, our Membership Drive has begun and the Membership Committee is looking for your assistance. Our goal this year is to reach 90 members. If you have not done so already, please fill out the [membership form](#). Whether you pay by Paypal or by check, completed applications need to be sent to Treasurer Carol Borges. Remember, your \$30.00 annual dues help to support our programs, businesses meetings, operations and scholarships. We also ask that you reach out to your neighbors or new city secretaries to tell them all of the benefits of being a member of our organization and encourage them to join.

**Submitted by Michael Wells
Membership Committee Chair (Bedford)**

TMCA News

"Three Steps Toward Handling a Problem"

Newly-appointed TMCA President Sherry Mashburn has designated the year 2015 as the "Year of Service" for the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. I can identify with her position and I have worked on building my service skills with my citizens, coworkers, and council. One particular item I have spent a lot of time is in the area of handling difficult situations.



The NTMCA will be hosting an Athenian Dialogue for our Professional Seminar. Mark your calendars for April 1, 2015 and join us in this inspirational dialogue. Registration will begin with our January 2015 edition of the NTMCA newsletter. The cost for this dialogue will be \$55 and will include breakfast, lunch and refreshments. The location is still to be determined and more details will follow.

Here is a short blurb of what you can expect from this dialogue facilitated by Dr. Amy Holt: Amazing Grace tells the story of the remarkable life of the British abolitionist William Wilberforce. The dialogue will explore Wilberforce's twenty-year fight to abolish the British slave trade and slavery itself. By the late 1700s, the economics of slavery were so entrenched in society that only a handful of people thought anything could be done to stop it. As one of the few, Wilberforce became vilified by some who did not want to see the end of the slave trade.

Participants will be able to explore the foundations of Wilberforce's leadership style that required courage and persistence under quite adversarial conditions. Ultimately, the purpose of the dialogue will be to cultivate an awareness that enables participants to learn from and apply the positive principles and characteristics demonstrated by William Wilberforce.

http://www.amazon.com/Amazing-Grace-William-Wilberforce-Campaign/dp/0061173886/ref=pd_sim_sbs_b_1?ie=UTF8&refRID=01XNQVNF0X3H5YKA8MF9

**Norma Zenk,
Professional Seminar Chair**

NTMCA Committees

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to submit an application to serve on any of our FY 2014-2015 Committees, please complete the [Committee Application Form](#) and send to [Mary Supino](#).

A complete description of each committee and its responsibilities can be found in the [NTMCA Bylaws](#), Section 5 (page 10).

**Thank you for your help!
Mary Supino, President**

Meeting Reservations

Members we need your assistance.

Now there are numerous steps that a person can take toward bettering the situation, and several books have been written on the subject. But I would like to just mention a couple of things that are basic in handling a difficult problem or person. These can be applied immediately and once they have been established, you will find yourself able to diffuse and possibly alleviate the confrontation. The first objective I try to focus upon when confronted is to simply remember to not take the situation personally. Whether it is a citizen, or even a coworker, the individual may be angry at the dilemma and not particularly at you, but you may quickly become the focus of their anger if you suddenly consider their discontentment is being pointed at you directly and you become immediately defensive. Know that your attitude, body language, and verbal manner can be either an instant positive or negative foundation that can lead to either solving the problem or intensifying it. Remember that you are a representative of your city and the policies and procedures were not created or placed specifically by you, but by a group of elected officials, administrators, or the law. You are there to explain and enforce them, so it is natural that you may receive the brunt of their unhappiness, but don't take it personally.

The next phase is to empathize with them. In most cases, the complainer desires someone to understand and consider their problem. I live in the city where I am employed and that gives me an advantage in being able to identify with most of the citizens who moan and argue over city policies and enforcement. Empathizing does not mean that I cast an immediate judgment at who is right or wrong, but it allows me to review the problem and be partial to both the policy and the citizen. By doing this, the individual can feel that we are both working together to alleviate the problem, rather than feeling we are at odds. A simple statement, such as "Let's look at the problem and see what we can do about it" puts the person at ease and causes them to feel they are being sincerely understood.

And finally, make sure the person receives a response from you that assures them of your concern for their situation. It doesn't mean that you are dropping everything to pursue it, but that they voiced their concerns and you are taking action toward assisting them. Let them know their complaint is a priority and you will be checking back with them in regard to their problem. That is true customer service and should be considered as much as an important quality in a city clerk as intelligence. Citizens want to know that not only are you knowledgeable, but that you are also courteous and attentive to them.

In order to be able to provide food for all that attend our monthly meetings, we need to know who will be attending, so please let us know your intentions by the RSVP date. Deadlines are included in the invitation and on the meeting webpage.

The best way to take care of this is to plan to attend all of the meetings and RSVP when you receive the invite!

Thank you for your cooperation!
Mary Supino, President

FY 2014-2015 Board Officers

President:

Mary Supino, Arlington
mary.supino@arlingtontx.gov
817-459-6188

Vice-President:

Diane A. Callahan, Highland Village
dcallahan@highlandvillage.org
972-899-5132

Treasurer:

Carol Borges, Westworth Village
cborges@cityofwestworth.com
817-710-2526

Secretary:

Sheila B. Morales, Copper Canyon
townsecretary@coppercanyon-tx.org
940-241-2677

Historian:

Amy Shelley, Colleyville
ashelley@colleyville.com
817-503-1130

Future Newsletters

We are always looking for topics of interest for newsletters. If there is a subject you would like to see addressed or if you would like to contribute an article, please let any of the Board members know, or submit it by e-mail to Sheila B. Morales.

Quick Links

[NTMCA Website](#)

[FY 2015 Membership Application](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

I hope this helps you in your service toward all individuals in your work scope and may you experience a great year in 2015 in building your service skills.

Sincerely,
Art

**Submitted by Art Camacho,
2014 TMCA President**

Scholarship Fundraiser

The "**Keep Calm and Clerk On**" insulated tumblers are available for \$15 each.

The proceeds benefit our Chapter's Alyce Deering Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund is one of the reasons that sets us apart from other chapters.



We know the importance of continuing our education and we support our members by providing annual scholarships to offset travel and seminar registration costs.

Don't miss your chance to support our Chapter and sport a cool insulated tumbler that markets our profession. The tumblers will be available for purchase at each Chapter meeting or by contacting Alicia Richardson at arichardson@nrhtx.com

**Submitted by Alicia Richardson
Alyce Deering Committee Chair (North
Richland Hills)**

Holiday Luncheon Charity

A short reminder that this year's NTMCA charity organization is the Ladder Alliance.

The Ladder Alliance Mission is to provide women victims of domestic violence or low-income women with the tools to lead self-reliant, independent, and successful lives.



The Ladder Alliance works with women's shelters, agencies, and organizations to provide prospective students access to basic computer skills training and high school equivalency test (GED) preparation, empowering them to seek gainful employment, becoming self-sufficient in providing for themselves and their children.

Monetary donations will be accepted during our Christmas Luncheon

If you are not able to attend the Christmas Luncheon, please consider donating online <http://ladderalliance.org/donate-online>.

In the spirit of giving, please give to those who are less fortunate and remember that your act of kindness and generosity will benefit all, especially the children.

**Submitted by Norma Zenk
(Azle)**

This Month in History - December

Dear Members,

It's been my pleasure to bring you this article every month. As the year ends, so shall this piece - no need to repeat history. (Get it?! OK, so that was corny!) I hope you've found the article appealing, sometimes humorous, and always engaging. I wish each of you the very best holiday season. Be safe, stay warm, and see you next year! :)

We will be highlighting a tidbit of a city/town's history each month, beginning in January. If you would like your city/town featured in this section of the newsletter, please forward the information to Amy Shelley at ashelley@colleyville.com. We look forward to learning about your city/town!

- December 1, 1941 - The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded as Director of Civilian Defense, former New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, signed the formal order. The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services such as locating missing aircraft.
- December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.
- December 2, 1942 - Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.
- December 2, 1982 - The first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61-year-old Barney C. Clark by Dr. William De Vries at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Clark, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.
- December 3, 1962 - Edith Sampson was sworn in as the first African American female judge, after she was elected associate judge of the Municipal Court in Chicago.
- December 3, 1967 - The first successful heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christiaan (yes, spelled with two a's) Barnard at Cape Town, South African, on Louis Washkansky. Mr. Washkansky lived for 18 days.
- December 5, 1933 - The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was repealed. For nearly 14 years, since January 29, 1920, it had outlawed the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the U.S. [Sure glad it was repealed before WE were all born! - Ha!]

- December 5, 1955 - In Alabama, the Montgomery bus boycott began in response to the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat on a municipal bus to a white man. Organized by the African American community, the boycott lasted until December 20, 1956, when a U.S. Supreme Court ruling integrated the public transportation system.
- December 5, 1955 - The AFL-CIO was founded after two separate labor organizations, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, joined together following 20 years of rivalry, thus becoming the leading advocate for trade unions in the U.S.
- December 6, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery, stating, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, save as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."
- December 6, 1877 - At his laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, Thomas Edison spoke the children's verse "Mary had a Little Lamb..." while demonstrating his newly invented phonograph which utilized a revolving cylinder wrapped in tinfoil to record sounds. [Alan Freed may have coined the phrase "rock and roll" in Cleveland, but recorded sound began in my neck of the woods - New Jersey baby! LOL]
- December 7, 1787 - Delaware became the first state to adopt the new constitution of the United States of America.
- December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead. The next day, the United States and Britain declared war on Japan.
- December 8, 1980 - Former Beatle musician John Lennon was assassinated in New York City. [Where were you when this music legend was gunned down?]
- December 9, 1948 - The United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It took effect on January 12, 1951, following ratification by 20 member nations.
- December 10, 1896 - Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel died at San Remo, Italy. His will stipulated that income from his \$9 million estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity. Nobel recipients are chosen by a committee of the Norwegian parliament. Prizes for Peace, Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Economics are presented annually in a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on the anniversary of his death. Each prize is valued at about \$1 million. [Can you name at least one winner from each category?]
- December 10, 1898 - The Treaty of Paris was signed between American and Spanish representatives following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. Under the treaty, the U.S. gained the Philippine Islands, the islands of Guam and Puerto Rico, and an agreement by Spain to withdraw from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the U.S. Senate on February 6, 1899, and was signed by President William McKinley four days later.
- December 10, 1948 - The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- December 10, 1950 - Dr. Ralph Bunche became the first African American man awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for his efforts in mediation between Israel and nearby Arab states the previous year. [No, you cannot include this name in your list above. : /]

- December 11, 1901 - The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland.
- December 13, 1991 - North and South Korea signed a treaty of reconciliation and nonaggression, which also formally ended the Korean War, although actual fighting had ceased in 1953. [Well, that took a long time!]
- December 14, 1962 - The Mariner II space probe sent back information from the planet Venus, the first information ever received from another planet.
- December 15, 1791 - The Bill of Rights became effective following ratification by Virginia.
- December 15, 1993 - The GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Treaty was approved by delegations from 117 countries. The treaty was designed to reduce international tariffs, eliminate trade quotas, and protect intellectual property.
- December 15, 1995 - European Union leaders announced their new currency would be known as the Euro.
- December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into the water.
- December 16, 1835 - A massive fire erupted in New York City, destroying more than 600 buildings, causing an estimated \$20 million in damages. [Imagine what that would be in today's dollars!]
- December 17, 1903 - After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first power controlled airplane flight. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.
- December 19, 1732 - Benjamin Franklin first published Poor Richard's Almanac containing weather predictions, humor, proverbs and epigrams, eventually selling nearly 10,000 copies per year.
- December 20, 1606 - The English Virginia Company expedition to America began as three small ships, the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery, departed London under the command of Captain Christopher Newport. In May of 1607, the royally chartered company established the first permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown (Virginia).
- December 20, 1860 - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in a prelude to the American Civil War. Within two months Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas seceded. In April 1861, Virginia seceded, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The Union had 21 states and a population of over 20 million.
- December 21, 1988 - Pan American Flight 103 exploded in midair as the result of a terrorist bomb and crashed into Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers and crew members along with 11 persons on the ground were killed. [Really, WHEN will this madness end?!]
- December 23, 1913 - The U.S. Congress passed the Federal Reserve Act establishing the Federal Reserve System to serve as the nation's central bank. Chief responsibilities include: execution of monetary policy; influencing the lending and investing activities of commercial banks; and overseeing the cost and availability of money and credit.

- December 23, 1947 - The transistor was invented at Bell Laboratories by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley, who shared the Nobel Prize for their invention which sparked a worldwide revolution in electronics. [Once again, this name doesn't count! :)]
- December 23, 1987 - Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager set a new world record of 216 hours of continuous flight around the world without refueling. Their aircraft Voyager traveled 24,986 miles at a speed of about 115 miles per hour.
- December 25th - Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on December 25th by the Western (Roman Catholic) Church since 336 A.D.
- December 26-January 1 - Kwanzaa, an African American family observance established in 1966 celebrating traditional African harvest festivals, focusing on family unity, with a community harvest feast on the seventh day. Kwanzaa means "first fruit" in Swahili.
- December 30, 1803 - The Stars and Stripes flag was raised over New Orleans as the United States took formal possession of the territory of Louisiana, an area of 885,000 square miles, nearly doubling the size of the U.S. The territory had been purchased from France for approximately \$15 million. [The Huffington Post published estimated costs of rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina to be over \$150 billion.]
- December 31st - New Year's Eve, the final evening of the Gregorian calendar year, traditionally a night for merry-making to welcome in the new year. [The Gregorian calendar is also known as the Western or Christian calendar. It is named after Pope Gregory XIII who introduced it in 1582.]
- December 31, 1781 - The first bank in the U.S., the Bank of North America, received its charter from the Confederation Congress. It opened on January 7, 1782, in Philadelphia.
- December 31, 1879 - Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his electric incandescent lamp at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey. [Can you think of other things the "Wizard of Menlo Park" invented/discovered? Do you know Edison's middle name?]

**Thank you for spending a few moments with me.
Carol Borges (Westworth Village)**

We are an awesome Chapter! Let's lead and be a model for our sister Chapters.