

# Treasury Notes

The Official Publication of the County  
Treasurers' Association of Texas

Spring & Summer 2024

Greetings CTAT,

*This year has been one of preparing and laying solid foundations for the future. Now is the time to get to know your State Representatives and Senators. Now is the time to build those relationships with them and their staff, as well as building relationships with our affiliate associations. In general, your efforts should provide positive results.*

*We faced some major challenges this past legislative session. The next session is right around the corner. It is our duty to carry forward with mentoring and training our membership, whether at regional meetings, annual education seminars, or reaching out and offering a lending hand or shoulder during a time of need. I have witnessed heart, passion and dedication from within our association. I think we must lead with all of those, at home, in our communities, and within CTAT.*

Sincerely,

*Karrie Crownover*

**Burnet County Treasurer**

**President, County Treasurer's Association of Texas  
(2023-2024)**





On Behalf of the Texas Outstanding County  
Treasurer Award Committee, let us  
recognize our finalists for 2024:

**Michael Lord, Jr.**  
**Gaines County**

**Leigh Ann McCoy**  
**Hood County**

**William “Bill” Rickert**  
**Fort Bend County**



Michael Lord, Jr. has served as the Gaines County Treasurer since January 2011, running unopposed in 2014, 2018, and 2022. Michael is a lifelong resident of Gaines County. He received his Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Marketing from the University of the Southwest in 2004. Before taking office, Michael worked for West Texas National Bank as VP/Branch Manager for seven years and Commercial State Bank as Director of Special Projects for one year.

Michael served as Region 2 president from 2012 – 2016. Since being elected, he has served as a Region director for the County Treasurers Association of Texas for two terms and Sector Director for two terms.

Michael currently serves on the County Investment Education Committee for Texas Association of Counties and the New Treasurer's Orientation Committee for CTAT. In 2023 he co-chaired the Education committee and currently serves as education chair. Michael became a certified County Investment Officer in 2011.

He has given his time to numerous civic and charitable organizations. He serves on the Gaines County Ag/Committee, Seminole Area Industrial Foundation Board of Directors, and as a liaison for the Friends of the Gaines County Library System.



Leigh Ann McCoy has served as Hood County Treasurer for over five years, having entered her second term January 2023. During this time, she has lawfully fulfilled the duties of the County Treasurer, as well as broadened the investment portfolio and streamlined the payroll process. Leigh Ann has also opened the lines of communication with other county offices, which she feels is of great value to the business of county government.

As a young girl, Leigh Ann's love for county government came from traveling around to many Texas courthouses with her mother, who owned a record research company. As an adult, Leigh Ann began working for her mother as the accounts payable/receivable manager for the company. In 2015, Leigh Ann began working in the Hood County District Clerk's office, reinforcing her love for local government and community involvement.

As an active member of the County Treasurer's Association of Texas (CTAT), Leigh Ann serves as the Treasurer for the Executive Board, as well as serving as the Vice Chairman for the Association's Region 6. She proudly serves on the following four committees with CTAT: Education Committee, New Treasurers' Orientation Committee, Legislative Committee, and the Public Relations Committee. Leigh Ann also enjoys donating her time to the Lake Granbury Kiwanis and the American Legion Auxiliary - helping in the community however she can.

Leigh Ann is a proud Army wife and mother (active duty and reserves). She and her high school sweetheart, Steve, are celebrating 31 years of marriage in 2024! Their three beautiful children, Tiffany, Destine, and Chase have blessed them with eight wonderful grandchildren, aged from two years to 15. The McCoy's enjoy spending as much time with their active family as much as possible.

Leigh Ann is honored to be entrusted by the citizens of Hood County. "I pride myself in always serving Hood County with the same dedication, integrity, and excellence as when I started this journey. I truly believe that when we stop learning, we stop growing. So, I'm constantly looking for new ways and opportunities to improve myself and the Treasurer's office."

If she could express one thing to other Treasurers, it would be "GO FOR IT! Do it scared! Do it when you don't know what you're doing! The best growth comes from vulnerability and willingness!"



**Bill Rickert**, currently serving his second term as Fort Bend County Treasurer, brings a wealth of experience garnered from a distinguished career in Executive Management spanning the Oil & Gas Exploration and Information Technology sectors.

Drawing on his extensive background in developing business plans, implementing process improvement, business continuity, and utilizing cost-effective technology solutions enabled him to hit the ground running as County Treasurer, Bill swiftly initiated strategic measures upon assuming office to bolster the county's resilience. To mitigate risk, the office was enabled to operate from anywhere, during a crisis, by moving to laptops, utilizing an electronic document repository, ensuring all applications operated appropriately remotely and the IT environment could support it. As the county was soon entering the RFP process for a depository bank, he made sure features like remote check printing by the bank were included as well as other modern banking technologies. After the great shutdown due to Covid, those efforts paid off with the treasurer's office being the leader in Fort Bend being able to continue smooth performance.

The rise in fraud attempts following the implementation of programs involving Covid and recovery related federal money underscores the importance of Bill's efforts. With checks being written to public and local businesses, the county became a prime target for fraudulent activities. However, thanks to the proactive measures, the county was better equipped to detect and prevent such attempts, ultimately safeguarding public funds from financial harm.

As a member of the Investment Committee, Bill championed a diversified multi-tier investment approach, incorporating sweeps, pools, and contracted professional advisory services for longer term investments optimizing returns while mitigating risks.

Currently the implementation of virtual vendor pay cards is taking place, initially as an additional electronic option for payment.

Looking ahead, as Fort Bend County is projected to grow from a population of 900,000 to 2.2M in 2050, Bill aims for a complete transition away from checks towards a streamlined financial ecosystem emphasizing workflow efficiency.

Bill has been an active participant in CTAT and TAC serving on the CTAT Public Relations and Legislative Committees as well as TAC Core Legislative Group and County Investment Academy Committee. He is also currently serving as Chairman of CTAT Region 12. With the help of his fellow Region 12 Treasurers, they will be hosting the 2025 Treasurers Conference in Sugar Land. During the efforts to fight the abolishment of the County Treasurer in Galveston, Bill headed up a texting campaign to Galveston County voters with generous financial support from Treasurers across the state. While unsuccessful the effort to defeat Prop 12, managed to narrow to a 3.5% gap vs. the average 40% proposition gap in Galveston County and in Fort Bend County it was defeated by 2.5%.

Bill currently serves as Chairman of the Fort Bend County Bail Bond Board, Rosenberg Railroad Museum Board, Polly Ryon Foundation Board, Pakistani American Business & Professional Association Advisory Board, UT Physicians – Rosenberg Advisory Board, Texas Connect Advisory Board, Advisory Consultant Artesian Financial Services.

Bill earned his education at Loyola University New Orleans, studying Computer Information Systems. Completed an MBA certificate from the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Married for 41 years, [Bill](#) and his wife [Lisa](#), owner of [Artesian Financial Services LLC](#), originally from New Orleans, have been residents of Sugar Land, TX, since 1992, where they raised two daughters, [Annelise](#) and [Katherine](#), who have pursued successful careers in Washington DC and Concord, NH, respectively. Annelise serves as the Director of Congressional Affairs at the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#), while Katherine is a Staff Attorney for the [New Hampshire Public Defender's office](#).

# Texas Treasurers represent at National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Tampa



**They all received Presidential Appointments for 2024-2025.**

**Pauline Medrano**

Defined Comp and Retirement Advisory Committee

**Jennifer Henderson**

Vice Chair on Healthy County Advisory Board

Vice Chair on Finance, Pensions, & Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee

**Renee Couch**

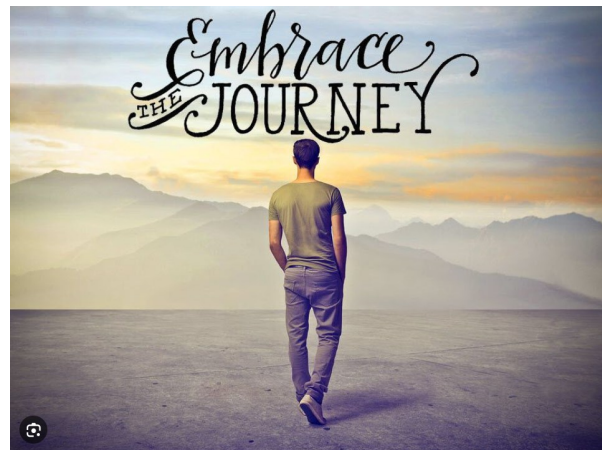
Chair on Membership Standing Committee

Vice Chair on Finance, Pensions, & Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee

Member on Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC)

Board Member on NACo Board of Directors as the Texas Representative (appointed by TAC Board of Directors)





***"Networking is not about just connecting people. It's about connecting people with people, people with ideas, and people with opportunities." - Michele Jennae***

## Dates to Remember

76th Annual CTAT Conference	Denton , TX	Sept. 16-19, 2024
Texas Public Funds Investment Conference	Houston, TX	Nov. 7-8, 2024
2024 New Treasurer's Seminar	Denton, TX	Dec. 4-6, 2024
Basics of Investments Course	Frisco, TX	Mar. 4-7, 2025
53rd Annual County Treasurer's CE Seminar	San Marcos, TX	April 21-24, 2025
Conference of the Investment Academy	Corpus Christi, TX	Jun. 16-18, 2025
TAC Legislative Conference	Austin, TX	August 27-29, 2025

## Continuing Education Requirements

	Required Hours	Outside Hours (Non-CTAT Conferences)	Carry Forward Hours
County Treasurers Continuing Education Hours	20 hours annually	Maximum of 10 hours	Maximum of 10 hours
Public Funds Investment Act	10 hours in a two year period	n/a	n/a



Please Remember - If you have anything you'd like to have included in our next edition of Treasury Notes, please submit to Brittni Turner at [bturner@huntcounty.net](mailto:bturner@huntcounty.net)