

**Galveston Bay Area Chapter TMN Board Meeting
November 18, 2025
Via Google Meet**

Attendees: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Robin Novak, Denise Correll, Tracy Walpole, Chloe Stifler, Julie Massey, Anthony Soliz Rocha, and Mary McElligott. Brandi Keller, Chapter Advisor, was also in attendance.

Mohammed Nasrullah, Sharon Tirpak, and Mary Jean Salzer were absent.

Mary Dobberstine, President, initially announced the meeting date and time during the October board meeting and reminded members of the meeting date with a proposed agenda via email on November 16, 2025. All meeting participants were able to communicate with each other via Google Meet.

Welcome and Call to Order

- Welcome and call to order:
The board meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

- Establishment of quorum:
Lisa Hardcastle established a quorum.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Jenny made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda Items; Gene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **You Tube**
Anthony reported to the board information regarding the creation of a YouTube channel and factors to consider. These factors include who has access (members or the public), length of videos (less than 20 minutes is ideal), scheduling posts (a regular schedule is best), editing considerations (consistency and branding), and likes and subscriptions (profit generating). Mary thanked him for the information and suggested that he and Chloe could work together to develop a plan. Robin expressed concern that the immediate need is a place to store recordings that have been saved. Additional concerns expressed by board members included copyright issues and whether presenters would want their presentations shared. For now, Mary and Robin will explore using our Google account for video storage and Anthony and Chloe will gather more information about YouTube and the chapter's needs.

- **End of Year Celebration**
Mary is planning to send out a reminder invitation and information about the event this week. She is busy getting the award results organized. Jenny reported that

catering has been ordered and she is working with the training class on decorations and setup.

New Business

Mary announced that she has reserved the Stewart House at Galveston Island State Park for our “Day Away” planning meeting on January 24. She also reported that 2026 is the year for document revisions at the state and local level. More information will be shared later regarding this.

Officer Reports

- **President** (Mary Dobberstine)
No additional information to report.
- **Vice President** (Jenny Dudley)
No additional information to report.
- **Treasurer** (Meade LeBlanc)
Meade is asking program leads to make their requests for budget amounts. The 2026 budget will be discussed at the “Day Away” in January.
- **Secretary** (Lisa Hardcastle)
Nothing to report at this time.
- **Immediate Past President** (Gene Fisseler)
Scholarship information has been shared with chapter members and our partners. So far, we have received one application.

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training** (Robin Novak)
There are no advanced training opportunities in December. Upcoming topics include Prairie Chickens, spring migration, and Raptors. Robin also shared that there are enough topics being planned for all of 2026.
- **Community Engagement** (Mohammed Nasrullah)
Mohammed was unable to attend; however, Mary did mention that a planting event was held at the Clear Lake Islamic Center’s pollinator garden.
- **Outreach** (Denise Correll)
League City’s Ecofest was a successful event with over 200 visitors. Denise provided a brief presentation on birds which was well received. Due to the government shutdown, NASA’s Health and Safety event in October was cancelled. Upcoming events include a Moody Gardens Open House and a General Land Office event, both in April.
- **Membership** (Tracy Walpole)

Tracy reported that we currently have 260 active members. Ten members are still in training (three from 2024 training class and seven from 2025 training class). We also had one member transfer in from another chapter. As of October 5, 2025, members logged 2,763.75 volunteer service hours and 222.25 advanced training hours for September. She believes we are on track to surpass data from 2024. Tracy also announced that updates to volunteer service milestone plaques have been completed.

- **Volunteer Service** (Sharon Tirpak)
Sharon was unable to attend.
- **Communications** (Chloe Stifler)
Chloe has been working on the chapter's photo contest, which is being voted on by chapter members. She is also creating the "Year in Review" video for the December meeting.
- **Training Class** (Julie Massey)
Julie reported that there are approximately 100 people interested in the spring training class. A "Meet and Greet" will be held in mid-January. The training class will start around February 19, it will be an evening class and will include four field trips.

Other Reports

- **Class Representatives** (Anthony Soliz Rocha, Mary Jean Slazer and Mary McElligott)
No additional information to share.
- **Chapter Advisor** (Brandi Keller)
Brandi shared that she invited four county commissioners to our December meeting but does not think any will be able to attend. She requested that if anyone has something for Darla to assist with to get it to her well in advance of any deadline as she is busy due to staffing changes. Dolphin Challenge will be February 28, and training will be the end of January or in February. She is working on the second season of the Coastal Living series at Osher Lifelong Learning Center. Additionally, Eowyn Johnson and Jenny are assisting her with some Girl Scout activities. She also mentioned that the Agrilife website will be changing at some point during the next few months and she would share details when they become available. Finally, she wanted to express her appreciation to the board for all the work we do.

Closing

- **Review Action Items**
None
- **Next Meeting**
January 24, 2026, in Galveston.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM by Mary Dobberstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary