



A Farewell Message From the Texas Municipal Courts Association President

Good morning. As this term ends and a new one begins September 1, I would like to share some thoughts with you:

- 1) The TMCA held elections this year. The winners of those elections are: President-elect - Hon. Stewart Milner, Treasurer - Hon. Robert Richter, 2nd Vice President - Hon. Danny Rodgers, Region 2 Director - Hon. Robin Ramsay, Region 4 Director - Hon. Forrest Phifer, Region 6 Director - Hon. Kathleen Person, Region 8 Director - Hon. Mike Davis, and Region 10 Director - Hon. Horacio Peña. Congratulations to these Board Members!
- 2) The TMCA's Annual Conference was held on August 2-3 in San Antonio. The conference was a success and would not have been possible without the vision, extensive planning and hard work of Conference Chair Judge Hilda Cuthbertson and her Annual Conference Committee members Shona Bohon, Sheila Seymore Roach, Judge Sharon Hatten, Judge Bonnie Townsend and Judge Kathleen Person. I thank them all for a job well done!
- 3) Various awards were presented at the awards banquet at the annual conference. Amy McHugh was named Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year. The Outstanding Court Support Personnel of the Year Award was presented to Landra Solansky. The Outstanding Jurist of the Year Award was given to Judge Donna Starkey. The first TMCA President's Award, given to a TMCA member who exhibits all the best qualities of a TMCA member was presented to Hilda Cuthbertson. Please join me in congratulating the winners!
- 4) As we prepare for the next Legislative Session, the TMCA plans to work on a few items we think will be helpful to all municipal courts. This effort will certainly include our governmental relations expert/lobbyist, Deanna L. Kuykendall. If we all can get on the same page, if we can enlist local lobbyists and local legislative delegations, if we speak with one unified voice, and if we can work with other organizations whose interests align with ours, we will be able to have an even more successful session.
- 5) The Municipal Courts Foundation Board of Directors held its inaugural meeting June 22nd in Bee Cave. The Board passed several resolutions, elected officers and made plans for its first event - a silent auction held during the TMCA Annual conference. Thanks to you, the Foundation surpassed its fundraising goal for the auction. I thank the TMCA Executive Committee for giving the Foundation permission to conduct the silent auction at the conference. You will be hearing more about the Foundation later at future events. I thank the Foundation Board of Directors for their work in making our first event a success!
- 6) I have been very fortunate to work with the talented members of the TMCA Board of Directors. I thank the following people for their cooperation and dedication to TMCA: Hon. Esmeralda Peña Garcia, Hon. Hilda Cuthbertson, Hon. Stewart Milner, Hon. Bob Richter, Hon. Ed Spillane, Hon. Robin Ramsay, Sheila Seymore Roach, Hon. Danny Rodgers, Hon. Pamela Liston, Hon. Forrest Phifer, Hon. Sharon Hatten, Hon. Kathleen Person, Hon. Bonnie Townsend, Hon. Mike Davis, Hon. Denise Mitrano, and Hon. Horacio Peña. I thank TMCA Coordinator Shona Bohon for her willingness to always go the extra mile. I also thank TMCEC Executive Director Hope Lochridge and her staff for their support, cooperation

and professionalism. I likewise thank former TMCA Presidents Judges Brian Holman and Julie Escalante who, like the former presidents on the board, have been generous with their time and advice.

6) Finally, I want to thank you - the Texas Municipal Courts Association (TMCA) member. None of this would have been possible without you. Serving as President this year has been one of the highest honors of my life. Thank you for your continued support of TMCA and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Now let us get behind and support our new President Judge Esmeralda Peña Garcia!

Michael Acuña President,
Texas Municipal Courts Association