

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Jacques L. Blanchette
Tyler County Judge's Office
100 W. Bluff Street Room 102
Woodville, TX 75979

Dear Judge Blanchette,

Congratulations to the Tyler County Historical Commission! Your CHC has garnered a **Distinguished Service Award** for accomplishments during the 2017 year of service.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) gives this award to County Historical Commissions (CHC) that document well-rounded preservation programs and efforts that celebrate and save the history and character of Texas. Thank you for supporting your CHC in its efforts to promote county history, provide public services, and enrich the livelihood of communities across the state.

To mark this achievement, we ask that you **present the enclosed Distinguished Service Award (DSA) certificate to CHC appointees during a formal meeting of the commissioners court.** Public affirmation is the most effective way to show gratitude for a CHC's service to the county. Your public support honors CHC efforts while promoting positive aspects of county government.

To publicly promote the award, **we have enclosed a press release** so that your office can promote the DSA award and the ways in which your CHC has served successfully. An electronic copy of this press release is posted here: www.thc.texas.gov/2017-DSA.

Many thanks to your CHC appointees on a job well done and your support of them throughout the year!

Sincerely,



Amy Hammons
CHC Outreach Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission

Enclosed: DSA certificate, Press Release, Promotional Suggestions, 2017 CHC Report Summary



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2017 CHC Annual Report Summary

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) received reports from 193 County Historical Commissions (CHC) for the 2017 year of service. Below are primary reporting statistics that demonstrate the breadth and value of CHC services.

- **417,129 CHC volunteer hours represents work of 200 employees and has a monetary value of \$10,069,494**
- For every \$1 counties invest in CHCs, more than \$6 worth of service is returned by CHCs.
- CHCs supplemented county money with \$880,809 from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

Financial data from 2017 CHC annual reports	Average allocation	Reporting Totals
Annual county allocation—119 CHCs received 2017 allocation:	\$ 5,647	\$ 672,031
County money allotted for museums—47 CHCs provided amounts:	\$ 18,985	\$ 892,320
Any other money issued by the county:		\$ 69,753
Total county monies invested		\$ 1,634,104

General information about Texas CHCs based on 2017 CHC reports

- Average size of reporting CHCs is 18 appointees and usually hold bimonthly commission meetings.
- CHCs provide an average of 2,161 volunteer hours per year; reports show zero hours upwards to 17,000 hours.
- CHCs participate in a wide range of activities but some activities are more popular than others; see below.

Popular activities based on 2017 CHC reports	# of participating CHCs
Periodically assess the condition of subject markers in your county	142
Provided educational events/presentations to audiences outside your CHC	125
Issued information to the public at large--newsletters, email, press releases, etc.	122
Promoted historic and cultural sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism initiatives	121
Periodically assess the condition of cemeteries in your county	117

* Estimated volunteer hourly rate as per independentsector.org as of May 2018.



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Reporting data as of 5/1/18

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Promoting Distinguished Service Awards

Your County Historical Commission's (CHC) Distinguished Service Award (DSA) reflects positively on county government. Below are ways that you can honor your appointees to recognize this achievement.

Public acknowledgement for appointees

Please include formal acknowledgement of your CHC during an upcoming meeting of the county commissioners court. Public affirmation rewards appointees and county officials for this accomplishment. Please make sure CHC appointees are given sufficient notice to attend the meeting in which formal acknowledgement is made. Be sure to **take pictures** to document the joyful occasion!

DSA Press Release

Promoting your CHC's award is an easy and effective way to promote county government and CHC services provided to the public. Enclosed in this mailer is a DSA press release to distribute to local media. This "Swiss Cheese" press release allows you to insert your county name, acknowledgement date, and CHC chair contact information; **insert this information prior to sharing it** with local and regional media outlets. An electronic copy of the press release is posted on the THC website here: www.thc.texas.gov/2017-DSA.

Social Media Promotion

Most counties have a web presence and many CHCs host a Facebook page. These outlets are an effective (and inexpensive) way to promote the DSA award and the accomplishments which helped your CHC garner this award. Your CHC's 2017 annual report should have some examples of projects to share with the public.

Appointee Continuing Education

The THC, along with several other preservation organizations, provides educational opportunities to train CHC appointees for their appointed role. **Funding training opportunities for your appointees is an investment in your county and prepares appointees for the role that you have assigned to them.** Encourage your appointees—new and seasoned—to use the THC website to access free educational material. If you do not already, please provide a computer and Internet access to your CHC.

Questions about CHCs

Contact Amy Hammons (512.475-2692) or Candice McClendon (512.463-9052) with questions about CHC organizational and preservation issues. State statutes regarding CHCs, the appointment process, and suggested CHC appointee criteria is located on the THC website; locate this page by using the THC website search box—located at top, right corner of each webpage—and entering the key phrase, "CHC appointments."



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 1, 2018

Contact: Amy Hammons, 512-475-2692

amy.hammons@thc.texas.gov

**[COUNTY NAME] COUNTY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
FROM TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

AUSTIN, Texas—The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recognized the [COUNTY NAME] County Historical Commission (CHC) with a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for the 2017 year of service. The THC uses this annual award to affirm CHCs that document ongoing, well-rounded programs of history and preservation-related projects that enrich local communities. The award [WAS or WILL BE] presented during a meeting of the county commissioners court on [MONTH, DAY] to acknowledge the CHC's accomplishments.

“Texas County Historical Commissions were established to preserve and protect historic and cultural resources, which aligns with our agency’s efforts to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas.” said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. “The Texas Historical Commission presents this Distinguished Service Award to the [COUNTY NAME] County Historical Commission to honor its efforts to promote local history.”

Texas CHCs provided more than 417,000 volunteer hours in 2017, which is an in-kind donation to the state valued at more than \$10 million. The THC assists more than 200 CHCs through programs and services that preserve Texas’ heritage for the education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations. The THC’s advisory role to CHCs is outlined in the Texas Local Government Code, the statute that enables county commissioners courts to establish CHCs. The volunteer appointees, as directed by county officials, initiate and conduct programs that preserve the historic and cultural resources of Texas.

For more information about CHCs in Texas, visit thc.texas.gov/chcoutreach or contact the History Programs Division at 512-463-5853.

www.thc.texas.gov