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June 01, 2023

The Honorable Curtis Parrish
Lubbock County Judge's Office
904 Broadway, Suite 101
Lubbock, TX 79401

Dear Judge Parrish,

We are pleased to announce the Lubbock County Historical Commission (CHC) has earned a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for the 2022 year of service. While all CHC efforts are valued, DSAs acknowledge above average CHC performance based on a statewide analysis of CHC annual reports. For 2022, our agency received 197 CHC reports and approved 83 awards.

To honor appointee contributions, we ask that you acknowledge the award publicly as soon as possible. We recommend presenting the enclosed DSA certificate to your CHC during a formal meeting of the commissioners court. If an in-person ceremony is not feasible, please consider other ideas listed on the enclosed flyer to recognize your CHC's outstanding service to the county.

Enclosed is a press release your office can use to promote the DSA and your CHC's accomplishments. An electronic copy of this press release is provided at: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/information-2022-dsa-winning-chcs>. We suggest gathering specifics related to your CHC's efforts and including that information in the press release prior to distributing a copy to media outlets. Promoting your CHC's award locally demonstrates your pride in their hard work and explains their civic contribution. This publicity will also draw attention to the positive impacts of county government.

THC Commissioners and staff congratulate you and your CHC on this well-deserved honor. Thank you for supporting your appointees and their efforts to preserve Texas' historic resources.

Sincerely,

Nano Calderon, CHC Outreach Coordinator

cc: Lubbock CHC Chair

Each year, the Texas Historical Commission administers Distinguished Service Awards (DSAs) to recognize County Historical Commissions (CHCs) that demonstrate exceptional service to preserve Texas' diverse history. **The following CHCs garnered a DSA for the 2022 year of service.**

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Aransas | Dickens | Jeff Davis | Medina | Tarrant |
| Atascosa | Duval | Jefferson | Menard | Taylor |
| Austin | El Paso | Jim Hogg | Milam | Tom Green |
| Bandera | Ellis | Johnson | Mills | Travis |
| Bell | Fannin | Kaufman | Montague | Tyler |
| Bexar | Fayette | Kendall | Montgomery | Van Zandt |
| Brazos | Fort Bend | Kerr | Motley | Victoria |
| Burleson | Franklin | Kimble | Nacogdoches | Walker |
| Caldwell | Garza | Lamar | Navarro | Waller |
| Cameron | Goliad | Lampasas | Newton | Washington |
| Carson | Harris | Lavaca | Nueces | Wheeler |
| Cass | Harrison | Liberty | Palo Pinto | Wichita |
| Chambers | Hays | Limestone | Parker | Wise |
| Cherokee | Henderson | Live Oak | Pecos | Wood |
| Collin | Hockley | Lubbock | Polk | Young |
| Comal | Houston | Mason | Rusk | |
| DeWitt | Jasper | Matagorda | San Saba | |

CONGRATULATIONS to all appointees for their contributions throughout the past year! An award packet will be mailed to the county judge of each of the CHCs listed above. A copy of the packet, including the DSA certificate and suggestions for promoting the award, is provided at the following: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/information-2022-dsa-winning-chcs>. We have asked county judges to present the award locally to acknowledge CHC accomplishments and provide public recognition to all appointees.

The Texas Historical Commission received reports from 197 County Historical Commissions (CHCs) for the 2022 year of service. Below are primary reporting statistics that demonstrate the breadth and value of CHC services.

- **294,634 volunteer hours represent the work of 166 employees and have a monetary value of \$9,369,361.***
- **Return on investment**—for every \$1 counties invested in CHCs, \$8.28 worth of service was returned by CHCs.
- CHCs supplemented county money with \$498,346 from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

| Financial data from 2022 CHC annual reports | Average Allocation | Reporting Totals |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Annual county allocation—116 CHCs received 2022 allocation | \$6,688 | \$775,825 |
| County money allotted for museums—19 CHCs provided amounts | \$16,317 | \$310,025 |
| Any other money issued by the county | | \$105,835 |
| Total county monies invested: | | \$1,191,685 |

General information about CHCs based on 2022 CHC reports:

- The average size of reporting CHCs is 16 appointees with an average of 5 meetings per year.
- CHCs provide an average of 1,618 volunteer hours per year.
- CHCs participate in a wide range of preservation activities, some of which are noted below.

| Select preservation activity based on 197 CHC reports for 2022 year of service | # of Participating CHCs |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of subject markers | 117 |
| Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of cemeteries | 105 |
| Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of designated properties (RTHL, NR, SAL) | 75 |
| Promoted historic and cultural sites to sustain heritage tourism initiatives | 70 |
| Coordinated or participated in a regional preservation or tourism event | 53 |
| Provided educational events/presentations to the public and youth | 100 |
| Cleaned or repaired subject markers | 68 |
| Operated/maintained an archive or research library for public use | 48 |
| Provided tours of historic buildings and/or sites within the county | 69 |

* Current estimated volunteer hourly rate is \$31.80 as per independentsector.org.

Reporting data as of 5/12/23

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) administers annual Distinguished Service Awards (DSAs) to County Historical Commissions (CHCs) that demonstrate exceptional service to preserve Texas history. The presentation of the DSA certificate takes place locally. The following information is provided to county officials and CHC appointees to assist in recognizing this achievement.

DSA Ceremony

Traditionally, county judges present the DSA certificate to CHC appointees during a formal commissioners court meeting. Work with appointees to provide sufficient notice of the meeting date/time so appointees can attend. If an in-person ceremony is not feasible, work with your CHC on implementing ideas noted below that will bring attention to the extraordinary efforts of your appointees.

DSA Press Release

Publicizing the award is an easy and effective way to promote county government and the services your CHC provides to the public. Enclosed in this mailer is a template for a DSA press release that may be distributed to local and regional media outlets once it is modified with your county/CHC information. An electronic copy of the press release is provided at the following: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/information-2022-dsa-winning-chcs>.

Social Media Promotion

Websites and social media platforms can be used to publicize the award effectively and inexpensively. Most counties have a web presence, and many CHCs host a social media page. Additionally, there are community partners such as museums, chambers of commerce, and Main Street programs who manage social media platforms that would be willing to share news of the award. Work with your CHC and partners to share specific accomplishments with the public.

Expressions of Gratitude

CHC Outreach Program staff have worked with appointees since 2008. In this time, we have found that a sincere statement of appreciation is valued greatly by appointees, especially when comments come from county officials. Consider contacting your appointees in-person, via phone, a note on county letterhead, etc. to say thank you.

Questions

Contact your CHC chair for information about their specific efforts. Questions about the award process can be directed to CHC Outreach Program Coordinator, Nano Calderon, at nano.calderon@thc.texas.gov.

