

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The reins of leadership of the Federal Court Clerks' Association have now passed from my friend, Joe Haas' hands, to my own. While this is a figurative transfer, the weight of the transferred responsibility is evident. Yet, the anticipation of the challenges before us, the possible opportunities for our membership and courts as well as the great team I have to work with make the responsibility of being President more than worthwhile. Indeed, I see the office as a high honor, especially when considering all the great presidents we have had over the last 75 years. I want to thank the Judges of the Western District of Kentucky for giving me the opportunity to serve as Clerk of Court, and both the Judges and Staff for giving me the support I need to carry-out the duties of this position. Having 95% of my office staff as members really helps. Also, I want to thank the members of the FCCA that made my election a possibility. I'll do my best for you!

The Orlando conference was a great success. "Team Orlando" truly was a team in every sense of the word. Chief Judge Fawsett, Magistrate Judge Jenkins, Sheryl Loesch and her staff made us all feel welcome and relaxed. The educational agenda was excellent and the very important guests from the Administrative Office, Federal Judicial Center, Croatian Judges' Association and International Consultants helped to foster a unique and exciting conference. I would definitely rate this conference as one of my top three.

There were several changes that occurred during and immediately after the conference. Sheryl Loesch, Clerk of Court for the Middle District of Florida, was elected to the Office of President-Elect and Elizabeth Davis, District of New Mexico, was elected to the Office of Secretary. Nancy Hermer, Eastern District of California, was elected as Ninth Circuit Board Representative, Virginia Hurley, District of Massachusetts as First Circuit Board Representative and John Zingo as Ninth Circuit Board Representative. After the conference, I appointed Yvonne Goodloe, Chief Deputy of the Middle District of Alabama, to be the Eleventh Circuit Board Representative and Steve Ludwig to be the Seventh Circuit Board Representative. I also appointed Bill McCool to be Clerk's Council Chair. All are well qualified for these positions. Many thanks go to all those that ran for election, even though not all won individually, the organization won because of your efforts.

After the conference was held, I made several other calls to members asking if they would serve on ad hoc committees. Linda Wade, Web Administrator for the Middle District of Florida, has been appointed as FCCA Web Administrator. Ralph DeLoach is the chair of our Ad Hoc Committee for International Relations and I have appointed several members to be chairs of ad hoc specialized function committees. So far, I have confirmed that Brenda Steutermann will chair Finance, Jim Murphy will chair Chief Deputies, Eileen Levine will chair Courtroom Deputies/Case Managers, Amy Hickox will chair Intake (Public Service), Joanne Cook will chair Jury, Phil Westerman will chair Procurement and Saundra O'Hara will serve on Budget chair. I have two more chairs that I have yet to confirm.

I am extremely pleased to report that Pam Twiford will continue as Membership chair, Pat McNutt will assume the duty of Managing Editor, Linda Lee will stay as Site-Selection

chair, Kay Mixon will co-chair the Senior's Committee with Rosalie Womack, Sheryl Loesch will chair Long-Range Planning, John Zingo will chair Finance, Sue Rigan will continue to chair Awards and Ian Keye will stay on as Professional Development chair.

Once the organizational efforts are complete, I'd like to pursue an agenda that improves benefits for our members, increases international networking with clerk's organizations around the world (Bulgaria wants to be our sister organization), create opportunities for involvement for our members nationally and increase educational opportunities for our members by working hand in hand with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Federal Judicial Center.

In order to achieve these goals, I will need everyone's support. The first step will be to strengthen our organization by increasing membership. Hopefully, the organizational efforts we have made will assist Pam in our membership campaign.

I've always believed that the Federal Court Clerks' Association is uniquely positioned to do great things. We have the members that can make it happen with the added benefit of working for one of the greatest institutions ever dedicated to the proposition of equal justice under the law. A place where all citizens of all races and nationalities can come to resolve disputes in a civil way without violence. A proposition that judges like Vladimir Gredelj so fervently believe in and for which he has placed his own freedom on the line for. Ultimately, because we are an institution of ideas and people, I want to help make our employees better so that our founders' ideas continue to evolve. The FCCA is a means to this end.