

Publications Committee Report

John Warren & Kristy Harris

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publications Committee, unfortunately consists of only two members, John Warren, Board Liaison, and Kristy Harris, Committee Chair. In January 2004, we took over this committee with the desire and goal to improve not only the Journal, but to give TACA more exposure throughout the Judicial community as well.

Over the past months, the members have seen a drastic improvement in the look and content of the Journal.

- (1.) Our objective was to get members to not simply place the Journal in a pile along with other discards, but to read it. We changed the cover in an effort to draw attention to the Journal. Counties throughout the state of Texas have beautifully designed, and historic courthouses, which not only draw the attention of native Texans, but other visitors as well. We initially intended to display one courthouse per issue. Due to the Journal only being printed quarterly, we felt that it would be fair to our members if we displayed four courthouses per issue. That way, most, if not all, of our counties are represented.

For 2005, we would like to improve the cover further by asking members to submit a photo of their courthouse along with its history. We plan to then feature one courthouse on the cover with its unique history printed inside, which we will call our "Cover Story." We also plan to feature members who have made outstanding accomplishments on the cover as well.

- (2.) Inside the Journal, we have not only added features, such as judicial and member profiles, but also articles that would be useful tools for our members. With each issue, we have attempted to include information that would be beneficial to members, whether they work in family, civil, juvenile, criminal, or general jurisdiction courts. Our objective is to make our members completely aware of pertinent events pertaining to our courts, such as changes in the law, improving case flow management, as well as core competency guidelines.

We hope that in the upcoming year, we will have more members join us in providing this valuable publication to our members. Come join the Publication Committee for 2005!

Kristy Harris and John Warren