

# Educate Decision-Makers

## Cultivate Commitment to Preservation Through Education and Participation

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By developing relationships with elected officials, County Historical Commissions (CHC) cultivate leadership commitment to preservation. Texas' Statewide Preservation Plan promotes this proactive behavior as a way to preserve and promote historic resources for the betterment of communities statewide.



Judge David Wigley participates in Crosby CHC's Memorial Day service.

CHCs throughout Texas are educating decision-makers in their regions about the importance of preservation. For example, Bee CHC provides the county commissioners court with copies of "work product," such as their historic property inventories and historic homes calendar. CHC appointees also attend court and meet with officials to answer questions and explain details about CHC projects.

In Hood County, the CHC participated in the Texas Historical

Commission's (THC) Texas Treasure Business Award to promote businesses that have provided employment and supported the state's economy for at least 50 years. Awards were presented in county commissioners court, and legislators participated in the celebration.

The Matagorda CHC keeps county and local officials in the loop by providing a constant feed of

information about CHC activities. The CHC also used the Texas Treasure Business Award to connect state legislators to preservation projects in their county.

Other notable CHC initiatives across the state include:

- **Crosby CHC** identified a neglected historic cemetery and worked with the county commissioners court to plan appropriate repairs and provide manual labor for the work.

- **Sabine CHC** has a rotating pool of appointees who attend county commissioners court and select city council meetings to present CHC work and solicit preservation project ideas. The CHC follows up by reporting on actions taken to address officials' recommendations.
- **Waller CHC** has been successful in getting elected officials to attend CHC meetings. Additionally, they provide quarterly reports to elected officials documenting how CHC goals are met and county money is invested.
- **Wheeler CHC** visits monthly with the county judge to provide planning and activity updates, which has helped secure approval and funding from the county for CHC activities.
- **Wise CHC** repaired and repainted the THC historical markers located on the courthouse lawn, drawing the attention of county officials to CHC efforts.

If you have not already, help decision-makers in your area understand the impact of CHC work. Make the case for continued support for preservation across the state! ★

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To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.