



# County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS

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## Our Mission

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



*CHC workshop registrants worked together in regional groups during this year's Annual Historic Preservation Conference to address shared challenges.*

With the conclusion of another successful Annual Historic Preservation Conference, the County Historical Commission (CHC) Outreach team would like to thank CHC members for attending the conference, especially those who participated in the CHC workshop. After a brief overview of annual reporting results, workshop attendees separated into regional groups to discuss common issues and to share possible solutions. Participants also had the opportunity to ask questions about their roles as CHC appointees and about preservation in general. This and future editions of Tips & Tools will address the questions posed.

Several CHC members asked for recommendations on how to deal with difficult people. Since the THC relies on CHCs to be the local face of preservation, it is important that a positive impression be made on community members and to bring others into the preservation fold. To this end, here are familiar but effective ways to approach any situation:

- **Listen before you leap.** Take time to speak with the individual and give them a chance to explain why they continue to pursue an issue. Showing interest in their concerns may help put both of you at ease.
- **Take a backseat.** Try to put your personal feelings (on the issue or person) aside to address the matters at hand. Regardless of whether or not you agree with the individual, you can acknowledge their interest and try to understand their position.
- **Be slow to speak.** As a CHC member, you are not expected to have all the answers all the time. It is perfectly appropriate when confronted with a difficult issue (or person) to take time to gather your thoughts, research some options, and provide a well-worded response.
- **Take the high road.** Whether the issues are on the level or if they spiral down to personal attacks, the priority is to maintain respect for each person and to do whatever you can to show stewardship of your role and responsibilities. ★