

## Notes on suggested candidates for the Williamson County Historical Commission

Tina Steiner-Johnson; Round Rock; Precinct 1: Steiner-Johnson is a descendant of Wade Sauls, Sr., an African American land owner at the turn of the century renowned locally for his successful farming techniques. She is active with the Round Rock Black History Organization and the Round Rock Preservation Committee and volunteers with the Ambassador and Operations Committee of Rodeo Austin. Holding a Master's degree, Steiner-Johnson is a middle and high school teacher.

Jane DiGesualdo; Round Rock; Precinct 1: DiGesualdo is a wealth of historical knowledge and has participated in historical groups, according to a reliable source who also reports that she organizes excellent field trips of various historical sites and is very gifted in conversation. She is interested in joining the oral history group to interview a variety of subjects. DiGesualdo has authored a book on Round Rock and has written history columns for various publications along with recording interviews of historically interesting people.

Michael McCloskey; Round Rock; Precinct 4: McCloskey has served on five boards and commissions in Cedar Park (e.g. Planning and Zoning; Tourism Advisory; M.U.D.) and served two terms on the Texas State Republican Executive Committee. He also served as secretary for the Leander Chamber of Commerce Board for three years. He is Director of Sales for a hotel and suites in Cedar Park. McCloskey says that he drives all over Williamson County and would be very interested in helping the Historical Commission during his travels.

John Harlan; Round Rock; Precinct 4: Harlan is a retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel who was active in historical groups and events in Hilo, Hawaii (e.g. Theatre Preservation Board and Hilo Downtown Improvement Committee). With an MSW in Social Work, Harlan served as a Clinical Social Worker with the Department of Veteran Affairs for ten years following 32 years in the Army. He is very interested in Western, Texas and Civil War history and particularly, the Chisholm Trail. He is willing to volunteer a week a month or more to the Commission.

Rachel Arnold; Leander; Precinct 2: Arnold's love of genealogy sparked her interest in the history of the community. She conducted tours of the Georgetown Courthouse during the Centennial Celebration which led to her providing tours to high school students in years since then. Arnold serves as District President for Zeta Tau Alpha and is an advisor for Southwestern University's Zeta chapter. She holds a master's degree and is executive assistant for a Wilco Commissioner. She is interested in helping WCHC have a stronger social media presence.

Kelly Clark; Cedar Park; Precinct 2: Clark holds a bachelor's degree in German and History and a master's degree in Museum Studies and is interested in putting her studies to work with the Historical Commission. She is active with the Order of the Eastern Star and is dedicated to helping various charities. Clark works as a Legal Assistant.

**Suggested candidates continued**

**Mike Fowler; Hutto; Precinct 4:** Fowler is a former mayor of Hutto; the first and past Chair of Hutto Historical Preservation Commission; and the Hutto Citizen of the Year in 2006-7. He has authored several books and has an extensive resume. He is currently a real estate broker and is retired from state employment as the administrative manager with the Legislative Affairs Office, TXDOT. Fowler is very interested in historical preservation and has served with the Texas Historical Commission.

**Jan Raesz; Circleville; Precinct 4:** Raesz spent 20 years researching local, area and county history as Lifestyle Editor of the Taylor Daily Press. Recently she completed a book of biographies of the charter members of the Taylor Woman's Study Club on its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She is a fifth generation member of the Bittick family's land grant at Andice. Raesz lives on the San Gabriel River and is particularly interested in the local history of that area and in interviewing significant persons in Williamson County for the oral history project.

**Joe Burgess; Taylor; Precinct 4:** Burgess is currently President of Friends of the Moody Museum and the Taylor Economic Development Corporation Board. Earlier he served on the Taylor Main Street Board and was Chair of the Economic Restructuring Subcommittee. He also served on the Taylor Conservation and Heritage Society Historic Preservation Committee. He studied international relations at Stanford University and is involved in publishing and photojournalism. He is interested in helping to promote the county's historical sites.

**Ad Hoc. Gary Hudder; Round Rock; Precinct 4:** Hudder is Director of Transportation for the city of Round Rock. He has been involved in some historical activity and enjoyed it. He would like to learn more about the area's history.

**Respectfully submitted by,**

**Eloise Brackenridge, PhD  
Chair, Williamson County Historical Commission  
July 10, 2018**