

Texas Tattler Two

Local Officials Prepare for NCBC Conference by Closing Famous Landmark to Keep Out Riff Raff



Remember the Alamo and the sunscreen.

Conference registration has finally closed. More than 550 folks have registered to attend! We here in Texas Western are looking forward to your visit to San Antonio for this year's conference. This month's issue of the *Tattler* features a spotlight on education, some special guests, and insider information on the Western Wear Contest at the president's reception

on August 5. Also included are some helpful tips for spotting a Texas Western staff member should you need assistance during the conference.

The third and final issue of the *Tattler* in July will include registration and transportation information for your arrival in San Antonio. Come for the conference. Stay for the refreshments.

Boots and Such!

The president's reception on Tuesday, August 5, will include a special Western Wear Contest. Gussy yourself up and see if you can take home a prize in one of the following categories:

Most Authentic Cowboy

Male contestants will be judged on costume (including hats and boots) and their ability to lasso a quiche puff while riding a mechanical bull.

Most Authentic Cowgirl

Female contestants to be judged on costume and ability to make cowboys fall off the mechanical bull.

Best "Woody" and "Jessie" from *Toy Story*

Dress like the hero or heroine from *Toy Story* and you could be rewarded for your efforts. Special consideration for anyone who dresses like Mr. Potato Head in western garb. (Yes, I know Jessie was technically in *Toy Story 2* but do you really want to pull at that thread?)

DIGNITARIES FROM AO, FJC TO ADD SOME CLASS TO THE PROCEEDINGS

We are very pleased to have representatives from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Federal Judicial Center joining us at this year's conference. AO Deputy Director Jill Sayenga and FJC Deputy Director John Cooke will be in attendance and will help us kick off the conference with their remarks on



Wednesday morning. In addition, staff from the AO and FJC are once again an integral part of our educational sessions. The NCBC's relationship with the AO and FJC is one of the many reasons why our annual conference is such an excellent opportunity for our members.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNIN'



Above: Mark Hatcher has big shoes to fill as incoming president. Fortunately he has big feet.

Below: Ken Gardner prepares for final president's reception.

In planning this year's conference, we had to come up with something between the Chuck Wagon breakfasts, the NCBC lunches, and social events. Then one day we were lying around in the sun and someone said "Hey, how about some training sessions?" We instantly subdued him and beat him senseless before he could cause any more damage, but soon realized that it was in fact a fine idea. Hence the 2008 NCBC educational sessions were born.

The many offerings at this year's conference include **Negotiation and Mediation for Court Employees** by Michael Siegel to help you develop the skills for resolving conflicts and disputes. He's one smart fella.

Susan Arledge is an equally wily educator and in **Change - The One Constant in Today's Workplace** she'll be showing us how change is a process, not an event. Change is also all you've probably got left if you have teenagers.

That legendary San Antonian Lou Gil will be teaching us some manners in **Business Etiquette: Common Courtesy, Common Sense** as he takes a look at the components of the modern workplace (telephone, e-mail, meetings, semaphore, and rugby scrums) and how to use them to play nice with others.

Editor's Note: The scene depicted in the first paragraph of this story was, of course, not true. It was actually raining the day we beat him senseless.

HOW TO SPOT A TEXAS WESTERN STAFF MEMBER

Cowboy hat. Also doubles as chip bowl.

Pistol not real, but it's Texas so we have to at least look like we're packing heat.

Attire specially designed for conference events, being arrested, or passing out after social events (due to exhaustion, of course).



Authentic western gibberish. Other phrases include "Hey y'all" and "You got that right."

"San Antonio Segway" Eco-friendly but watch your boots if you're behind one of these babies.

This could be you if you don't stay properly hydrated.

SAN ANTONIO NAMED TOP FIVE FRIENDLIEST CITIES IN AMERICA

TODAY and MSNBC.com recently named San Antonio, Texas as one of the five friendliest cities in America. And we didn't even have to get them drunk to say that. According to their research more than 26 million people visit San Antonio each year and apparently they all signed up for this year's NCBC Conference. See you in August!