



A WORD FROM THE GCAT PRESIDENT

Hello to you all. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas with friends and family. 2021, what can be said about the year where the Covid-19 pandemic continued to dominate our everyday lives since day one. We all had to adapt to a new normal at home, school and at work. In late 2020 and early 2021, court hearings were held by Zoom calls or cancelled altogether causing a docket backlog, which we are currently dealing with late in the year. Payment plans need to be set up and monitored for compliance, fines and court costs still need to be collected. Despite the hardships the pandemic has placed on everyone, we as Collectors have a job to do and this pandemic is not making it any easier on us. With staff shortages at local businesses, help wanted signs are everywhere, yet a good majority of defendants do not want to work and fees remain unpaid. What has your Collections department done to keep afloat during these trying times?

If you attended the 2021 GCAT conference held in Allen Texas, I hope you were able to use some of the valuable information provided to you by El Paso Municipal Court and their innovative collection practices. Kerr County showing you how to get the money from the inmate trust fund. Brazos and Burnet County's court practices on dealing with Covid-19 just to name a few. I sincerely hope you were able to take this information and apply it to your business practices.

2020 was awful, 2021 was not much better... What is in store for 2022? I think we should all celebrate how we made it to 2022 in one piece. I've learned that you can get through bad times and keep looking for better ones as long as we have friends, family and colleagues around who believe in us. Have a Happy New Year!!! ~ Andrea

GCAT CONFERENCE UPDATES

The 2022 GCAT conference September 6 through 9th at the Drury Hotel in San Antonio Texas! The Drury Hotel has hosted our GCAT conference in the past and is one of our favorites due to their hospitality and they are located on the San Antonio River walk. We are working on the conference details which will be posted on the website here in the coming months. If you know of a speaker, whom you think would be an excellent addition to our conference or a topic of interest you think would be beneficial to our organization, or would like to be a presenter, please reach out to me at andrea.weilacher@dentoncounty.gov.

GCAT MEMBERSHIP

The 2022 GCAT membership invoices have been mailed out to all of our active members for renewal. If you have not paid your 2020/2021 membership dues and did not receive an invoice for 2022 and want to continue your GCAT membership, please reach out to me by email at andrea.weilacher@dentoncounty.gov. Gcat membership

GCAT BOARD

We would like to announce our newest GCAT Board Member Ernest Gonzalez from Hidalgo County. Ernest will be our alternate board member at large and has been a member of GCAT for many years. Congratulations Ernest!!!