



Governmental Collectors Association of Texas January 2021 Newsletter

GCAT Board Announcements

It is an understatement to say we faced a variety of hardships in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic affected us in many ways, personally, professionally and even politically. While many of us have different political views, it is important to remember that we are all in this together.

In light of Texas still being under certain restrictions due to COVID-19, we as a board have decided to postpone the May GCAT conference, yet again, to September 14-17, 2021. The location and hotel has not changed. It will still be in Allen Texas. The GCAT website will be updated soon as we just finalized the changes with the hotel.

With that being said, this is a legislative year and we are closely monitoring any changes that may affect Texas collections and compliance. Having the GCAT conference in September will allow us to discuss and teach on those changes, if any, that will impact all of our collection programs. Now more than ever, GCAT is here to offer you advice when you need it most.

In Memory

It saddens me to inform you of the passing of one of our former GCAT board members and Regional Collection Specialist for the Office of Court Administration, Lee E. Keeton Jr. Lee was instrumental in implementing the collections program for Harris County, which is still utilized today. He was the Regional Collection Specialist for the Houston Region up until he retired in 2017. Lee will surely be missed by all who knew him.



<https://www.mccoyandharrison.com/lee-keeton-jr-1948-2021/>

Membership Fees

GCAT membership renewal invoices were mailed out earlier this month. The cutoff date to get those paid is April 15, 2021. Please note that if your membership fees are not received before this due date, you will not be eligible to vote in the upcoming election. New member fees are regularly \$150.00 per person but we are having a limited time special, two new members for \$150 until March 31, 2021. If you have not received your invoice, please email me at andrea.weilacher@dentoncounty.gov so that I can send you another. If you know of a member who is no longer working in your department or a new employee has replaced them, please let me know so that I may update our records.

GCAT Conference Updates

The GCAT board thought it best to postpone our May conference to the week of September 14-17, 2021 due to COVID restrictions. Our GCAT website will be updated soon with the new information.

We all know what a strain this pandemic has put on our county and municipality budgets and with the being a Legislative year, it is so important that you all get the most up to date information available pertaining to Texas collections and compliance. The board has agreed to lower the cost of the 2021 conference. The costs for members will be lowered to \$150 and non-members to \$200. We are hoping that the lowered conference cost will help increase our member attendance during this difficult time. As always, you may apply for a scholarship to help defer the costs.

Five scholarships are available this year. The scholarship will cover your GCAT 2021 Conference Registration fee only. The criteria is a 150-200 word description of how attending the 2021 GCAT conference will benefit you, your city or county. Email all essays to Andrea Weilacher at andrea.weilacher@dentoncounty.gov and Tanya Skinner at tiskinner@brazoscountytexas.gov.

Award Nominees

If you would like to nominate an outstanding individual or Collections department for a GCAT award, please email Stephanie McCormick smccormick@burnetcountytexas.org or Shawna Goerlitz SGoerlitz@brazoscountytexas.gov. More detailed information about each award may be found on the GCAT website. <http://govcat.net/awards.html>