



# Gavel & Badge

*The Official Newsletter for the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association*

## *In This Issue*

*A Year in Review*  
President Matt Wylie discusses his Presidency for the 2021-2022 year

JPCA Conference

JPCA Conference Sponsors

Bylaw Changes

Spotlight County

Chaplin Corner

Bereavement

Congratulations Graduates

## A Year in Review with President Matt Wylie



Being the President for JPCA for the 2021-2022 has been an honor and privilege. One of the best parts of being your president was being more inclusive to the entirety of JPCA. I am not an island and for JPCA to work we need everyone, from our members, to our board of directors and the executive board to work diligently and focus on what the membership needs instead of what the board wants. I know this term is only a year and I think working as a team with the executive board ultimately served our members the best, which is why we are all here! Having monthly emails go out to the executive board and making sure that we are all on the same page with where JPCA is headed has been paramount. Some of the accomplishments I am proud of have been getting new committee appointments and utilizing what our members can offer JPCA.

Getting the bylaws updated is something else I am excited to see! There is a pager committee in the bylaws, and who even has a pager anymore? It may take a couple of years to get more updates, but I am confident in the future presidents' and their continued commitment to what we have started together. We have a new Gavel and Badge with issues going out regularly. Also, I am thrilled the Justice Court Training Center now has an agreement with TCOLE to do training. This year has flown by and I am proud of what we accomplished. I could not have done it without support from our executive board, board of directors, committees and most importantly, our members.

**Thank you all for the great year!**



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### Bylaw Amendments

Bylaw Amendments will be voted on Tuesday June 28th 2022 from 8:30-11:30 during the regular business meeting at the JPCA Conference. Click the link below to see bylaw proposed amendments.

CLICK HERE



# Spotlight

## Constable Jefferson Hobbs



## Dewitt County



## Justice of the Peace Blanca S. McBride



Constable Jefferson Hobbs is a newly-elected constable, serving in DeWitt County, Pct.2. Constable Hobbs won his primary election in 2020 to fill an unexpired term and took office in January 2021. Like many offices in the last two years, Constable Hobbs has adopted Zoom technology to his office's advantage, especially with truancy cases. " We've been able to deal with students that have truancy, appear in court without losing much instructional time if they are at school on court days." Even though Constable Hobbs is new to the role, he's listening to constituent feedback and expanding a Law Enforcement presence in previously underserved areas of his precinct like Yorktown. When asked about advice for new Constables or those considering getting into the role, Constable Hobbs offered this advice. " Mentally prepare yourself for the political side of things." Constable Hobbs is doing great things in DeWitt County and is excited about what's to come in Pct.2!

Judge Blanca McBride came to the office of the Justice of the Peace 41/2 years ago. She has taken the bull by the horns and really tackled some issues. Since her time in office she initiated the change for a new debt collection agency that has made her office as well as others not only more efficient, but also has created more revenue for the county. She has been a huge proponent for technological advances that not only help give access to the public, but also help her and her staff operate better.

Due to budgetary issues, Judge McBride also doubles as a civil clerk on top of her judicial role.

One interesting fact about Judge McBride was in August of 2020, she was able to become a kidney donor for her sister in law. "For me, that is a very proud moment, where you can truly feel like you helped save a life." Her sister in law is now thriving and doing great.

# Chaplin's CORNER

Why do you think living by faith important?

Matthew 21:21 says, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done."

One commentary said, "The purpose of faith is to believe in oneself and allow God to come into your life and take control."

Some folks believe in the power of positive thinking which they say is an expression of faith. The example would be "If you are a positive thinker, you attract good things because you believe and expect in good things to come". And if that be true the opposite could be true, when you believe and expect bad things to come, you also attract that into our lives. They say, "you need faith that is the pathway for abundance, therefore think on these things in your mind."

What about this kind of faith from Matt 6:32-34?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

We live in a world today that challenges our faith for sure, but I submit that God is still on his throne and in control. *May God richly bless you as he helps you and your faith.*

## Bereavement

As we mourn for the families and the great loss in the Uvalde community, let us also remember Eulalio "Lalo" Diaz, Jr, Justice of the Peace in Uvalde County. He faced an unparalleled tragedy with unwavering dignity and professionalism. Our hearts and prayers continue to be with him and his community.

*"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us." - Helen Keller*

## Congratulations! GRADUATES

CONSTABLE MATT WYLIE  
GRADUATED IN DECEMBER 2021  
JOHNSON COUNTY PRECINCT 1  
BACHELORS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

DEPUTY CONSTABLE ROBERT M. CANTU JR  
GRADUATED IN MAY 2021  
TRAVIS COUNTY PRECINCT 5  
MASTERS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

JUDGE MIKE MISSIDINE  
GRADUATE IN FEBRUARY 2021  
COLLIN COUNTY PRECINCT 3  
PHD IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY