



Hello GSHA Members,

Wow!! What a conference! Had a great time, met new cousins and made new friends and that's always one part of what makes GSHA conferences so great. The other is the superb speakers and presenters. We all benefit from their expertise and knowledge. I always walk away after the conference feeling a little bit prouder and a little bit more connected to the wider world.

There are many, many people that Charlene and I would like to thank, so bear with us.

First and foremost, to Charlene Garcia Simms, thank you for the excellent line-up of speakers and presenters. You really have a handle on who's who and you always have a sense of the right theme for GSHA conferences. As her partner in this endeavor, I could not have done what I did without her guidance. We both had our *Snickers* moments, but we work well together. And thank you, Charlene, for being GSHA President. It is sometimes a lonely job, but you stepped forward and we all thank you for your efforts. We wish you well.

To Jessica Tidball, what can we say? She was our savior taking care of many of the details that go into planning and presenting a conference. A professional event planner, she used her expertise to bring all the parts of the conference together, like Winnie the Pooh and honey. Charlene and I couldn't have done it without her. Thanks so very much, Jessica!

To Lynda Kouba and her Banquet Committee and volunteers, what can we say? Another wow! We received so many compliments on the fantastic decorations. It did not feel like a banquet, but a festival, a celebration, a Sunday dinner at Grandma's. Great job! Thank you!

To Victor Sena, for providing the music sound system and huge library of Hispanic music. Gracias!

To Jeanette Martinez, thank you for getting the fantastic vendors; such a variety of choices for our attendees and guests. The Mountain Man Munchies and Moonbeam Jewelry were my favorites.

To Richard and Vicky Arellano, daughter Diann and granddaughter Michelle – the Fantastic Four of the Raffle table and 50/50. We gave them the items, and they ran with it. Thank you! We salute you.

To Cathy Pacheco, our 50/50 ticket seller, you did a fantastic job as an Army of One. Bless you and thank you!

To Gloria Martinez, Frank and Arleen Whatley and John and Nancy Valdez for manning the front line and the first people our members see at the registration tables; thank you!

To Frank and Arleen Whatley for providing our attendees and guests with pens and pads which are so much appreciated, again, thanks!

To Donie Nelson and Cathy Romero, for the always great conference program writing and artwork. Top notch. Thanks!

To Richard Duran, Pueblo educator and who served as our parliamentarian at the Annual Business Meeting, thank you.

To Carmen Arteaga, for leading the tour of El Movimiento presentation at the Pueblo Community College, as she played a vital role in the cause. Gracias! Viva Carmen!

To our photographers, David Lee Torrez and Richard Gallegos, muchas gracias for making us look so good!

To Tom Martinez, Rory Kouba, Abel Santistevan, Carolyn Cordova, Cecilia Brewart, Cece Newman, Don Bruestle, Ed Frushour and all those we may have missed, we extend our appreciation and thanks. Charlene and I may have planned the conference, but all of you made it work.

To the Pueblo City/County Library District for the free use of its great rooms, audio/video equipment and IT staff expertise. We're especially grateful to the library for donating the printing of the conference program and signage as needed. GSHA members are forever grateful.

We also would like to thank the Library security staff, the maintenance department crew for set-up and the library staff that guided our members and guests to the right areas of our conference.

And lastly, but not least, this year we introduced three high school students, as intern volunteers. We have spoken in the past, of getting younger people involved with GSHA. I was approached by a FACC member, if there was any way her grandson could help at the conference, I ended up putting a call out for other students that might be interested in being involved with our conference. It was short notice, but we recruited three young men. I felt it was important, that they learn how a conference is planned and the mechanics and logistics during the conference, as well as learning what genealogy was. These three young men were of invaluable help to us and I strongly recommend we continue this effort. With a great debt, we Thank, Jordan Valdez, Tano Gonzales and Timo Gonzales, Thank you gentleman, Great job.

Thanks to all those mentioned above, the conference was a financially successful. This has helped stabilize GSHA's financial condition. Although we still have challenges ahead, we're confident we are on the right road.

We do not have a site for next year's conference as of this writing, but there is a planning committee exploring our options, so stay tuned.

Once again, thanks to all who assisted, attended, spread the word and prayed for the conference. You are valued and appreciated! We look forward to having you join us next year.

Sincerely,

2019 Conference Committee:

Charlene Garcia Simms and Bob Craig