

DEANNE SIEMER & HOWARD WILLENS  
THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
Legislature Building, Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: 670/322-2266

Fax: 670/322-2267

**DATE:** Thursday, Sept. 21

Number of pages in this transmission: 3

If all pages are not received, please call the number above.

**FOR:** Herman T. Guerrero,  
Chair, Post-Convention Committee

Tel: 234-0843

Fax: 234-0842

**FROM:** Deanne Siemer

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MESSAGE

Herman --

Howard is on his way down to the office for the 4 p.m. meeting.

We met with Mark Broadhurst this morning, and he agreed to publish the "President's Page" each Friday, starting tomorrow. We agreed to provide the proposed article this afternoon. Here's a draft. If you can okay it (or let me know what changes you want) I will take it over there on my way down to the office for the meeting.

We also met with Younis and Broadhurst about the proposed inserts, and Howard has a revised set with him for the Committee's review. They have both said they would begin putting the inserts in the paper on Monday if we can okay the text and they can do the layout tomorrow. We have provided them with samples in disk form (converted for their Mac computers) so they can get a head start. We will let them know that the text is okay -- or if changes are made -- after the meeting today.

Thanks.

Deanne

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As President of the Third Constitutional Convention, I thank the Saipan Tribune for making this space available as a part of the public education campaign about the proposed amendments to our Constitution.

The Post-Convention Committee has decided that the proposed constitutional amendments that were approved by the Convention will be on the ballot in the general election this November. The Pre-Convention Committee, the Convention, and the Post-Convention Committee all requested that the Legislature agree to postpone the vote on the amendments to next spring so that they would not be caught up in partisan politics during the general election. The Senate did not act before the deadline for submitting the ballot form to the Board of Elections, so the Post-Convention Committee is now committed to completing the necessary public education by November so the voters will be able to make reasoned choices about the amendments the Convention has proposed. Our education campaign is well under way already.

The ballot will contain 19 amendments -- one of each article of the Constitution that is being amended. The amendments will be numbered the same as the articles, so that Amendment No. 1 will deal with Article 1, Amendment No. 2 will deal with Article 2, and so on. The text of the ballot will show each amendment.

The Post-Convention Committee has recommended to the Board of Elections that three separate ballots be prepared -- in English, Chamorro, and Carolinian -- rather than using one long ballot containing all amendments in all languages. If this approach is adopted, each voter could specify the version of the ballot that he or she would prefer.

Beginning next week, voters will see special insert sections in this paper and other news media describing each proposed constitutional amendment. Voters should pull out these special sections and save them. Within a few weeks, all 19 amendments will have been published in full. The Post-Convention Committee has set out the full text of each article of the Constitution as the Convention proposed to amend it, and has identified very clearly each change that has been made. The text of all proposed deletions is included. These special sections are the basic materials. The Post-Convention Committee will also be publishing summary materials that identify the most important changes in an easy-to-read format.

Public meetings in each village have been scheduled and the dates and places will be publicized extensively. The Convention delegates will attend each of these meetings to explain each amendment and to answer questions.

President Agnes McPheetres has volunteered the help of the College in getting the necessary public education completed in the time remaining before the election. The College is a very important resource in our community and their help will be valuable. President McPheetres expects to appoint a coordinator shortly and will make available the College's broadcast media resources for airing education spots on the cable TV stations. Radio stations have also offered their assistance.

The Convention worked hard for 60 days to provide the public with a Constitution that would last for a very long time. We are at the point in our development as a self-governing Commonwealth where we can commit to a long-lasting Constitution. But these are not simple changes. The essential goals of the Convention delegates, such as downsizing the legislature and controlling its spending, could not be accomplished in a few words. Although the changes to the Constitution are lengthy, they are not hard to understand and they address important problems in our community.

The essential question for the voters is whether what the Constitutional Convention delegates have proposed is better than the status quo. The Convention delegates studied 620 proposals that were made during the Convention. They came up with 19 amendments. The Post-Convention Committee is confident that when the voters compare those 19 proposed amendments to the current constitutional provisions they will support what the Convention did and vote to ratify the new amendments.

Next week in this column I will explain more about what the Convention delegates did and the reasons behind the amendments. The Post-Convention Committee invites questions or requests for materials. We can be reached at our offices on the second floor, Joeten Dandan Center, Caller Box 10007, Saipan. Our telephone number is 235-0843 and our fax number is 235-0842. If your group or club would like to have Convention delegates attend a meeting to explain amendments or to answer your questions, just call and let us know when and where. All the delegates are making their time available for these meetings and we would be glad to respond.

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PROPOSED VILLAGE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AREAS INCLUDED</u>
Oct. 3 (Tues)	San Vicente Elementary (Mrs. M. Haberman)	San Vicente/Dandan/portion of Fina Sisu/As Lito/other surrounding areas
Oct. 4 (Wed)	G.T.C. Elementary (Mrs. A. Dela Cruz)	San Roque/As Matuis/other surrounding areas
Oct. 5 (Thur)	Koblerville Elementary (Mrs. M. Adriano)	Koblerville/southern As Lito/airport area/other surrounding areas
Oct. 10 (Tues)	Tanapag Elementary (Mr. George Haberman)	Tanapag/Achugao/As Mahetog/other surrounding areas
Oct. 11 (Wed)	San Antonio Elementary (Mrs. Doris Thompson)	San Antonio village/Afetna/southern Chalan Piao/other surrounding areas
Oct. 12 (Thur)	Garapan Elementary (Mrs. Lou Mendiola)	Garapan Village/Navy Hill/Puerto Rico/ portion of Sadog Tasi/Gualo Rai/other surrounding areas
Oct. 17 (Tues)	W.S.R. Elementary (Mrs. Cynthia San Nicolas)	Chalan Kanoa Dist. Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4/ Susupe/portion of Fina Sisu/ portion of Chalan Piao/other surrounding areas
Oct. 18 (Wed)	Oleai Elementary (Mrs. Evelyn Manglona)	San Jose Village/Chalan Kiya/Chalan Laulau/Quarter Master/other surrounding areas
Oct. 19 (Thur)	Convention Center (Mrs. Maggie Wonenberg)	Capitol Hill/Kagman/portion of Sadog Tasi/other surrounding areas

Oct. 6 (Wed) NMC  
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Northern Marianas College