

by Herman T. Guerrero, Chair  
Post Convention Committee

This is my last column regarding the work of the Third Constitutional Convention. The time for explanation and debate is over. The matter is now in the hands of the voters -- and we urge them to come out and vote.

### **THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE PUBLIC MEETINGS**

To those of you who attended the public meetings, our thanks for taking the time to participate. All of the delegates who were at these public meetings were impressed by the high level of interest in the proposed amendments expressed by the participants. There were many, many questions that raised important issues. We tried to answer them all -- to the best of our ability -- and we believe that the meetings were a very successful part of the public education program.

### **THANKS TO THE MEDIA**

We are very appreciative of the space that this paper and others have devoted to coverage of the Convention and the proposed amendments. This has been a very important part of the public education program. Saipan Cable and MCV have been very helpful in organizing talk shows at which the delegates and their critics have been given the opportunity to explain and debate the amendments. The radio stations have helped with public service announcements and airing statements pro and con. Thanks to the media, this has been by far the most extensively covered political event in the history of the Commonwealth.

### **THANKS TO OUR CRITICS**

To those of you who have written or spoken out in opposition to one or more amendments, thanks for your contribution to the debate. The public education program benefits from hearing everyone's views and the voters will be better informed as a result when they cast their ballots. (This is not to say, of course, that we agree with you!)

### **THANKS TO THE DELEGATES AND STAFF**

I am very appreciative of the support I have received from the members of the Post Convention Committee and the other delegates who have participated so energetically in the public education program. The 26 meetings for villages, government offices, and business groups required hundreds of hours of volunteer time from the delegates. Our loyal staff kept our offices open 10 hours a day and made sure everyone had the publications and information that they needed.

## **THANKS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR**

The Convention owes a great deal to the generosity of the Commonwealth Legislature, which appropriated the funds for the Convention. They were kind enough to let us use their facilities during the Convention sessions last summer, although that caused them a good deal of inconvenience. Our thanks to the Speaker and the President of the Senate. The Governor also has helped us do our job, both through assistance on funding and support for our political education program.

## **AND LAST -- THANKS TO THE VOTERS**

We did our work as well as we could -- so that you, the voters, would have a clear set of decisions to make about the future of the Commonwealth. All the delegates care deeply about this community. It is ours - as it is yours. We know that your votes will be cast with that in mind and we look forward to your decision

**SI YUUS MAASE, GHILISOW, AND THANKS**