FACC President Bea Meeks, MMC, CPM, CBTO

First, I would like to thank Pamela Latimore for a wonderful year under her leadership. We are all on this “journey to leadership together.”

A few years ago, I received a call from Lakeland City Clerk Kelly Koos. She called to tell me that I would make a good FACC VP and I need to put my name into the hat. I was tempted to ask Kelly if she had begun using drugs, or perhaps drinking…. A lot! I took it as a compliment when Kelly called me. You see Kelly and I went through the clerk's academy together many years back. She is positive proof as to why we need to engage ourselves with other clerks when we attend the Summer Conference and Academy, Fall Academy or IIMC Conferences. She is the reason I am standing before you today as your FACC president, so if I don't do a good job, just blame it on Kelly!

As I said, I took it as a compliment that Kelly reached out to me because she is an FACC past president. Kelly did a wonderful job as president and as I look around this room, I see other past presidents who have laid the groundwork for me. Quite a few of them I served under as the FACC legislative chair and I appreciate their confidence in me. All these past presidents were different. All had their own leadership skills and all were committed to leaving their term as president in a good place. I am grateful to become part of their legacy and humbled that many of them have reached out to me with their support. This means more than they know, and I am going to hold them to it.

Over the years, a lot of you have spoken with me while getting your coffee and breakfast in the morning before our conference sessions. Over the years, I made it a habit to meet as many of you as I could. I surprised some of you, others I think I might have woken up, and a few of you I have continued to fellowship with at our conferences; haven’t I Claudine Anthony, Liz Beckford and Lisa Morris?

Networking at FACC is probably the most valuable tool you have at conferences and academies; I learned that quickly when I attended my first academy in 1999. I still network with Kelly Koos, Julie Hennessy, Betsy Driggers, Dorothy Burkhalter, Nancy Barnett (before her retirement) and Donna Gardner, to name a few. Yes, I remember these clerks and I have learned from them and hope they have learned from me. It’s all about communication and membership engagement. I believe FACC’s success is membership engagement and this is what I want to focus on this year as your president.

I want FACC members to be engaged in our Summer Conference and Academy, Fall Academy, and IIMC Conferences, particularly since we are hosting the Region III Conference in 2020 in Orlando. I want you to be engaged by making it a practice to read our weekly newsletter and know what’s going on. This year I want to add to our newsletter a highlight of our different committees. I want clerks to be aware of what these committees do, who is on the committee and what these committees do to advance FACC. And, I want you to serve on one of these committees. If you haven’t, sign up and participate.
Yes, my goal this year is membership engagement. I challenge you this week to talk to at least five clerks you don’t know, and that includes me. You see our past president, president-elect, vice president and district directors here on this platform with me, take a moment to talk to them this week and find out why they stepped up and took a leadership role in FACC. You never know, what they might say to influence you to set a goal to become a part of this board. If that’s the case, don’t blink, I did and here I stand before you now as your FACC president.

Thank you everyone…now….let the journey continue.