

**DISCUSSIONS WITH DANETTE**  
**Volume 3**  
**Danette Ross Watson, TAM President**

*“We cannot become what we need to be by remaining who we are.”*  
*Max de Pree*

Greetings, TAMily!

I hope you all had a very relaxing and safe Labor Day holiday weekend.

First of all, I want to thank Angela St. Julien for these amazing newsletters! She has revamped and enhanced our publication, and I could not be happier! We have a bit of humor, information, and education—a little something for every palate.

Most of you who know me know I can be very expressive, and I must tell you I am full of anticipation for next year’s conference—like a kid at Christmas! I can hardly wait! The speakers who have submitted requests for proposals are some of the best in our field. I am delighted to report that Elaine Garcia, Elizabeth “Sissy” Preston, Patricia Bradley, and your TAM Board have been hard at work to make San Antonio 2023 the best TAM conference ever! The Riverwalk is enjoyed by millions each year and is one of my favorite spots in Texas. I look forward to being in the heart of San Antonio at the Grand Hyatt Hotel March 24-25, 2023. If you have not made your hotel reservations yet, please don’t delay another moment.

I am also proud to report that your TAM Board has begun planning for future conferences as well: Dallas 2024 and El Paso 2025! Yes, I said El Paso 2025! Let’s pull out that piggy bank and get ready to take a trip to the west Texas region. Conference Co-Chairs Barry Ross and Vic Buchanon for Dallas and Marisa Quintanilla and Ted Ramirez for El Paso, respectively, are gearing up to find venues and dates. Much more to come!

After all I have shared, I want to hear from you. We have several committees our TAM Board has organized and developed to help get you more involved in the life of our organization. We invite you to contact us and join one of these committees: Grants, Programs and Events, Outreach, Membership, Social Media (combined with Marketing and Advertising), and Newsletter. This is a great opportunity to be an extension of your TAM Board. Please contact [tamadmin@gmail.com](mailto:tamadmin@gmail.com) if you are interested in working with any of these committees or if you would like to share your ideas for TAM.

On another note, I am mindful we are approaching a crucial time in our country—mid-term elections in November. As the Executive Director of the West Texas Community Mediation Center, I have created Youth Empowerment Sessions (YES Program). The YES Program will have mentoring sessions that include a civic responsibility session. It is my belief that all those of voting age will benefit from such sessions. My hope is that developing and promoting the ideal of being part of a democratic society means you **MUST** vote. It is not a choice; it should be an obligation. Please take this to heart and vote in the upcoming elections in your jurisdiction.

Finally, I want to personally invite members who have not yet joined us for a TAM Talk to register for this month’s TAM Talk on September 22 at 4:00pm. Our cohost and presenter will be TAM Board member Vic Buchanon. He will share with us from his vast experience in workplace mediation. You won’t want to miss this one! (TAM Talks are a TAM benefit for members only. If you have not yet joined TAM, our TAM Talks are another great reason to join us today.)

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your President.

*Danette*