

Dear Hill Country Chapter Members:

We hope everyone experienced a wonderful summer and is enjoying our fall weather, despite it not arriving until half-way through our fall! We suspect y'all are enjoying these cooler temperatures almost as much as the recent rain. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for more of the same as we finish fall and welcome winter.

We appreciate those of you who were able to join us for our Fall Luncheon, Sept 10 at Casa do Brasil. Photos of the event can be found in the "Event Photo Gallery" at the bottom of our website's home page [HCC Home](#) or here: [Fall Luncheon](#). About 40 of us were joined by Lauren King, Matt Charmichael, and Fauye Bennett from Chevron's Texas State Government Affairs office in Austin. Their presentation and Q&A session covered a wide variety of topics with a focus on Texas politics and the regulatory environment, while also discussing Chevron's current organizational changes. Some of the highlights included:

- Chevron's legislative and regulatory priorities for 2025.
- The recently completed 89th Texas Legislature, including the special session from mid-July to mid-August focused on redistricting.
- Texas demographics with roughly 70% of population in the 3 largest metro areas of Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, and San Antonio-Austin. Most of the current Texas population growth is in the metro areas which is expected to shift the geographic representation in the legislature over the next few years.
- Chevron and most of the Texas energy industry support Proposition 4 on the Nov 4 ballot as a critical investment in water infrastructure needed for ongoing economic growth and industrial operations in the state.
- Chevron extended an invitation for HCC Members to participate in the next "Texas Energy Day" in early 2027. This event is co-sponsored by Chevron in support of the Energy Industry's legislative priorities – we plan to be there.

We also appreciate all of you who were able to join us for bird-watching October 15th and 22nd at the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory. The dry weather in August and September reduced the typical numbers of birds, although we found plenty of waterfowl and ended up with positive IDs for 48 species for the two days combined, with the Merlin app identifying 5 more via sound recording that we were unable to confirm with observation. Photos of the activity are posted in the "Event Photo Gallery" at the bottom of our home page [HCC Home](#) or here [Hornsby Bend Birdwatching](#). A special thank you to Elaine Cowley and Shelton Malzar for the amazing bird photos!

We plan to continue outdoor activities for our chapter based on the positive feedback we have received from the Honey Creek hikes and Hornsby Bend bird watching. Our next planned activity for the outdoors will be another hike led by our Treasurer and favorite guide Ed Van Reet at the [Canyon Lake Gorge](#) in the Spring of 2026. Ed is also

a geologists, and the Gorge is one of the best opportunities to study the Texas Hill Country geology including dinosaur tracks and perfectly preserved fossils, exposed for the first time in millions of years by a flood in 2002. Please watch for the invite about a month before our hike.

As you likely know by now, the Chevron Retirees Association upgraded their website earlier this year: [Home | Chevron Retirees](#) The site has improved functionality with some of the more popular sections being: PUBLICATIONS with access to Encore, Benefits Corner and Tidbits; IN-MEMORIAM that now has a search function organized by company, year, and month; and RESOURCES with a wide variety of interesting and useful information. The Hill Country Chapter followed CRA's lead with a new, lower cost and improved functionality website in June: [HCC Home | Chevron Retirees](#). In June, some of you were able to join us for a Zoom call discussion led by Jim Bonwell who is the CRA Benefits Committee Chair, and webmaster for both the CRA and HCC websites. Jim did a nice job covering some of the features of the new CRA website including how to use [BenefitConnect](#). If you are interested in watching a 35 minute video of the call it is posted in the newsletter section of our website, or just click here: [review new CRA and HCC websites](#). We hope you like the look and usability of our new site and would appreciate any feedback or suggestions you may have by sending us a note at hccretirees@gmail.com.

Finally, we hope you had an opportunity to read the latest edition of Encore: [Q4 2025 Encore](#) featuring our very own Jeff St. Clair. Jeff's extensive volunteer efforts in the Highland Lakes area received well-deserved recognition in the Chevron Retirees Spotlight.

...and please don't forget about our annual Holiday Luncheon coming soon on December 3rd in San Antonio. Look for an email invitation within the next week.

'Hope to see y'all soon,

Hill Country Chapter Board