

**John C. Ackerman**

Tazewell County Board

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

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**\*\*\* Press Release \*\*\***

## **Representatives Responsibility to Communicate**

Over the past few months I have noticing a growing new trend. Tazewell County Board Members Melvin Stanford and Russ Crawford have expanded their Facebook pages to cover political discussions with their constituents.

Over in McLean County, my good friend Kathy Michael has closed her successful blog, McPundit, due to her election as McLean County Clerk but has started a new one aimed not at political discussion but as a way to communicate about the operation of her new position.

Also in McLean County, newly elected County Board Member Susan Schaffer is currently building a website to communicate with her constituents, using my current website as a model.

I find this increased constituent service by these elected officials refreshing and they should be rewarded for their efforts. Over the past few elections, electronic communications usage as a campaign tool has grown.

The more important step is the one being undertaken by these individuals in continuing this communication once elected. Too many times we see individuals that make the effort to be seen or heard when they are up for election, but afterwards they could care less about what the people want.

It is time we hold our elected officials more responsible for continued communication. After all, they chose to be elected as a representative of the people and a large part of that responsibility is listening to what your constituents want. If good, clear, ongoing communication with the electorate is not a priority with these individuals, what is their main priority, other than getting elected/appointed?

As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you on the Tazewell County Board and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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