

February 20, 2026

Mayor and Council Members,

On behalf of the Texas Gulf Coast Press Association (TGCPA) and the South Texas Press Association (STPA), I am pleased to share that our joint convention will be held in Port Lavaca for the first time in history on April 16–18, 2026.

The Texas Gulf Coast Press Association has served Texas newspapers for 88 years, and the South Texas Press Association has proudly represented its members for 100 years. These nonprofit organizations are comprised of newspaper publishers, editors, and media professionals from communities across the state. We are excited to welcome these groups to Port Lavaca and to showcase the hospitality, charm, and coastal beauty our community offers.

In order to provide a warm welcome and highlight our city's amenities, we respectfully request:

- **Use of the Nautical Landings Meeting Room and Deck** on Thursday, April 16, 2026, for a Welcome Reception.
- **Use of the Lighthouse Beach Pavilion** on Friday, April 17, 2026, for an evening event.

On behalf of the TGCPA Board and STPA board, I respectfully request a waiver of facility rental fees for these events, with the exception of the required alcohol-in-the-park fee.

Hosting this historic joint convention presents a meaningful opportunity for economic impact and positive statewide exposure for Port Lavaca. Attendees will include newspaper leaders from across Texas, many of whom influence tourism coverage, community features, and regional reporting. This event allows us to demonstrate firsthand the strength, hospitality, and vibrancy of our city.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to welcoming these distinguished organizations to Port Lavaca.

Respectfully submitted,



Schelly Bartels

Publisher, *The Port Lavaca Wave*

Board Member, Texas Gulf Coast Press Association