

Appreciating Our Big, Chivalrous ICC Family

*By Traci McLaughlin, e-Codes Assistant
International Code Council, Birmingham District Office*

Chivalry is still alive and well in Texas! I recently witnessed this honorable behavior, displayed by one of our Chapter members, on my way home from the Annual Conference in Reno. I would like to share with you that story.



Traci McLaughlin

Arriving in the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, en route back home after working a full week of events, I was indeed ready to plant my feet back in Alabama. Unfortunately, the thought was short-lived when I realized that my connecting flight to Birmingham had already departed. It was late in the evening, there were no more flights out and the airline representative had just informed us there might not be enough hotel vouchers to go around.

During the ICC Expo at the Annual Conference, I met first-time attendee Mike Foreman. Mike is the secretary/treasurer of the North Texas Chapter. He had flown from Reno on the same flight, and he and his wife were standing nearby when the announcement was made. Seeing my distress and frustration, they offered me their home as a place to stay for the night.

As luck would have it, the airline had enough vouchers to go around and I was placed in a hotel for the evening. I thanked the Foremans for their great display of kindness. Mike's response to me was, "We are all family and that is what we do, we take care of each other."

I was struck by his answer, but then thought, "Wouldn't it be great if we all displayed that quality of character?" I am proud to know that degree of excellence is represented in our ICC family through a member like Mike Foreman—a member that I now call a friend.