

State of Texas Chapter of the HPS
Executive Council Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2021; Conducted via Zoom

Attendees:

Erich Fruchtnicht – EC Member
Jennifer Cerecero – EC Member/Committee Chair
Otu Inyang - EC Member
Matt Amen - EC Member
Tracy Tipping - EC Member
Doug Johnson – EC Member
Ken Krieger – Committee Chair
John Hageman – Committee Chair
Linda Morris – Committee Chair
Sandra Ramirez – Committee Chair
Latha Vasudevan – Committee Chair
John Hageman – Outgoing Committee Chair
Pete Hernandez – Guest
Donna Rios – Guest
Brian Kelley – Guest
Kenneth Gavlik – Guest
John Metyo – Guest
Nina Gutierrez-Garcia - Guest

Call to Order: 12:00 PM

Minutes from October 2020 EC meeting

Doug moved to approve; Seconded by Erich. All voted in favor of approving the minutes as presented,

Past-President's Report (Matthew Amen)

The pandemic put a hold on many things in the past year but the Chapter is trying to get back to normal activities. The National HPS meeting is coming up in July and wanted to try to set a date for the breakfast meeting of the STC-HPS group at the meeting. From the EC, representation will be by Ken Krieger, Latha Vasudevan, and Linda Morris. Information will be sent out to the Chapter once a final date and location is determined. Ken offered to assist with the meeting setup.

President's Report (Doug Johnson)

The virtual meeting went well and looking forward to future meetings. We had approximately 40 people attend with the maximum being 47 individuals at one time.

President-Elect's Report / Program Committee Report (Doug Johnson)

Fall Meeting 2020 Spring Meeting 2021

This was our first and hopefully last virtual meetings.

1. Both were well attended and featured out of town speakers and attendees. The major failing was the complete lack of affiliate participation.
2. The Spring meeting (2021) was a dual student and Fukushima 10-year report. Graduate students from U of Florida, with their major professor giving a dose insight on the Fukushima data.

Looking ahead this is a critical time for the Chapter.

1. We need to increase membership and participation
2. Key areas to add are from the state agencies. We need to an “in” to recruit or some fancy marketing.
3. We have planned a joint chapter-state conference for Fall 2022. This only happens if we work at it.
4. Affiliates have been injured in this last year. Healing wounds and extending our relationship is critical. The officers need to step up. Matching individual affiliates to officers or members is a method to consider.
5. We need to prepare and encourage members for National service with the commission to benefit us from that perspective.

The newsletter and webpage represent our connection with the world. We need to weaponize it.

Among issues:

1. Cleaner webpage interface
2. Timely posting of meetings. This means giving the EC a clear date of must-have information with sufficient lead time. For meetings this falls to the president elect. For elections issues, meetings, agenda and others, each responsible person needs to be working from a university accessed schedule and the president needs to be the minder.
3. Far better access to our affiliates and sponsors. They need to advertise. We can give special promotions and create another income stream in a way that satisfies them, does not create friction with other vendors and does not diminish the integrity of the webpage and the Chapter.
4. We need a lot more interaction with National. We need to exploit that relationship to our benefit and show them we can provide them with a service. This is a massive potential because they hire an agent to do their work and by nurturing a relationship, we can both go to a new level.

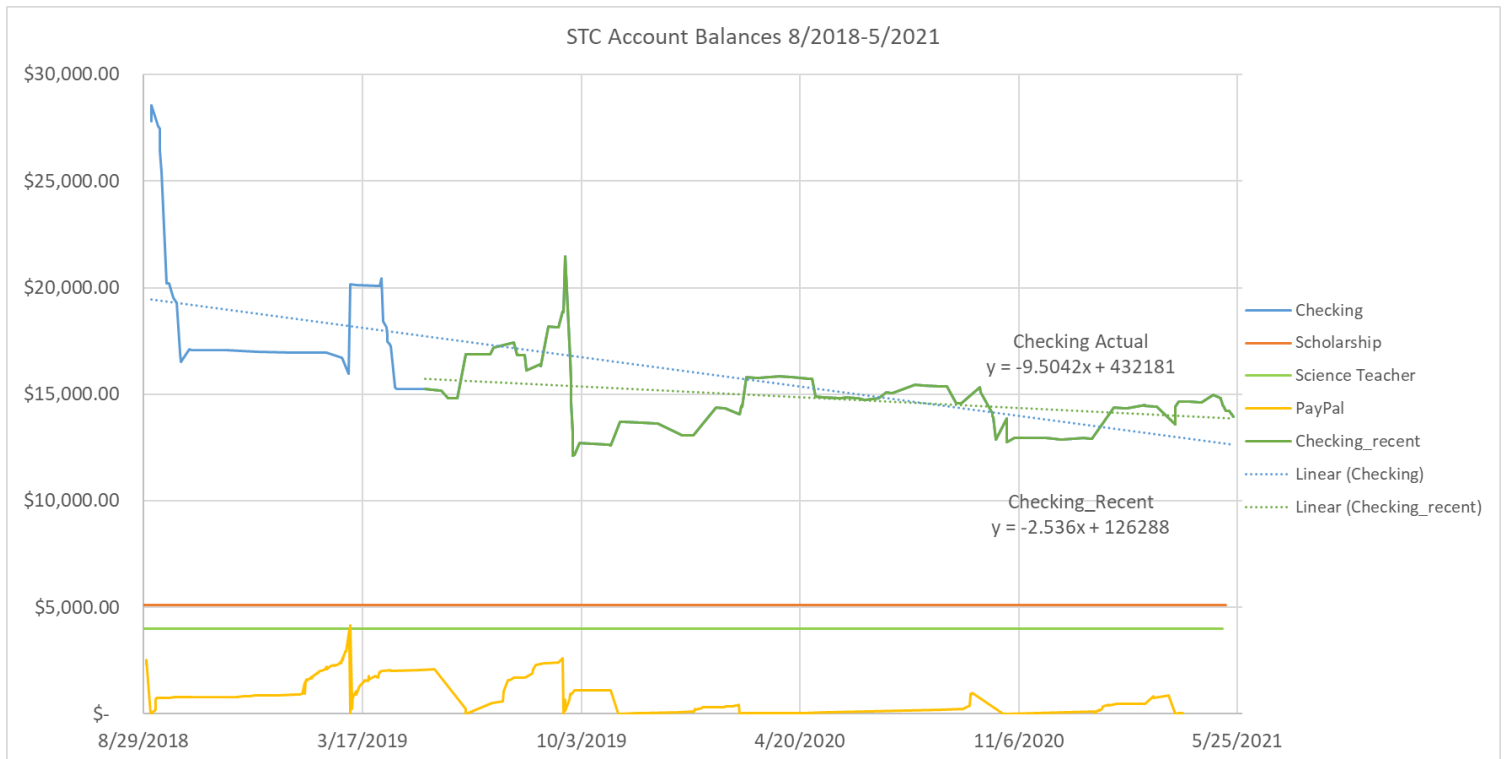
President-Elect Report

New President-Elect was just voted on and will have a report at the next meeting.

Secretary's Report (Jennifer Cerecero)

- Jennifer sent out chapter emails regarding job postings and meetings.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report (Erich Fruchtnicht)



Notes:

- Travel grants, Scholarships, Presenter Awards
 - 2021 = \$750.00 (\$150.00 in checks not yet cashed. No travel awards yet)
 - 2020 = \$3300.00
 - 2019 = \$3850.00
- Current Balances as of 5/24/2021:
 - Checking: \$13,957.38
 - Scholarship: \$5,126.98
 - Science Teacher: \$3,996.03
 - Investment account status
 - Mutual Funds: \$174,535.34 (as of 3/31/2021)
 - Cash: \$94.06 (as of 5/24/2021)
 - Lincoln Financial Group (as of 3/31/2021)
 - 699: \$10,581.69
 - 700: \$10,581.73
 - 701: \$10,595.50
- Notes on current balances
 - Income
 - 2021 (YTD) = \$3129.65
 - 2020 = \$5967.76

Otu Inyang discussed reaching out to the Affiliates to discuss a lower set of dues or incentives to increase membership/support of our Affiliates. Erich Fruchtnicht suggested that the Affiliates Chair reach out to discuss with Affiliates. The Affiliates chair will reach out to the Affiliates and discuss how we can assist them after a difficult year to increase participation that benefits them and the chapter as a whole.

Affiliate Committee Report (Jennifer Cerecero)

1. Going to send reminders to the Affiliates to pay dues
2. Will start assisting with the Affiliate Meeting in the fall. Doug Johnson mentioned to put the virtual in rear view mirror to have an Affiliates Fair in San Antonio – full meeting and get some date ideas (check on location) after discussion with the Affiliates on best dates in September 2021. Will look into a reception on a Sunday evening and meeting on Monday/Tuesday.

Student Assistance Committee Report (Linda Morris)

As I wrote last year at this time: These are challenging times! However, we were able to adjust our processes to have an active and mostly functional Student Assistance Program.

2021 Science & Engineering Fair Participation

The STC participated in three fairs this year: Dallas, Austin, and State of Texas. All fairs were in the virtual format. The fairs had uploaded images of the project boards and videos of the students describing their projects.

1. **Austin Regional Science Festival:** Shoumik Roychowdhury, Westwood High School, Austin
“Using AI to Reduce MRI Patient Exposure”
2. **Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair:** Trisha Karthi, Lawler Middle School, Frisco
COVIDAI: A Novel Deep Learning Model to Assist Radiologists in Diagnosing COVID-19”
3. **Texas Science & Engineering Fair:** Zaina Siddiqi and Rostem Ris, Academy of Science & Technology, The Woodlands
“The Effects of Curcumin on the Regeneration of *D. tigrina* Succeeding Exposure to Ionizing Radiation”

Regional winners were presented with a plaque and one-year membership. The TXSEF winners were given plaques and \$25 each. Please note that Shoumik, the Austin winner, was a presenter at our April 24th STC meeting. He was given a \$25 honorarium.

April 24th STC Student Presentation Meeting

Undergraduate winners (1st - \$250, 2nd - \$100, 3rd - \$25 each):

- 1st: Christopher Bayne, Texas A&M University
- 2nd: Justice Stewart, Texas Southern University
- 3rd: Alina Ali, Rafael Galvan, and Salman Khan, University of Houston-Downtown

Graduate winners (1st - \$250, 2nd - \$100, 3rd - \$50):

1st: Camilo Correa Alfonso, University of Florida

2nd: Sean Domal, University of Florida

3rd: Andrew Rosentrom, Texas A&M University

Student Travel Grants to National HPS Conference at Sheraton Phoenix

There have been no requests for supplemental support to attend this meeting.

2021 Education Grants

We will again be presenting \$1000 checks to the winners of STC-HPS Education Grants. We will be presenting three awards to the top candidates who must be current members of the STC, and who must be studying health physics or a closely related field. Emails were sent out today to remind educators who have students in these majors to have the applications in by the newly extended June 30th deadline. Applicants will be screened by members of the Student Assistance Committee (Linda, Latha Vasudevan, and Karen Blanchard). The checks will hopefully be presented at the Fall meeting in person.

Science Teacher Workshop Committee Report (Ken Krieger)

Two things to update:

1. Will hopefully be writing an article for the Billet regarding the transition of some meters for Texas A&M Cyclotron use towards end of summer and will loan them meters from the STC-HPS.
2. Contacting Region 12 in Waco to see if they would like to have a Science Teacher Workshop in the Waco area district.

Membership Report (Amanda Sullivan)

	Category	2021	Comments	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	Honorary Lifetime Memberships	3	Hageman, Poston, Morris	3	3	1	1	2
2	Individual Memberships	64		91	103	105	117	111
3	Student Memberships	35		12	14	12	11	62
4	Science Fair Winners	0		0	2	2	3	2
	Sub-Total	102		106	122	122	115	176

5	Affiliate Memberships	6		12	23	16	15	23
	Total	108		118	145	138	135	199

(Numbers of 2021 Members above includes New Members listed below)

New Members

Abdullah	Muhammad	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Ali	Alina M.	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Ali Haimoud	Salih	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Beke Onana	Christian Y.	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Casso	Marco A.	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Cayax	Jeff M.	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Ferguson	Eterneti K.	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Figeroa	Michael	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Galvan	Rafael B	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Garza	Araceli	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Hernandez	Ericka	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Khalil	Hafsa S	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Khan	Asad irfan	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Khuwaja	Amin A	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Kokkodil	Joshua J	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Mehta	Satya	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Mistry	Sahil D.	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Mistry	Sarang D	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Nguyen	Taylor H	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Nwogu	Jennifer c	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Omoregbee	Frank	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Palomo	Christofer	University of Houston - Downtown	Student

Rodarte Alvarez	Karina	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Rolon	Ubaldo	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Shillingford	Andrea E.	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Villalobos	Brenda	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Parker	Mary Jo	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Jiang	Mian	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Feng	Weining	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Benavides	Maria	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Jegdic	Katarina	University of Houston - Downtown	Student
Dailey	Mark	Texas A&M University - Environmental Health and Safety	Regular
Gibson	Joshua	Texas A&M University	Regular
Kuykendall	Joseph		Regular
Bekker	John Peter	The University of Texas at Austin	Regular
Hernandez	Pete	MD Anderson	Regular
Rios	Donna	TAMU TEES Nuclear Science Center	Regular
Howard	Lane	Southwest Research Institute	Regular
Honerlah	Hans	US Army Futures Command	Regular

Vote on the new members: Matt moved to approve the new members. Doug seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the new members.

Nominations Committee Report (Sandra Ramirez)

Nominations has become harder and harder each year to garner support and individuals to run. Sandra will be reaching out to everyone to assist with this and Otu congratulated her on a job well done getting individuals in office. Otu offered to help Sandra with this next year.

Public Relations Committee Report (Latha Vasudevan)

- Submitted several articles for the March 2021 billet
- Worked with Alana on getting the articles published in the billet on time.
- Judged science fair projects as “Blue Ribbon Judge” at the Texas Science and Engineering Fair on April 11, 2021.

- Reached out to National HPS and reserved the “Zoom “platform for the April meeting free of charge. Thanks to Erich Fruchtnicht for administering the virtual zoom meeting
- Solicited speakers for the virtual meeting and provided outreach activities with “deep south chapter”.
- Encouraged new staff to become a member of the chapter.
- Spearheaded the nomination request for Dr. Shaheen Dewji for the HPS director. Thanks to Tracy Tipping for a well drafted letter of support and Thanks to Matt Amen for submitting the letter of support on behalf of the STC-HPS chapter.
- Submitted Chapter news article for the HPS May newsletter.
- Will be submitting summary of April meeting on the next billet
- Will be attending HPS “in person” meeting in Phoenix, AZ
- STCHPS breakfast meeting is tentatively planned for July 27th (Tuesday).

EC action item

- Due to John Hagemans’ retirement, as immediate replacement, Doug Johnson suggested Scott Nickelson as an interim executive editor with Alan woods continuing as webmaster and contract employee who will work under the executive editor. The executive committee will make the position official at the STC HPS business meeting and the position will be folded into the public relations committee.
 - Once EC approves, Nick will take the responsibility of our webpage and newsletter.

Website Update (Scott Nichelson):

1. I need to deep dive to organize all the functionalities of the web site; needs a more logical flow in my opinion, I just need a bit more time to organize it.
2. Add regular topic features on industrial, medical, and educational topics and launch with the next Billet.
3. Affiliate members. Maybe a bit more blurb about what they do, and a hyperlink to their sites. Perhaps give them a dues break/extension since they didn't get their affiliates fair in 2020.

New Business from the Floor

The election results were as follows:

President Elect - Brian Kelley

Treasurer Elect – John Metyko

Board Member – Abby Kurwitz

Erich made a motion to certify the candidate results with a second by Tracy. All EC members voted in favor of the certification of results.

Doug Johnson thanked the members that were voting off with Tracy Tipping as the Past-President, Matthew Amen moving to Past President from President and Otu Inyang from Board Member. Otu will be staying on assisting with the website/Billet and Nominations with Sandra.

Motion to adjourn made by Erich at 12:59 PM. Doug seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.