

State of Texas Chapter of the HPS

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021; Conducted via Zoom

Attendees:

Erich Fruchtnicht – EC Member  
Jennifer Cerecero – EC Member/Committee Chair  
Otu Inyang – Committee Member  
Matt Amen - EC Member  
Doug Johnson – EC Member  
Ken Krieger – Committee Chair  
Scott Nichelson – Committee Chair  
Linda Morris – Committee Chair  
Sandra Ramirez – Committee Chair  
Latha Vasudevan – Committee Chair  
Amanda Sullivan – Committee Chair  
Brian Kelley – EC Member  
John Metyo – EC Member  
Nina Gutierrez-Garcia – EC Member  
Caitlin (Abby) Kurwitz – EC Member

**Call to Order:** 12:07 PM

**Minutes from May 2021 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)**

Nothing to report at this time.

**President's Report (Doug Johnson)**

STC-HPS is, with all global society, weathering the pandemic.

The most significant negative effects resulted in the cancellation of our Spring 2020 conference. We were able to shift Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 to video and this brought some unexpected value. Meeting online meant our participation by students as far as Florida and speakers from Florida to Colorado were able to participate very cost effectively.

The Chapter provided the best presentation awards during the spring student presentation meeting and this time two of the awards went to University of Florida.

An unexpected resurgence of the Corona virus has delayed a geographical meeting for the Fall of 2021.

My biggest concern in the chapter is for the wellbeing and participation of our Affiliates. One thought put forward was to suspend their payment for a year and look ahead to better times. Doug, Brian, Jennifer, and Erich will work on sending out a letter regarding affiliate dues and upcoming meetings to help garner support along with supporting the affiliates during this virtual timing.

This year we have seen an end to the problems of our website URL which was effectively held hostage. We transitioned a lot of work by current and former members and the use of a substitute URL which we have now abandoned.

This year also marks the end of a long and effective career support of John Hageman and the creation of two offices designed to support a combined web page and newsletter. Details are evolving but Nick Nickelson and Otu Inyang are pushing ahead and will detail their efforts.

Proper elections were held and the results certified with the new persons properly listed on the chapter web page. The elected candidates were notified and welcomed into the chapter.

The president-elect is working closely with me and others in the leadership to plan the Fall meeting. An unexpected resurgence of the virus and reimposed travel restrictions by some employers as well as ongoing health concerns have delayed the initial time and possible place of the meeting. As things change the VP is updating the leadership and posting changes on the web page.

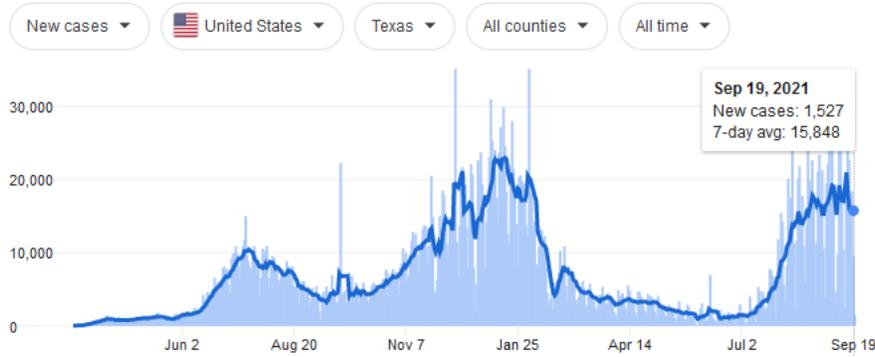
The national members who expressed interest in joining the local chapter were contacted (not sure if they have joined and paid fees or not)

Heartfelt thanks to the EC members for their continued support and cooperation.

### **President-Elect's Report / Program Committee Report (Brian Kelley)**

The Fall (Winter?) Affiliates' Fair Conference has been moved to November 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> will bring an evening social event, the 8<sup>th</sup> will be presentations from 9 to 5, and the 9<sup>th</sup> will be presentations from 9 to noon or 1 PM, similar to previous years. The location is still set to be San Antonio for those who can be physically present, but a virtual option will still be available for those who cannot. Balancing the virtual option vs. the physical presence is an ongoing challenge.

A majority of the Affiliates I contacted prior to moving the date suggested they preferred to be physically present. However, the presenters I've approached have been largely in limbo about whether they can be physically present. The Covid-19 numbers in Texas seem to have reached stasis instead of improving and many institutions related to presenters (and potential attendees) are still making decisions about whether business travel will be funded and/or permitted.

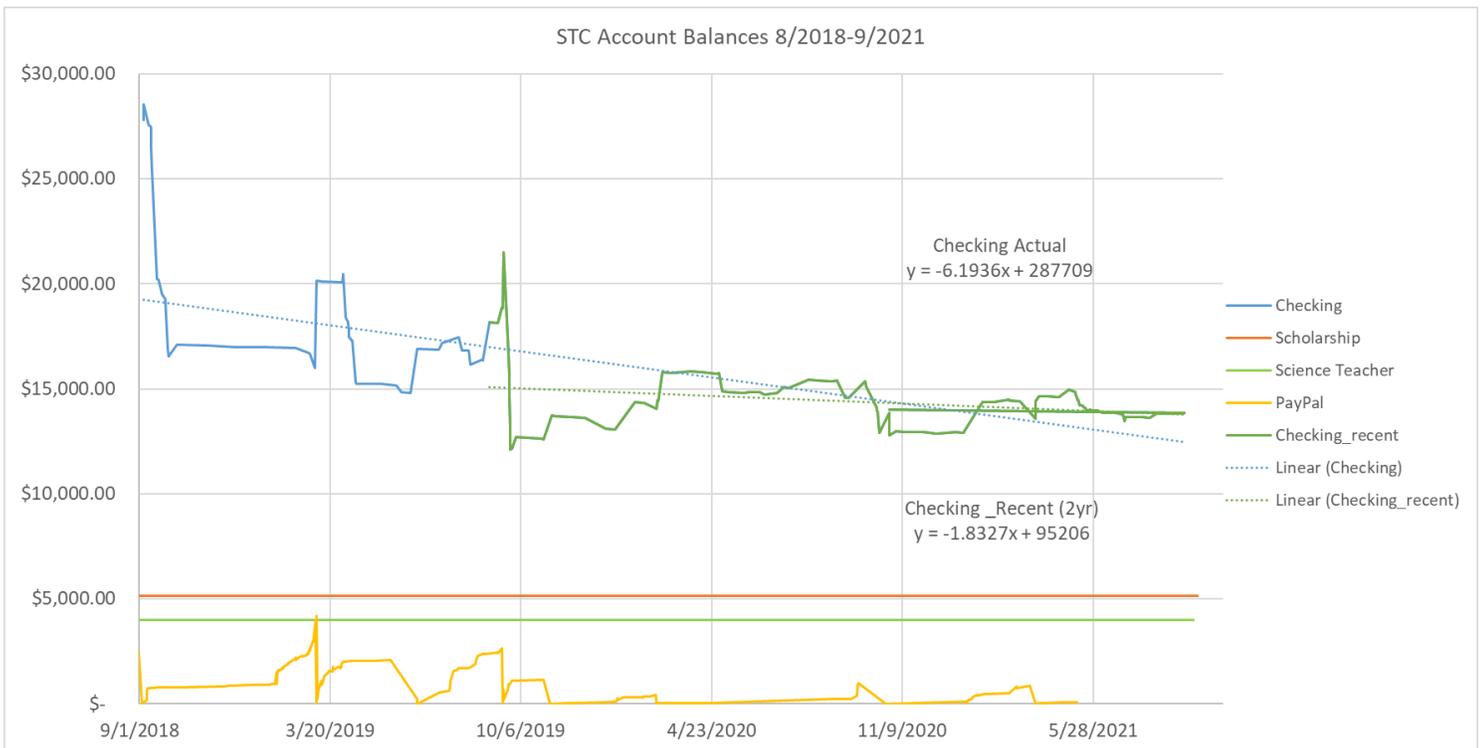


After discussion by the EC it has been decided to move the Affiliates Meeting to the Spring and have a two day meeting with the Students at Texas A&M University. This will allow for an in-person meeting and due to COVID numbers will just have a one-day Fall Technical Meeting either on Monday, November 8, 2021.

#### Secretary's Report (Jennifer Cerecero)

- Jennifer sent out chapter emails regarding job postings and meetings.
- Otu thanked Jennifer for sending out information to the Chapter and keeping up with communications.

#### Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report (Erich Fruchtnicht) STC Financial Report



Notes:

- Travel grants, Scholarships, Presenter Awards
  - 2021 = \$900.00
  - 2020 = \$3300.00
  - 2019 = \$3850.00
- Current Balances as of 9/16/2021:
  - Checking: \$13,834.83
  - Scholarship: \$5,126.19
  - Science Teacher: \$3,996.16
  - PayPal: \$177.35
  - Investment account status: \$214,867.08
    - Mutual Funds: \$182,855.17 (as of 6/30/2021)
    - Cash: \$94.06 (as of 9/16/2021)
    - Lincoln Financial Group (as of 6/30/2021)
      - 699: \$10,634.24
      - 700: \$10,634.28
      - 701: \$10,649.33
- Notes on current balances
  - Income
    - 2021 (YTD) = \$3792.58
    - 2020 = \$5967.76
  - Trendline slopes are improving

Vote on the treasurer report: Doug moved to approve the report. Otu seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the treasurer report.

**Affiliate Committee Report (Jennifer Cerecero)**

1. Sent a reminder to Affiliates about dues and received a few more payments
2. Sent emails about the meeting – they prefer in person and in San Antonio. Brian Kelley started conversations with them

**Billet/Editor Report (Scott Nichelson and Otu Inyang)**

1. Updates have been made to the website and more will continue in the future with some possible reprogramming of the left-hand features
2. Please submit any updates or articles to Scott Nichelson for the website
3. Please submit Radiation Safety Program updates from each RSO on the EC to Otu Inyang per the email from Jennifer.

**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**

**Science & Engineering Fair Participation:** The winners of our Spring 2021 fairs were reported at our last executive council meeting.

We can start thinking about volunteers for the 2021 science fair season. Although most of the regional and state fairs are planning to be “in-person” fairs, that is certainly subject to change. As of right now, here is the information on the upcoming fairs.

Fair	Date 2022	Location	2022 Judges	Website
Science & Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH)	February 26	George Brown Convention Ctr		sefhouston.org
Central Texas Science & Engineering Fair (CTSEF)	February 15-16	Waco	Linda Morris	ctsef.org
Austin Regional Science Fair	February 22-23	<b>Virtual</b>		sciencefest.org
Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair	February 19	Centennial Hall Fair Park Dallas		smu.edu/drs ef
Alamo Regional Science & Engineering Fair	February 11-13	San Antonio		arase.org
Texas State Science & Engineering Fair	March 25-26	Texas A&M University College Station	Linda Morris and Latha Vasudevan	txsef.org

Judges will need to register for their respective fairs. Awards, in most cases, are mailed directly to the fairs for distribution.

**STC Travel Grants:** No travel awards presented in 2021.

**2021-2022 Education Grant Awardees:** The Chapter has budgeted for three \$1000 awards. Only one has been selected so far: Alexis Ash from TAMU. Alexis is a graduate student working with Dr. Craig Marianno. She is graduating this semester and tells us that she can use the funds to transition from school to the workplace. The Student Assistance Committee has elected to extend the deadline for awardee selection to the end of September. An issue seen this year has impacted the candidate pool.

Dr. Shaheen Dewji recently left TAMU to join the faculty at Georgia Tech. She took many of her students with her. If anyone has candidates for the award, please have them go to the [stc-hps.org](http://stc-hps.org) website and click on "Student Assistance." The application form is there although it states that the forms be *mailed* to my home address. Can we change this? Scan and email to me please.

Factors considered include major, career goals in health physics, GPA, letters of recommendation, financial information, and involvement in STC. An updated report will be made at the Executive Council meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Neff-Poston Endowed Scholarship Fall 2021:** The Nuclear Engineering Department at Texas A&M has selected Calen Mahlen ([clmahlen02@tamu.edu](mailto:clmahlen02@tamu.edu)) for the award.

Matthew Amen volunteered UT Southwestern staff to assist with the Dallas Science Fair.

**Science Teacher Workshop Committee Report (Ken Krieger)**

1. No current science workshops, however, put together quite a few CV-700 meters for Texas A&M for high schoolers for the summer at the cyclotron. The program was very appreciative and was going to send a letter to the chapter.
2. National HPS adopted Science Teacher Workshop material and the website now has options to order materials, kits, and modular workshops for possible CEU credits. More options available hopefully soon.

**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	73		91	103	105	117	111
3	Student Memberships	38		12	14	12	11	62
4	Science Fair Winners	0		0	2	2	3	2
	Sub-Total	114		106	122	122	115	176
5	Affiliate Memberships	8		12	23	16	15	23
	Total	122		118	145	138	135	199

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

New Members

Alexis	Ash	Texas A&M University	Student
Timothy	Ellisor	Urenco USA	Student
Scott	Bacon	Quantum Technical Services	Regular
Corey	Eiland	Quantum Technical Services	Regular
Kevin	Myers		Regular
Derek	Phillips		Regular
Jordan	Hills	Texas A&M University	Student

Vote on the new members: Erich moved to approve the new members. Jennifer 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 this year with nominations coming up. The nominations committee wrote a letter of support for William Pate for the ACMUI as the Radiation Safety support on the committee. We should know more in October on this.

**Public Relations Committee Report (Latha Vasudevan)**

- Submitted news article from April 2021 meeting to HPS news and it appeared in June 2021 HPS post.
- Sent out photos from the April 2021 meeting and some past meeting photos to Alana for posting on website
- Forwarded potential interests from new members to join STCHPS to Doug Johnson.
- The nomination letter for Dr. Shaheen Dewji from Texas A&M for the HPS director position was submitted on behalf of the chapter. However, as of July 2021, Dr. Dewji is no longer with Texas A&M and she has moved to Georgia tech. some of her students also transferred from Texas A&M to Georgia tech. not sure if they will continue to be STC members or not.
- Attended HPS “in person” meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Some STC members were present. However, no official breakfast meeting was conducted.
- Facilitated service award for John Hageman from HPS
- Will facilitate STCHPS honorary plaque for the past presidents.
- Submitted billet articles

New request:

Several of the STC members are involved with national/international organizations in leadership positions/board.

It would be good to put together the names of the members and their involvement with the organization as a listing in the STCHPS webpage.

### **New Business from the Floor**

Official introductions from the new officers to the full EC.

Motion to adjourn made by Erich at 1:21 PM. Doug seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.