

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR 11/14/2006

The third meeting of the year officially began at 1:45p.m. on 11-14-2006. All officers were in attendance with the exception of Debra Clifton who could not make it.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The first order of business was to introduce the guest speaker for this meeting. Michelle McKinsey, the executive director of the Boy's and Girl's Club of Huntsville gave a forty-five minute powerpoint presentation on the purpose of the nationwide organization and how the non-traditional students at SHSU can become more involved in the community of Huntsville. She also explained that the organization is in need of volunteers who are willing to dedicate time during the afternoon, and/or on the weekend, to help touch the lives of children who come from troubled or fragile families. McKinsey started the presentation by describing how the organization is nationwide, and gave several examples of lives that have been positively influenced by the club. She then discussed more details about the local chapter of the organization, the Boy's and Girl's Club of Huntsville. The Huntsville chapter currently offers afternoon programs for children in the elementary and middle schools, but is working toward adding more programs for the teenagers in high school. The organization is expanding, and has recently added a new location off Martin Luther King Blvd for the afternoon programs. The Boy's and Girl's Club of Huntsville also has a program that pairs minors up with adult mentors so the children can learn from having a positive role model. For more information about the club contact Michelle McKinsey at 936-291-6054.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The second order of business was the Bluebonnet Children's Academy in Huntsville. Sharon Armstrong, who is the director of the Bluebonnet Children's Academy visited the meeting and brought some good news for those non-traditional students who are in need of daycare assistance. The academy is a fully accredited elementary school that goes through the fourth grade; it has also been voted as the premier daycare center in Huntsville for the younger children attending. She told the students that the academy has agreed to work with the students who are on financial aid by accepting the award letter as a promise of future payment. Armstrong also explained that if the financial aid is late, then the student can get a letter from the financial aid counselor explaining the reason for the situation (and the timeline for when the aid is expected) and the academy will accept this letter as a promise of payment as well. Bluebonnet Children's Academy has agreed to work with all students who are involved with NTSO, so when you go to enroll your children remember to mention that you heard about the agreement from NTSO. For more information about the academy contact Sharon Armstrong at 936-295-5577.

OTHER ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

We were very pleased with the turnout at this meeting too. We had a few less members attend at this meeting, but participation has still dramatically increased for the organization since we changed the meeting time. We also discussed the next Bearkat Alley Tailgate Party that the organization will participate in, as well as the upcoming holiday party. We decided to try to use the new "Campus Life" funding to acquire some needed supplies for the tailgate. We will be requesting a new banner for the organization, an "ez-up" tent, and a gas powered grill. The tailgate will be on 11/18/06, and we will be needing volunteers for the set-up of the tailgate and the cooking. Donations made at the Tailgate will benefit the Good Shepard Mission in Huntsville. All of the officers have volunteered to assist with the tailgate, and we will need one or two additional members of NTSO to come and help out with the event. We will also be decorating a holiday ornament to represent the organization. The ornament will be placed on the campus tree at the "Tree of Light Ceremony" on 11/30/06. Andrea Woodlief volunteered to purchase and decorate the ornament, and Angi Bremkamp will be the representative of NTSO present at the ceremony. Again, we are very pleased with the increase in participation and hope that this will be carried on into the next semester. We are still planning the Spring Fling Dance for the spring semester and are requesting volunteers to come and assist with the set-up and decorating of the event. Our next meeting will be on 12-05-2006 from 1:45p.m.-3p.m.

Typed by: Andrea Woodlief, NTSO-Business Manager