

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR 11-13-2007

The meeting began at 1p.m. on 11-13-2007. All officers were in attendance during the meeting except for Secretary Charity Moore.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The first order of business was to introduce guest speaker Beverly Brinson from Homewatch Caregivers. Beverly Brinson founded the company Homewatch Caregivers which focuses on care giving in the home primarily for the elderly, but can also include providing care for all ages (including small children). Ms. Brinson came to the meeting to discuss the topic "Caregiving in the Middle." The term "Caregiving in the Middle" refers to young or middle aged adults who have children to take care of as well as elderly parents. The parents might simply be retired and living with their now adult children, or they might be chronically ill and requiring twenty-four hour attention each day. This is a topic that could possibly affect the lives of non-traditional students, especially the older students who are returning to college later in life. Ms. Brinson explained that the children who are now young or middle aged adults must deal with unique issues when placed in a situation of having to care for an elderly parent. The first issue that these adults must face is retaining legal custody of the elderly parent, by going to court, in order to become the parent's legal conservator or guardian. The second issue that Ms. Brinson discussed is the importance of providing adequate care for the parents, as it is often the case that the elderly parents are placed in nursing homes where they are neglected and mistreated. Homewatch Caregivers will send a nurse or a certified caregiver to a person's home to provide care that is needed in a loving and caring environment were the family is still present and very much involved in the caregiving process. We also discussed the issue of reporting mistreatment of elderly parents by filing a report to adult protective services. Ms. Brinson said that adult protective services will do an investigation and make sure that the adult is taken out of a situation were negligence or mistreatment might be a factor. She explained that some families encounter tragic situations were the elderly parent is neglected, mistreated, and taken advantage of by members of their own family (or by their own children). Ms. Brinson also explained that adults who must provide care for their elderly parents face different types of stresses, such as respecting and dealing with the wishes of other members of the family as well as handling the elderly parent's estate. She recommended that the adults providing care seek counseling and other services that provide legal advice for such situations, and try to build a healthy support system within the community.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The second order of business was the "Haunted Tours and Fest" event that we held in October. We had a very good turn out of people attending the event, but we had a few members of NTSO who agreed to volunteer back down at the last minute. If you agree to volunteer for large events in the future, please try to make a commitment and attend all of the volunteer meetings and especially the event. When you work as a team each team member has an important job to complete, and if one member of the team falls back at the last minute it means more work for the other members of the team to do, and it could slow down the project that the team is working on. With that being said, the event had a great turn out of non-traditional students from Sam and we had many students bring their children to play games and enjoy the treats and food. If we can get more people to commit to volunteering, we might make this an annual event, but change the name to "Spook fest." The event will still be free to the students, but will benefit a non-profit organization in some way. We did have some paranormal events happen at the event. The children witnessed the door knob to the main entrance of Austin Hall turn by itself.

OTHER ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

Another order of business was a discussion about the ornament that we will be hanging on the campus tree for the tree lighting ceremony. We would like to decorate an ornament that represents NTSO for the tree. One idea that we had was to create a wreath with a teddy bear in the middle of the ornament. Dollar Tree and Wal-Mart have inexpensive crafts that can be used for the ornament. The ceremony will be on Nov. 27, in the LSC mall area and will begin at 6p.m.

Typed by: Angi Bremkamp, NTSO-President