

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR 12-05-2006

The fourth meeting of the year officially began at 1:45p.m. on 12-05-2006. Debra Clifton and Jen Hullinger were the officers not present at the meeting.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Today we were visited by Scott Atnip with Huntsville's Promise. Mr. Atnip is the Executive Director of Huntsville's Promise and a graduate of SHSU. He is also one of the original framers of Huntsville's Promise as he did background research as an intern with the City of Huntsville; the research that he conducted as a student at SHSU was later used for the basis of creating Huntsville's Promise. It is his vision that with research Huntsville can adapt services to build a better and more productive youth, and to strengthen the families of Huntsville, Texas. Huntsville's Promise is a youth advocacy organization, and works with many other services in Huntsville, Texas. This is also an organization that helps other non-profit organizations secure grants and money to serve our community. Huntsville's Promise is an organization that does many things for the Huntsville community. The organization was first created by the passing of a resolution with the city council of Huntsville, Texas. The resolution states "...by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Texas, that the City of Huntsville is a community of strong families and will endeavor to strengthen its commitment to family and youth issues by identifying needs and priorities of families and youth, promoting developmental assets within our community, promoting effective collaboration between governmental agencies, and assisting and supporting community organizations dedicated to improving and advancing the needs of family and youth." The many roles that the organization has been responsible for include: *Promoting Awareness of family and youth friendly communities, Supporting youth organizations and activities, Building a healthy community for young people by providing leadership and service opportunities for Huntsville youth.* We learned a lot about the challenges that the youth in Huntsville face. Some of these challenges would include: being home alone for at least two hours, doing drugs, drinking, teen pregnancies, child abuse, and the list goes on. Huntsville's Promise helps other organizations like the Boy's and Girl's club, and other programs that help our youth, to become more involved in positive solutions. Being part of a positive community program helps keep kids from getting involved in things like drugs, there by building a better community. Scott also gave us some pointers on how to be more involved in any community project. You are welcome to become more involved and check out the Huntsville's Promise web site at <http://www.huntsvillepromise.net/>. For more information about Huntsville's Promise or for volunteer opportunities to be a part of this special organization than please contact Scott Atnip at 936-291-5950, Monday through Friday.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The second order of business was once again the Bluebonnet Children's Academy in Huntsville. Bluebonnet Children's Academy has agreed to work with members of NTSO. For more information about the academy contact Sharon Armstrong at 936-295-5577, and mention NTSO.

OTHER ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

We discussed the Holiday Get together at El Chico on the 15th of December. There was also a brief discussion about having a spring fling dance in March. There is much work to be done to pull it off and all our members will be needed to participate. Some announcements were made as well. WE NOW HAVE A BANNER AND A NICE GAS GRILL. The officers have worked hard to put in proposals to obtain these things so NTSO can do more social events. Frank Parker has offered to obtain an "EZ-UP" tent for us as well - A special thank you to Mr. Parker for this offer. Thank you to everyone who participated in the *Bearkat Alley Tailgates*, it was a great time. We cooked hotdogs and sausage. We mingled with many other student organizations and went to see the games after the tailgate parties to scream our heads off for our team. GO BEARKATS! We look forward to participating in such events in the future. We will be holding our next meeting in January, and we are still determining a meeting time and date to accommodate schedules. We will announce over the listserv the new meeting time for the spring semester based on schedules. Good luck to all of you on finals and "Way to Go" for those who are graduating on December 16th.

Typed by: Angi Bremkamp, NTSO-President & Andrea Woodlief, NTSO-Business Manager