

January meeting to focus on governance issues facing Texas Professional Engineers



Shannon K. McClendon

The Travis Chapter of TSPE is pleased to welcome **Shannon K. McClendon** as our guest speaker on Wednesday, January 18.

She will discuss several important issues facing the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) and our profession.

Shannon K. McClendon, from Drippings Springs, Texas, is an attorney in private practice focusing on law affecting the electric industry. She has served the State of Texas for many years. Currently, she serves as a board member of the TBPE. Governor Rick Perry appointed Ms. McClendon initially in 2002, and reappointed her for a second term this year. In 2003, Ms. McClendon served on the Board of

Directors for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), and continues to serve on the ERCOT Technical Advisory Committee as the Residential Consumer Representative. She is the founder of Current Access, L.C., a company specializing in providing information technologies and data analyses for utility markets.

Ms. McClendon was previously Senior Regulatory Counsel for Texas-New Mexico Power Company, and worked closely with the Asso-

ciation of Electric Companies in Texas committees during the 1999 Legislative Session. She was instrumental in the successful negotiations for the first transition-to-competition plan filed and approved at the Public Utility Commission of Texas. She has also served as Associate Public Counsel at the Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel representing residential and small commercial customers in contested cases and rulemakings.

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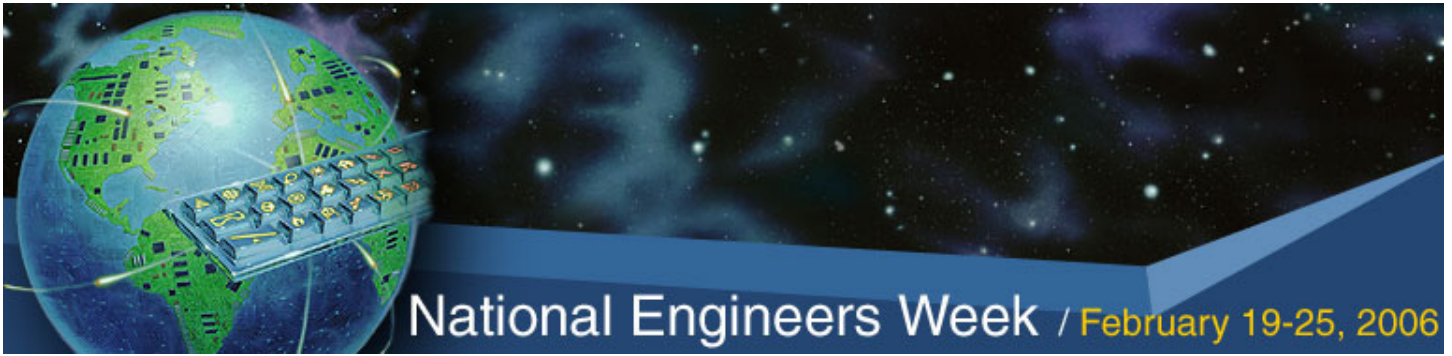
**January Program Special Guest:
Shannon K. McClendon
Texas Board of Professional Engineers**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2006
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Austin Woman's Club
708 San Antonio
Downtown Austin**

**Cost is \$16 per person with advanced reservation;
\$20 at the door; \$5 for government employees
RSVP by visiting www.tspe-travis.org
or by calling Beth Falls at 433-2537.**

**This Month's Meeting Sponsor is:
BridgeTek - Bridge Technologies, LLC
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Celebrate Engineering

By Dale Shumaker, P.E. - President, Travis Chapter TSPE

It is a new year and it is time to Celebrate Engineering! Hopefully everyone had a safe and happy holiday. Now that we have taken time to celebrate with friends and family, it is entirely appropriate that we also celebrate our profession.

First, the premier event celebrating Professional Engineering in Central Texas is the 2006 Engineers Banquet. This year we are honored to have as our speaker, General Robert Crear, Commanding General of the Mississippi Valley Division, USACE. General Crear will discuss the aftermath in the New Orleans area after the hurricane in September. We are very fortunate and privileged to have him be our guest speaker this year. We will also announce and recognize the Engineer of the Year, Young Engineer of the Year and the Civil Engineer of the Year awards. The event will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at

the Hyatt on Town Lake in downtown Austin and Mardi Gras will be the theme. You will not want to miss this year's banquet! Look for invitations to be sent out in the next few weeks.

Equally important is that we celebrate engineering by engaging and encouraging the engineers of tomorrow. TSPE-Travis Chapter has two great opportunities to do just that.

The first is the Junior High MathCounts competition on February 11, 2006, at Welch Hall on the UT Campus. This event is entirely dependent on TSPE-Travis Chapter volunteers for staff and organization. It is a great competition and takes a minimal amount of time (about 4 hours on the morning of the event). We need test graders, proctors, greeters and the like. You will not regret it and will be amazed by these students. Last year's national winners were from Texas and appeared on ESPN as MathAthletes. To volunteer, call **Garrett Bonn** at 433-2546 or

send him an e-mail to:

gbonn@cfaulknerengineering.com.

Secondly, **TJ Dawkins** is leading a team of TSPE Engineers that will spend a half-day in the spring (Engineers Week) sharing the engineering profession with primary and secondary schools. To volunteer to be on the Engineers Week team call TJ at 258-4121 X 6345 or send him and e-mail to:

tdawkins@centexeweek.org.

This may sound a bit direct, but **EVERY** TSPE Member should be involved in Engineers Week or MathCounts. Yes, it is that important. There is an acute shortage of engineers in the United States. Additionally, attracting the most talented individuals to the profession helps raise the status of all engineers. Today's middle and high school students are the future of engineering and need your shoulders to stand on. Enable them to celebrate engineering and engineering achievements in years to come just as we will this February and March.



**Travis
Chapter**



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McClendon to speak

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Prior to becoming an attorney, Ms. McClendon was a computer systems analyst with the Space Transportation Shuttle Operations Contract at NASA, Texas Instruments, and Texas A&M University's Data Processing Center. She received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston, and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Ms. McClendon is a board member officer of the Lake Travis Republican Women PAC, President of the University of Houston Alumni - Capital of Texas Club, board member serving as Vice President of Texas Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy, and a member of the State Bar of Texas, the American Bar Association, Gulf Coast Power Association, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. She serves on the Licensing, Legislative Issues, and General Issues Committees of the TBPE. She has recently taken an active role in the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveying.

January Luncheon Program

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio, Downtown Austin

Cost: \$16 per person with advance reservation;

\$20 at the door; \$5 for government employees

RSVP: Visit WWW.TSPE-TRAVIS.ORG

Reduced admission fee aimed at encouraging Government Engineers to participate in chapter programs

Travis Chapter is very excited to announce a new program to encourage the participation of and increase communication with state and government agencies.

Beginning with our January Chapter meeting government employees receive a reduced admission price of \$5! This incredible value includes an excellent meal and one full hour of professional development. Membership in TSPE is not required for admission.

Please share this incredible offer with your engineering co-workers and encourage them to join you at an upcoming meeting. More information on TSPE and our lunch meetings can be found at our website, www.tspe-travis.org.

Board Meeting Minutes

by Dan Shanahan, P.E.

Below are the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held December 7, 2005:

Minutes of previous Board Meeting were approved.

President **Dale Shumaker, P.E.** read a letter inquiring about interest in hosting the 2008 Annual State Meeting. Following discussion, it was decided there was no interest.

It was agreed that the efforts of this Chapter will continue to be on legislative efforts, state agency involvement, and the 2006 Engineer's Banquet.

Treasurer's Report & Chapter Finances

Rebecca Feldman, P.E. distributed the Treasurers Report. It was reviewed and approved.

Chapter Finance Director, **Stephanie Stanford, P.E.**, reported that two meeting sponsors, *BridgeTek* and *Huitt-Zollars*, have been confirmed for 2006 with dates to be de-

termined. *Huitt-Zollars* indicated they want to sponsor a meeting that has a government or transportation speaker. Discussion followed on how to use the \$250 that sponsors pay when sponsoring a meeting. **Steve Roth, P.E.** suggested \$200 be used to cover meeting expenses and the remaining \$50 be used to subsidize the expense for state agency attendees.

Also discussed were charges for the monthly meeting. It was moved by **Stephanie Stanford** and seconded by **Julia Harrod** that starting in January 2006 cost would be as follows: \$16 with RSVP; \$20 without RSVP; \$5 for government employees. This will be published on the website in January.

Also discussed was dropping the free incentive for first-time guests. **Julia Harrod** moved and **Stephanie Stanford** seconded that this free incentive would be dropped. Exception would be if the guest signs up for TSPE membership. In those circumstances, the first visit would be free.

Monthly Meetings

Vice President, **Steve Roth, P.E.** reported that **Shannon McClendon**, TBPE Board Member, will be the guest speaker for the January meeting.

Banquet Update

Kelly Barney, P.E., Banquet Director, reported on the progress of the 2006 Engineers Banquet. Ticket price has not been set; \$55 per person is being considered. Sponsors are needed and she has distributed the sponsorship letter and form to Board members.

Membership

Julia Harrod, P.E. reported that the six-month free membership was work-

ing great and requested that it be announced at each monthly meeting.

Professional Practice

Professional Practice Director, **John Powell, P.E.** reported on Continuing Education opportunities and will use the website to inform all interested members regarding these opportunities.

Christmas Program

The Chapter's Annual Children's Christmas Party report was given by **Beth Falls**. Planning is on schedule and all children have sponsors. This year TSPE is sponsoring 76 children and 64 families.

Attendees

Dale Shumaker, Beth Falls, Stephanie Stanford, Carroll Faulkner, Kelly Barney, John Powell, Ted Schoenberg, Rebecca Feldman, and Steve Roth.

Next Board Meeting

The next TSPE Board meeting will be held at *C Faulkner Engineering*, 400 Bowie Street, Suite 250 on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at noon.

Not receiving
Chapter e-mail notices?
Changed your work address or
title?

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To update your information, log on
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Thank you

for your generous support of the
TSPE Annual Children's Christmas Party held December 14, 2005:

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Kleinfelder
Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.
Lopez Garcia Group
Martinez, Wright & Mendez, Inc.
Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc.
Terracon

Thanks to the following volunteers who worked together to make this event a success:

Beth Falls, *C Faulkner Engineering* - event planner and coordinator
Julia Harrod, *Martinez, Wright & Mendez* - bus transportation for students and teachers
Bobby Wright, *Kleinfelder* - pick up and delivery of tables and chairs
Laura McKay, *Carter & Burgess* - pickup and delivery of turkeys
Hank Smith, *C Faulkner Engineering* - pictures of the kids with Santa
Dodie Morris, *Hyde Park High School* - choir and music ensemble
Clayton Stice and daughter, **Ellen** - Santa Claus and his helper
James Klotz, *TxDOT Austin* - fundraising for books for the children
Jennifer Reese - Events Coordinator at St. David's Episcopal Church
Stephanie Stanford, *C Faulkner Engineering* - sorting and organizing gifts
Megan Meyer, *C Faulkner Engineering* - gift wrapping and food sorting
Carroll Faulkner, *C Faulkner Engineering* - food sorting, gift and food delivery
Casey Giles, *C Faulkner Engineering* - food sorting and delivery
Timmie Bui, *C Faulkner Engineering* - food sorting and delivery
Richard Mitchell, *C Faulkner Engineering* - tables, chairs, gift and food delivery
Al Burns, *C Faulkner Engineering* - tables, chairs, gift and food delivery
Doug Bell, *Lockwood Andrews and Newnam* - food sorting, gift and food delivery
Therese Baer, *Baer Engineering* - assisted in getting sponsors for the kids
Members of the TSPE Board - assisted in getting sponsors for the kids

A Very Special Thanks to those who sponsored the children. As a result of your participation and generous support, this event continues to be a great success each year.