



**You voted.  
Now what?**

**November guest speakers,  
Durward Curlee and  
Gerhard Schulle tell how  
the Professional Engineers  
Grassroots Empowerment  
will give Texas engineers a  
voice in government**

# You Voted Now What?

Today's political reality calls for more than just your vote. The business of governing is no longer confined to the days of legislative sessions and town hall meetings. Lobbyists, activists and ordinary citizens are demanding more "ear time" from their elected representatives. How can engineers be sure that their voice is heard? That is one of the primary roles the Texas Society of Professional Engineers plays on your behalf. But TSPE is one of thousands of professional groups vying for attention. Your voice must also be heard. How? Political experts Durward Curlee and TSPE's own Gerhard Schulle lead a seminar at our November chapter meeting on Professional Engineer's Grassroots Empowerment. Presented with slides, political tales and humor, this talk will help you learn The What, The When, The Where, The Why and The How of getting your message to government. Most importantly, you will learn how to increase your personal access and power.

**T**he most important and effective way to political empowerment is being active in your trade association by becoming directly involved in legislative initiatives. The 'good-ole-boy' system has fallen to the wayside; in today's unique political climate, it is a person getting the right message to the right person at the right time who is performing the most powerful political act. The T.S.P.E. grassroots empowerment presentation will help to demystify this process for you.

Historically, prosperous businesses have always tended to their political business: Beginning in the late 1700's, most workers and business owners belonged to guilds, societies and leagues. The framers of the Constitution recognized this system and provided for citizens to work with their associations in order to impact government. As Alexis de

Tocqueville (1805-1859) wrote in his book *Democracy in America*, "the most natural right of man, after that of acting on his own, is that of combining his efforts with his fellow and acting together. Therefore, the right of association is almost as unalienable as individual liberty."

When we, as taxpayers, fail to take part in the whole governmental process, we are giving up our most basic democratic right: The first amendment, in addition to freedom of the press and speech, also guarantees you the right to petition government for the redress of grievances. Your trade association is the forum for you to set and carry out this goal.

## **Durward Curlee, President of Durward Curlee & Associates**

Born in Mart, Texas in 1938, Durward Curlee attended Waco High and majored in finance at the University of Texas. His stint as a financial



**Durward Curlee**

analyst with the Texas Municipal Advisory Council, a trade association for the Municipal bond dealers, led to an investment banking career underwriting municipal bonds. Working closely with cities and school districts, Curlee became increasingly interested in politics.

In 1970, after an unsuccessful run for Texas state representative, Curlee became Research Director for the Texas House Ways & Means Committee, developing a long range plan for Ad Valorem Tax Reform and equalization of school taxes. (This was still a major issue in the last session of the Texas Legislature.)

Durward led the fight on reforming workers' compensation in 1990: Appointed as Legislative Coordinator of Texas Association of Compensation Consumers, he successfully spearheaded the effort of more than 50 trade associations. As a result, Texas went from having the worst workers' comp. code to having one of the best in the nation. Governor Clements even praised this as "the most significant legislation passed in the last twenty years."

Named one of the top five lobbyists by several major publications, his experience as a trade association

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executive varies from managing the Texas Savings & Loan League to consulting with smaller associations including Texas Association of Property Tax Professionals, Texas Automobile Dealers Association, Texas Association of General Contractors, Texas Collision Association, Texas Association of Public Accountants and the Professional Roofing Standards Council.

Presently, Curlee heads the Professional Roofing Standards Council, a small association of engineer and architect roofing consulting firms. P.R.S.C. promotes ethical standards in the industry by passing and enforcing laws and regulations requiring that all reroofing plans and specifications for public work be prepared by design professionals. P.R.S.C. also endeavors to discourage exclusionary specifications for roofing materials for public works.



# Getting your voice heard

By Julie Hastings, P.E. - President, Travis Chapter TSPE

As we are in the heat of the election season and on the brink of the next Texas legislative session, it is time to increase our political activism and get involved. The upcoming legislative session will include many proposals that will affect you, professionally or otherwise, and your active participation in the process will lead to your overall satisfaction with the results. Issues that were hot during the last legislative session included Qualifications-Based-Selection, Design-Build, the Engineering Practice Act, State funding for education programs, and Water Resources issues among others. The TSPE State

Legislative and Government Affairs Committee actively tracks and reports issues coming before the legislature to keep you informed. What you do with that information is up to you.

At our September chapter meeting, **Ken Rigsbee, P.E.** our NSPE President-Elect, outlined a three-step process to get involved in politics. I'd like to reiterate this process and encourage you to get involved.

- First, select a local politician whom you would like to support. Go to their office, introduce yourself as a P.E., let the staff know you are interested in being involved, and ask to be put on a mailing list for future events.

- Second, go to an event and meet the official. Then go to the next event. Each time, a staff member will remind the official that you are a P.E. and that you are interested in engineering-related issues.

- The third time you meet that elected official, they will know who you are and your opinion will count. You have just become one of their trusted advisors.

Please join us on November 15 at the Austin Woman's Club to learn more about your empowerment and abilities to influence the government. Your opinion can count and your involvement can make a difference to influence the issues that are important to you.

## November Luncheon Program

**Special Guests:**  
**Durward Curlee & Gerhard Schulle on Professional Engineers  
Grassroots Empowerment**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006**  
**11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Austin Woman's Club**  
**708 San Antonio St.**

**Cost: \$20 per person with advance reservation;**  
**\$5 for students and government employees**

**Reservations can be made by visiting [www.tspe-travis.org](http://www.tspe-travis.org)**

**Special Thanks to This Month's Meeting Sponsor:**

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## Travis Chapter TSPE

### Upcoming Events:

Chapter Meeting  
November 15, 2006  
Austin Women's Club  
11:30 – 1:00

Chapter Board Meeting  
Wednesday, December 6,  
Offices of Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc.  
10801 N Mopac, Bldg 1, Ste 120

## TSPE Ethics Seminar available online

Can't leave the office? Need an emergency dose of ethics?

As part of its ongoing efforts to develop a full curriculum of continuing education topics and courses, TSPE now offers a 2-hour online seminar that fully satisfies the ethics portion of your continuing education licensing requirement as mandated by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Once you complete the initial registration, the site automatically tracks your progress. You can begin the course online and stop anytime and log back in later to resume where you left off.

The cost is \$75 for TSPE members, and \$125 for non-members.

When you finish the course and exam, you can print a certificate immediately with a click of the mouse. It's that easy!

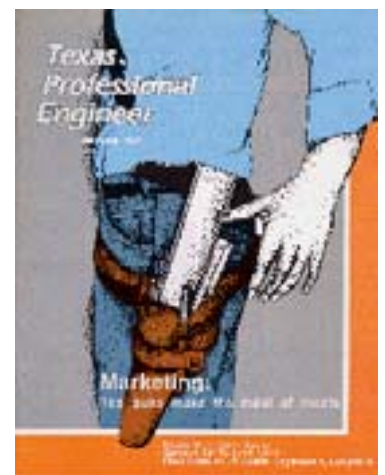
To register for the on-line Ethics Seminar, visit [www.tspe.org](http://www.tspe.org)

For information about this and other continuing education courses, please contact Claire Black at the state office by phone at (512) 472-9286 or by email at [claire@tspe.org](mailto:claire@tspe.org).

## Packrats, we need your help

TSPE is currently looking for copies of the May/June 1987 Texas Professional Engineer magazine to complete an archives binding project at the state office. Anyone with a spare copy of the issue in good condition can call Lisa Blinkenberg at TSPE at (800) 580-8973.

The Past Presidents Council of TSPE is funding a project to permanently bind back issues of the magazine for archival purposes. The bound volumes are stored at the state office in Austin.



# WE NEED YOU!



The Travis Chapter has four great opportunities for you to get involved with TSPE. If you like working with youth, putting on a party or working with finances, we need you.

Check out the following leadership positions that are available:

## **MATHCOUNTS**

The Travis Chapter organizes and sponsors an annual MATHCOUNTS competition to promote middle school mathematics achievement. We need your help! Contact **Garret Bonn** at 674-9446 or [gbonn@cfeamerica.com](mailto:gbonn@cfeamerica.com) for more information.

## **Christmas Party**

Each year, Travis Chapter members offer gifts and good cheer to children in need at our December Christmas Party. Volunteers are needed to help make this year's event a special time for these wonderful kids. Contact **Beth Falls** at 433-2537 or send an e-mail to

[bfalls@cfeamerica.com](mailto:bfalls@cfeamerica.com) for more information.

## **Finance Director**

Responsible for fundraising coordination, chapter meeting sponsorships, and web/newsletter advertising.

Contact **Steve Roth** at 338-2745 or [swroth@lan-inc.com](mailto:swroth@lan-inc.com).

## **Engineers Week Banquet**

The engineering community's premiere social event of the year will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2007.

Contact Ryan Bell at 338-1704 or [rbell@kfriese.com](mailto:rbell@kfriese.com) if you are interested in helping out with:

- Door Prizes
- Programs
- Invitations
- Name Tags
- Speaker
- Awards
- Commemorative Gift
- Entertainment
- Music
- Sponsorships

## **TSPE Scholarship Opportunities Available Now**

**By Weng On Tam, P.E. - Scholarship Director, Travis Chapter TSPE**

High School students interested in getting a degree in engineering are encouraged to apply for the *Paul & Mary Keller Scholarship* and TSPE Scholarships. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be a high school senior with a 3.0 or higher GPA entering college in 2007.
- A score of at least 600 in math and 550 in verbal on the SAT, or 29 in math and 25 in English on the ACT.
- Be planning to major in engineering at an ABET (Accreditation Board

for Engineering and Technology) accredited engineering program.

- Provide a complete scholarship application with all requested attachments postmarked or delivered by Tuesday, January 9, 2007.

I urge each of you to pass this information along to their friends and neighbors. Last year we received numerous applicants and hope to continue to see a greater number of applicants this year. The Travis Chapter TSPE is offering two \$1,000 scholarships. Top applications from the chapter will also be forwarded to

the TSPE office for state-level scholarships. I encourage our young hopeful engineers to apply. Applications may be downloaded from the TSPE website: [www.tspe.org](http://www.tspe.org). Completed applications should be sent to me at the address below:

Weng On Tam  
Scholarship Chairperson  
108 McNutt  
Building No. 4  
Hutto, TX 78634

# Board Meeting Minutes

by Larissa Prince, E.I.T.

Below are the Minutes of the TSPE Travis Chapter Board of Directors Meeting held October 4, 2006:

The meeting began with a Programs update from Vice President **Kelly Barney**. The speaker for the October 18 meeting will be Bill Hoffman from the Austin Water Utility speaking on the topic of Water Conservation. The speaker for the November 15 chapter meeting will be Durward Curlee speaking on the topic of Getting Engineers Involved with Elected Officials. The December 20 chapter meeting will be the annual Christmas Party.

The next item on the agenda was Education. **Garrett Bonn** gave a MathCounts update. He is looking for volunteers to gather donations and prizes for the February event which is set to take place at Welch Hall on the UT campus. There will be a kickoff meeting at the end of

this month. **Larissa Prince** provided an update on E-Week. The E-Week Steering Committee is looking for sponsors for the training sessions which will take place in January 2007. The Board will vote on whether or not sponsor a training session at the November Board Meeting.

**Ryan Bell**, Banquet Director, provided the Engineering Banquet update. After reviewing several options for the event date, the Board voted to have the banquet at the Hyatt on Town Lake on Saturday March 3, 2007.

**John Powell** provided the Professional Practice update. Comments on the subject of changes to PE exam requirements should be sent to Lance Kinney by no later than October 15th. An email encouraging chapter members to comment on the issue will be sent.

**Julia Harrod**, State Director, provided an update on TSPE State matters. The State meeting will be held on October 20th in Austin at the Renaissance Hotel. There will be a State Agency Dinner on October 19.

The Board decided to gear the chapter's Christmas Food Drive towards the Capital Area Food Bank. Details will be finalized at the November Board Meeting.

The Board is looking into other venue options for Travis Chapter Meetings due to the recent increase in price to hold the meetings at the Austin Woman's Club. Julia Harrod presented the Board with some options and a decision will be made at the November Board Meeting. Some issues left on the table were:

- 1) Should we invoice people who RSVP and don't show up to the meeting?
- 2) Should we charge extra for people who register late?

November Newsletter Articles are due to Julie Hastings by October 27.

## New Board Appointment

**Chris Leal** was appointed by the Board to be the Awards Director.

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 6, at the offices of Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., 10801 N Mopac, Bldg 1, Ste 120.

## Attendees

**Julie Hastings, Kelly Barney, Julia Harrod, Carroll Faulkner, Garrett Bonn, Stephanie Stanford, Dale Shumaker, Larissa Prince, John Powell, Chris Leal, Ryan Bell** and guests **Stephen Delgado** and **Kathy Long**.

## Mission of Texas Society of Professional Engineers

In order to assist the engineering profession in its responsibilities to protect the public health, safety, and property, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers is dedicated to:

- ♦ Restriction of the practice of engineering to properly qualified and licensed persons;
- ♦ Maintenance and observance of high ethical standards of conduct;
- ♦ Support of high standards of formal educational preparation for the practice of engineering;
- ♦ Continuing professional development of members of the engineering profession;
- ♦ Focusing appropriate public attention upon engineering responsibilities and engineering accomplishments for the purpose of attracting qualified persons to the practice of engineering;
- ♦ Providing appropriate assistance to its members to facilitate the pursuit of their professional goals.



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