



July 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes

***Introduction & Opening:***

The July meeting was held at Honors Hall. Albert Ranzau opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Member companies present were: Alamo Worksource, Cemex, Chemical Lime, CTTC, Detex, Great American Products, ITM, NB Chamber, NB Smokehouse, Senior Flexonics, Star Manufacturing, The Coach Approach and TXI.

Guests present were: Burke Hubbell from Ogletree Deakins (Attorney for employment law), Britani Burns & Pat Alwine from Intertec (Product Safety Testing), Rodrigo Cantu (Manufacturing consultant), and Rep. Doug Miller

Paul provided an update on finances.

***Committee reports:***

Scholarship: we have no new applications at this time. We have awarded 7 scholarships in 2009, 5 of which still need to be paid out pending receipts.

PR: Erin will be taking our brochures to the schools when they open next month. We will also participate in career days in the fall.

***Featured Program:***

Rep. Doug Miller talked about his experiences as a freshman in the state House.

Doug said that he is working well with other members of the House. He had a prior relationship with about 1/3 of the members during his tenure the Edwards Aquifer District. Doug said it was very important to learn early who to trust and build relationships with. He said that the majority of the members of the House try to set aside politics and focus on governance. Doug said that one of his goals was to learn the “process” by building relationships with state agencies and know where to go to help local businesses and community concerns.

Doug was appointed to a few committees, which is rare for a freshman Rep. He is on the appropriation committee whose main focus this past session was on keeping costs down and not grow government. The committee was able to shrink the state budget by 2%. Doug is also on the natural resources and House administration committees.

During this year's House session, over 7000 bills were proposed. 1300 made it to the floor for consideration/voting. Doug proposed 30 bills related needs of his district. 12 were passed and went to the governor. 1 was vetoed.

Doug said that the Texas economy is one of the few bright stars in the nation. Texas is one of four states in the nation that is not in a deficit. The state has \$9 billion in savings for emergencies. Texas has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. The state is trying to avoid federal pressures that could hurt the state economy. The federal stimulus funding has a lot of hidden measures in them that would give the federal government more control over state functions.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18 at 11:45 am at Honors Hall. The program will be a presentation from TMAC.

Respectfully submitted:  
Paul Webber  
NBMA Secretary/Treasurer 2009