



## **November 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

### ***Introduction & Opening:***

The November meeting was held at the Live Oak Grill and hosted by FedEx Services. Clifton Stapleton opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Member companies present were: Ameridrives, Ashley Furniture, CTTC, Coleman, Comal ISD, Detex, FedEx Services, Great American Products, Hawkins Personnel, McKenna Health System, MS Consulting, NB Chamber of Commerce, NB Herald-Zeitung, NBU, New Braunfels Communications, Objective Maintenance, Priority Personnel, Star Manufacturing, State Bank, T-Bar M and TXI

Guests present were Erin Kitt (Edisto) and Susan Phillips (Mission Investigations)

### ***Officer Reports:***

President: Clifton announced that Frank Salinas has resigned from the Vice-President position due to Frank accepting employment with Valero in Texas City. We thank Frank for his service and wish him well on his new adventures. The NBMA board has decided to leave the VP position open because elections are coming up in January.

Manufacturing members that are interested in running for the VP or President position should notify Clifton. Paul Webber has agreed to remain in the Secretary/Treasurer position for 2007.

Congratulations to Detex for 25 years in New Braunfels!

Secretary/Treasurer: Paul Webber updated the membership on the current account balances for the organization. Paul also requested that members return the contact update letter with confirmation or changes so that we can publish an updated roster for the coming year.

### ***Committee Reports:***

- Scholarship:
  - o Al Ranzau mentioned that committee is working on more applicants for scholarships.
  - o NBMA has dispersed funds to Heather Mulkey for this semester.
  
- Membership:
  - o No report
  
- Fundraising:
  - o No report

***Membership:***

NBMA has received two applications for membership:

Shank Services – *Associate*, fuel distributor and lubes

Knight Office Solutions - *Associate*, digital copiers

These companies were not present at the meeting. Clifton will contact them to determine their interest in the organization.

***Featured Program:***

Clifton introduced Paula DiFonzo, CEO of New Braunfels Utilities. Paula explained the recent rate changes and bill structure for electric bills. The lawsuit against the LCRA has been settled. The settlement allows NBU to purchase electricity from other sources after a set threshold has been met with LCRA. Paula mentioned that natural gas prices are a significant factor in rates. NBU is expecting a reduction in gas prices because of warmer weather influences.

NBU is anticipating significant legislature changes in the upcoming session. The management of the “price to beat” is hot topic. Currently there are only controls to raise the “price to beat”, but not to lower it when economic conditions change. Other topics that will be in this legislative session are deregulation, the old systems benefit fund, and water legislation. NBU is hiring lobbyists for the legislative sessions to help with conveying NBU’s position on these topics.

NBU has grown at 6% per year for the last few years. Prior growth averaged 3%. There is a lot of construction, mostly in residential. NBU’s water and sewer projects are in progress. Upcoming projects are the water treatment system and plant expansion, improvements to transmission stations, and infrastructure evaluation for efficiency and expansion. NBU has entered into a contract with the EDF for business development. Businesses that use significant power help to level loads and make power transmission more efficient and cost-effective.

NBU’s other challenge is an aging work force. There is a lack of new engineers, lineman and technicians in the labor market. NBU is working with CTTC to develop training programs to grow and train new employees for positions.

***Host Presentation:***

Caroline Gorman from FedEx Services presented a history of her career with FedEx and with the growth of FedEx in the New Braunfels area. The old facility was a kiosk in the parking lot at the strip mall at 725 and I35. The new facility opened in the late 90’s on Lifehaus drive off of 306. FedEx offers a wealth of services in overnight shipment, logistics, heavy freight and more. More information can be found on the FedEx website or contact Caroline.

***Chamber Report:***

Rusty Brockman provided a report on up-coming programs, prospects and new businesses for the area. The chamber is conducting a survey to complete the new business directory.

More information will be distributed through Rusty’s weekly update.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of December instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Doug Toney from the Herald-Zeitung will be the program and the host. The meeting will be at 11:45 am at the Live Oak Grill on December 12. Contact Rusty Brockman for reservations.

Respectfully submitted: Paul W. Webber, Secretary/Treasurer