DIVISION HEAD'S MESSAGE

The Division Meeting at Hilltop Lakes was an outstanding success. Based on the very positive feedback from meeting participants, we will plan on having another meeting next spring. Anyone who is interested on serving on the planning committee should let me know.

The team building activity was the favorite activity of most participants. Hopefully, we can include some of the lessons learned in our daily activities.

DIVISION MEETING

The Division held its first ever meeting at Hilltop Lakes on Friday, May 19. The meeting was both informative and fun. The team from Design and Operations won the jeopardy challenge, and Systems Implementation won best presentation by a program. The team building activity in the afternoon was a definite hit. A great big thank you goes to the Steering Committee for organizing this event. Steering Committee members were: Corey Ferrier, Michelle Fisher, Dale Picha, Neil Rowan, Jerry Ullman, and Russell Henk.

CALENDAR MARKS

The TexTE Conference will be held in Midland, June 15-17.

DIVISIONAL WANDERERS

Gene Hawkins made a presentation on the need for uniformity in traffic control devices between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico at the APWA Mex-Tex Meeting in Houston.

Dan Fambro attended the Transportation Research Boards' 3D in Transportation Symposium in Houston, May 15 - 17. Dan was the moderator for one of the sessions and a workshop group leader.

Dan Middleton, this month's Marco Polo winner, traveled to the North American Trucking Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico. The two day conference addressed NAFTA related trucking issues. Dan also spent time this month in McAllen meeting Customs and border officials for the International Border Study.

BITS AND PIECES

Gene and Dale Picha also had an interesting experience when they traveled to the Beto State Prison to pick up signs for a research project. They report that there are new heights to strive for in bureaucratic proficiency! After waiting an hour just to get inside the prison, they were escorted to the sign shop where prisoners loaded their signs. They were given a tour of the sign shop, which is impressive, considering prisoners do most of the manual labor. Dale and Gene also got to experience having their cameras confiscated, their van checked for "stowaways," and had their briefcases checked for knives and other unusual objects. All in all it was a very learning experience.

Yes, Folks! After 11 hard years (who says you can only take 10 years), Jerry Ullman was awarded his Doctor of Philosophy Degree on Friday, May 12th. Everyone is invited to come and pay proper homage to the newest Ph.D. in the Division. Congratulations Jerry, we knew you could do it!
Fran Greene's son Brian, will graduate from A&M Consolidated High School on May 27th. Graduating in the top 15% of his class, Brian will attend Purdue University in August, where he will study computer science.

Our very own Andy Somers, who finished his Masters course work in December and worked under Tom Urbanik, is hiking (yes, hiking!) the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. He began the trip in late March and will reach Maine by September. The latest "Andy sitting" was near Wautaga Lake in Hampton, Tennessee, which is approximately 50 miles from the Tennessee/Virginia state line (about 350 miles into the trip). He has reportedly lost 30 pounds. Upon completion of the hike, he will be working for RPM & Associates in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dale Picha is now the Area 4 Coordinator of the TexITE Newsletter. If you have any information that you want printed in the Newsletter regarding projects, changes in personnel, or personal news. Please contact Dale.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Chuck McIlroy and Alan Parham are two of the newest members of the Division. Chuck, who joined us in April, is an A&M graduate. He was formerly with the Arkansas Highway Department.

Alan, who joined us on May 2, was formerly the Director of the Technology Transfer Center at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He comes to TTI/Texas A&M to begin work on a Ph.D. and to watch a real football team play. Chuck and Alan both work for Gene Hawkins in Systems Implementation. Welcome!

Tom Whitney, some of you may remember Tom from last summer, has returned for the summer to work with us. Tom, who is from South Carolina State, will be studying hazardous materials shipments as they relate to border crossings and NAFTA. Welcome back!

Elizabeth and Michael Perez are the proud parents of a baby boy, Kevin Michael. Kevin was born May 10 and weighed 8 lbs. 3 ½ ozs. Congratulations!!

May 16 was the last day at work for Nicole Beasley. Nicole will be getting married June 3. Best wishes from all of us to Nicole and her future husband in their new life.

Happy Birthday

| June 5  | Ying Zhang |
| June 17 | Ken Fogle  |
| June 18 | Lewis Nowlin |
| June 18 | Wen-Pin Tiao |
| June 20 | Rochelle Beall |
| June 22 | Edmond Chang |
| June 23 | Rodger Koppa |
| June 24 | John Cox |
| June 28 | Fran Greene |
| June 28 | Vincent Musat |

NAME THE NEWSLETTER

A contest to name the newsletter will be held this month with the winner announced in July. Put you thinking caps on and submit you entry to Beth Neilson. The contest will be judged by a panel of experts and a prize will be awarded to the winner. The deadline for entry is June 20. If there are duplicate entries, the entry submitted first will be the valid entry.