NTSO News Letter

September 2012

Welcome Letter From the President Laura Chenault

To all returning and new members of NTSO I want to say Welcome.

This year will be a turning point for us. The NTSO officers and I have been working very hard to revitalize this organization. We have uncovered the history of this organization and what the original founders had in mind when NTSO began 25 years ago. My intention, this year, is to return to the basic purpose of what we were meant to achieve.

During the summer, we updated the By-Laws to include information about what it means to be an active member, the requirements for the scholarship, and set an amount of opportunities that must be provided to our members as options for your participation. The By-Laws will be viewable for you online on our website and Tracs. If you desire to have a hard copy, you may print one at any time from the NTSO website.

The NTSO website has been updated and we have become involved in the social media. We have a YouTube channel where we will upload videos of events or video logs about what is going on in the organization at the time. We have a Twitter account and a Facebook page where you can go to see live updates on an event you might have missed or member’s questions for discussions.

With all these new changes, I’m sure some of you are concerned with how we will be benefitting you with your education. Along with our normal member meetings there will be development meetings, arranged by Kate, to give an insight on a subject or just a different perspective. There will also be some webinars available, as well as keeping members up to date on anything we find useful to you in your personal, professional or academic life. Our purpose on campus is to get you involved with the University.

We are collaborating with the Veterans Alliance, arranging some events for our members to enjoy. We look forward to working with them and building the strength of each organization. NTSO has been working with some former members and the Alumni Association to create an NTSO alumni chapter.

My goals, as your president, are to set up some traditions that will keep this organization thriving for years to come, to again be a strong presence on campus bringing back our strengths from the past, to create opportunities that will move us into the next stage. With this current team of officers, we are already seeing a change for NTSO’s future.

This years Officers And Graduate Assistant:
L- R Tammy, Andrew, Laura, Dock, Kaylynn, Kate

September Events
All event count toward MPP

- Sept 4-5 Member Meeting 11:30-12:30 NTSO lounge
- Sept 8 NTSO Tailgate VS Tech Noon (Game @6)
- Sept 10-14 Vendor 8-5 Quad (Fundraiser/Volunteer)
- Sept 11 Commuter Break Sponsor 11-1 Mall (Volunteer)
- Sept 11 SACA Teach Lecture Development Meeting 7pm Ballroom
- Sept 16 NTSO Wii Games Night 2-5 George’s
- Sept 19 NPHC & NTSO Project Vote 8-5 Quad(Volunteer)
- Sept 21 Gold Book Day 9-Noon NTSO Lounge
- Sept 24 Box Tops Collection Day 9-4 Quad (Volunteer)
- Sept 27 Development Meeting 11-12 “Time Management” Lounge
- Sept 30 Bowling 5-7 Sunset Lanes

TWO NEW EVENTS
Box Tops for Education/labels for education
New Rideshare/Carpool Match
President

In 2001 I was the first out of my family to go to college right out of high school. After five years of working towards a Chemistry degree I was unable to finish. Spending the next couple of years in the work force, I've come to Texas State to finally finish a degree. This time I'm working on Business and having an easier time at it. I moved to San Marcos after the first year of dealing with 35 in Austin. I now live in a nice little place with my pets and roommates running around.

Finance Officer

I am a Biology major, returning to school after 10 years. I grew up in Austin, I am married, have 3 dogs, a cat, and live in Round Rock. I am a professionally trained chef and love to cook. I am also an avid crafter, quilter, and all around handy woman. When I graduate I plan to work for the National Parks Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, or a similar agency. NTSO has been a great resource for me to interact with other people with similar backgrounds.

Psychology

Hello everyone, my name is Andrew Alexander and I'm the new Graduate Advisor for NTSO. I wanted to post this note in the newsletter to everyone so you could all know who I was and a little bit about me. Born and raised in Waco, Texas, I just graduated in May from Texas A&M University, with a degree in Political Science. I'm currently a graduate student here at Texas State, earning my Master's Degree in Student Affairs & Higher Education, and also the graduate advisor for the Student Volunteer Connection. I’m really excited for this year and for the chance to work with NTSO. So if you ever see me in the lounge be sure to say hi, because I look forward to meeting y’all. good luck with the semester.

Program Officer

I dropped out of High School when I turned 18. Thirteen days later I was in Boot Camp. I have completed 20yrs in the Navy. During that time I got my GED and then my High School Diploma. When I was on my second shore duty at White Sands Missile Range I started my Collage Education at NMSU. I'm a first generation Collage Student. I took a 19yr break from collage. I’m now an Accounting Major. I have been married to Amy for the past 26 yrs. I Have two outstanding young men as sons both of them are serving in the Army.

Public Relation’s Officer

I am a first generation college student who returned after a 21 year break. In May 2011, I received my AA in Psychology from San Antonio College before transferring to Texas State. I am a mother of 3 and reside in San Antonio with my two younger children and husband of 8 years. I am also a member of Psi Chi International Hone Society in Psychology, Castle Hills First Baptist Church and enjoy volunteering with many different organizations.

Graduate Assistant

Texas State Non—Traditional Student Organization

I appear to be very traditional, I came to Texas State right after high school but the thing that sets me aside is that I was 16 when I got accepted. I’m currently a junior at Texas State and working my way to become a mathematics teacher. I grew up in a small country town but I now live in San Marcos with my beloved pets and am trying hard to adapt to the city lifestyle. I have tons of hobbies but traveling is my passion.

Historian
New Rideshare/Carpool Match

Tired of paying so much to get to school? The raise in gas costs, recent hike in commuter bus passes, and the ongoing cost of maintaining a vehicle are all more than some of us can bear. With current gas prices around $3.50 a gallon, maintenance and insurance fees, the cost of driving a vehicle is around $0.30 per mile. A commuter that drives alone 60 miles a day will end up paying $90 a week just to get to school. The Bobcat Tram prices will be increasing beginning August 27, 2012. The fare prices can be found here: http://www.tram.txstate.edu/BTI/fares.html. A commuter riding the bus from Highland Mall in Austin will now be paying up to $120 a week! Sharing a ride, or carpooling, can instantly cut the cost of driving to school by half or even more! Instead of one person paying $90 a week to drive, adding an additional passenger, or two, can drop the price to $45 or $30 a week. Fewer vehicles on the road also helps to reduce our carbon footprint. Saving money and going green, a double win!

NTSO is proud to announce the start of a new rideshare/carpool match. Students will be able to sign up to join on our website and one of the officers will match members. All details regarding carpooling or ridesharing will be handled by each matched group individually. The success of this program requires that many people sign up. All members interested in this program, with or without vehicles, are encouraged to sign up.

If you have any questions about these new programs, please contact Kate at ks1790@txstate.edu for more information.

From the Desk of Tammy Kothe-Ramsey, Finance Officer

Welcome to NTSO. As the one in charge of the organization’s purse strings, I just want to let you know a few items of importance that will help NTSO succeed financially.

Dues for membership must be paid in cash within one week of turning in your application to keep an active member status, which includes printing rights.

Vending machine selections are available in the NTSO lounge. Our machine is the cheapest on campus. Please tell all your friends. If there is something that you would like to suggest for future selection, please let me or one of the other officers know. The machine accepts only quarters but an officer can make change.

The NTSO provides coffee, tea and on the go packets for bottled water. These are provided on a DONATION basis. A suggested donation is $.60 per serving. It is not necessary to have the donation at the time you wish to enjoy a hot cup of joe; however, please remember that in order to continue providing this we need to keep donations coming in. The donation container is located on the counter by the coffee machine. These donations help the organization to continue offering quality items and benefits for members to enjoy:

Three lockers are left for rental on a first come first serve basis. Rental prices are $10 per semester and need to be paid in cash upon completing the rental agreement. Locks will need to be provided by the Renter.

Avalon Jewelry is our sponsored vendor. Walt Smith donates a portion of his profits to our organization and makes up the largest portion of our fundraising efforts. The University policy requires that a representative from our organization accompany the vendor while on campus. Therefore, on the days that Avalon Jewelry is scheduled to be on campus, we need to have a member present every hour. A sign-up sheet will be posted on Trac prior to the fundraising date. If no one takes the time to accompany our vendor, our sponsorship could be terminated. Last semester Avalon Jewelry donated $1023 to NTSO. These funds help pay for the items listed below.

Fees for bowling, tubing, tailgate events and movies
Furniture, Appliances (new or replacement)
Scholarship Fund

If you have any questions regarding the finances of NTSO, please feel free to ask. I can be reached at tk2@txstate.edu.

Earn Cash for Local Schools

NTSO is starting an exciting new philanthropy project to help local schools. We will now be collecting Box Tops for Education (BTE), Labels for Education (LE) to donate to a local schools nominated by our members. The collected BTE, and LE help schools earn money for needed supplies like books and computers. All you have to do is save the box tops, labels or that are on things you already buy. A collection box is already in place in the lounge and we will also be hosting collection days in the Quad a few times in the fall semester. Please help spread the word to your classmates and professors so we can help kids succeed!