



RITA'S ON THE RIVER
Riverwalk San Antonio
Rio Plaza - Crockett

Rita's on the River is reminiscent of the Ice Houses of San Antonio. Rita's is a neighborhood place on the banks of the San Antonio River



Annual Holiday Banquet

The Section's Annual Holiday Banquet will be held from **6 to 9 PM** on the evening of Saturday, **December 6, 2008**, at **Rita's on the River** in the Mark's Room. STITE members and guests are invited to enjoy a gathering featuring appetizers, followed by a buffet of Mexican cuisine. A cash bar will be available. Also, if you would like to participate in the **White Elephant Gift Exchange**, please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 to \$15. Participation is not required.

RSVPs are required, and if made before **November 21st**, the event cost will be \$25.00 per person. Please RSVP no later than noon on Friday, November 21, 2008. After November 21st the event will cost \$30.00 per person. **NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED**. Online reservations are now available on the **EVENTS** page of the STITE website. No refunds will be issued for online payments after December 1, 2008. Any questions can be addressed to Rob Belarmino at rbelarmino@pape-dawson.com.

 **South Texas Section**
Institute of Transportation Engineers

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San Antonio, TX
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With Much Appreciation for Sponsorship of the Holiday Banquet



Winter 2008

STITE Officers:

President

Marc Jacobson, P.E., PTOE
City of San Antonio
marc.jacobson@sanantonio.gov

Vice-President

Eduardo Mendoza, P.E.
City of McAllen
edmendoza@mcallen.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Garry Ford, P.E., PTOE
City of San Antonio
garry.ford@sanantonio.gov

Section Representative

Andy Ballard, P.E., PTOE
HDR|WHM Transportation
andrew.ballard@hdrinc.com

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Rob Belarmino,

Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Website: Garry Ford,

City of San Antonio

Nominations: Rene Arredondo,

CEC Civil Engineering Consultants

Newsletter: Kerri Collins,

Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Annual Holiday Banquet:

Rob Belarmino,

Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

 **South Texas Section**
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Section News...

CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR

STITE OFFICE

The Nominations Committee, Chaired by Rene Arredondo, has accepted nominations for two STITE offices – Secretary/Treasurer and Section Representative. Official ballots will be emailed to STITE members later this month. Voting results will be announced at the STITE Annual Holiday Banquet on December 6, 2008, and newly elected officers will be sworn in.

The current ballot includes:

President – **Eduardo Mendoza**
Vice President – **Garry Ford**

Secretary/
Treasurer – **Chris Georges**
Rob Belarmino

Section
Representative – **Kerri Collins**
Marc Jacobson

Biographies of candidates are provided below. Questions regarding the voting process can be directed to Rene Arredondo at rarredondo@cectexas.com

PRESIDENT – EDUARDO MENDOZA, PE, PTOE



Eduardo Mendoza has been a member of STITE for 4 years. Over the past two years he has served as Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice-President of the Section. During this time the Section membership

has grown significantly and participation at meetings has increased. **“Our group has grown so much and I anticipate another successful year. I hope with your support we can continue our efforts.”**

Eduardo has worked with the City of McAllen for 5 years during which he has held several positions. He is married to Patricia Mendoza and they have three children Eduardo Jr., Sophia and Isabella.

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VICE PRESIDENT - GARRY FORD, JR, PE, PTOE



Garry Ford is a Traffic Signal Engineer in the Traffic Management Division at the City of San Antonio. Garry serves as the Secretary/Treasurer and Webmaster of the ITE South Texas Section,

and has been an active ITE member for over 10 years. He holds a Master's degree from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at San Antonio, both in Civil Engineering.

Garry has over 10 years of experience in traffic and transportation engineering including research, consulting engineering and municipal government. He has managed and conducted traffic engineering projects in San Antonio and South Texas including traffic operations analyses of freeway, arterial and signal systems, corridor studies, access management, traffic signal design and optimization, traffic impact analyses and road user cost studies. Garry's research experience includes traffic control devices, freeway signing, hurricane evacuation operations and development of micro-simulation training courses.

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A Letter from the STITE President, Marc Jacobson...

As my term as Section President comes to a close, I thought it would be a good time to highlight some of the Section's accomplishments this year. Overall the section had a great year. We had seven Section meetings this year, including one in Laredo, which were very well attended and offered a chance to learn some interesting information from a variety of speakers. In addition, we also had our first joint meeting with our neighbors to the north in the Capital Area Section which provided a great opportunity for networking and to learn more about some other nearby transportation initiatives. I believe the success of this joint meeting dictates that it should be something that we strive to continue in the coming years.

The Section also had the opportunity to host the rest of the state when the TexITE Summer Meeting was held in San Antonio. Next summer we will welcome the rest of the transportation engineering world when the international ITE Annual Meeting is held in San Antonio and I hope that our Section is well represented. Our year will be coming to close with our annual Holiday Party which is always a great opportunity to socialize and have fun.

This has been a difficult year for our profession. The overall economic downturn and the project funding issues at TxDOT have certainly impacted many of our members. It is in times like these that the support network provided by this Section has the greatest importance. I thank all of you who have volunteered to head committees, plan meetings, develop newsletters, and work with students. I encourage all of you to stay involved in the Section and help to continue to grow our membership.

Garry Ford, Secretary/Treasurer



Erich Klein, 3M Traffic Safety Systems Division

South Texas Section Meeting...

The South Texas Section held its monthly meeting on October 29, 2008, at Grady's Barbecue Restaurant. The lunchtime meeting featured as guest speaker Erich Klein, Executive Government Transportation Safety Specialist with 3M Traffic Safety Systems Division.

STITE BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order by current Secretary/Treasurer **Garry Ford**. Garry provided the Treasurer's report, adding that the current bank balance is \$2,71.43.

Rene Arredondo, the Nominations Chair, announced that two candidates are running for each office – Secretary/Treasurer – Chris Georges and Rob Belarmino, Section Representative – Kerri Collins and Marc Jacobson. Rene asked for additional nominations from those in attendance at the meeting.

None were offered. Rene explained that the elections would be conducted via online voting for the first time in STITE history.

Rob Belarmino provided an update on the Annual Holiday Banquet. Plans are well underway. The Banquet will be held at Rita's on the River on December 6th. Opportunities for Sponsorships were offered to a number of companies.

Oscar Garza provided an update on Student Chapter activities. He asked for volunteers interested in participating in networking events with students. Anyone interested can contact Oscar at omgarza@pateeng.com. He also pointed out that the 8th Student Chapter, represented by Texas Tech University, Lubbock, was approved by the District Board.

Andy Ballard, Section Representative, reported that STITE membership has increased by 14%.

Erich Klein, of 3M, gave a presentation on the new FHWA requirements for retroreflectivity of signage, and how 3M's products are fulfilling those requirements.

Public agencies must have a management plan in place by January 2012 to maintain the new retroreflectivity levels. Regulatory, warning and post-mounted guide signs (except street name signs) must be replaced by January 2015 if they do not meet the minimum retroreflectivity levels. Overhead guide signs and street name signs must be replaced by January 2018. 3M's new DG³ material returns nearly twice as much reflected light as the brightest materials currently available and lasts longer.

Candidates for Section Representative

KERRI COLLINS, PE, PTOE



Kerri Collins has been an ITE member for over 20 years. Her association with ITE began in 1984 when she became a national member. Most recently, Kerri served as the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2008 TexITE District 9 meeting held in San Antonio. She is also a member of the STITE Holiday Banquet Committee, and is serving as the STITE Newsletter Editor. In addition to ITE, Kerri has been active in WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar) and previously served as the Greater New York Chapter Vice President.

Kerri has over 24 years of experience in traffic engineering. She has a BS Degree in both Architecture and Civil Engineering. Kerri began her career working for the MPO in Southeast Michigan, and continued working in the public sector at a County Road Commission and the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority. The start of her private-sector career coincided with a move to New York in 1991 where she began working for an international consulting firm located in Manhattan. Since relocating to San Antonio in 2007, Kerri has been employed as a Senior Project Manager at Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

MARC JACOBSON, PE, PTOE



Marc Jacobson has been an active member in TexITE for 12 years and was a founding member of the South Texas Chapter (now Section). He is currently serving as the Section President, and previously served as the Section Vice-President. Marc also served as the TexITE Webmaster for five years, introducing on-line meeting registration and voting to the District.

Marc is the Traffic Signal System Management Engineer for the City of San Antonio. He is currently the project manager for the City of San Antonio's \$33 million project to upgrade all of its traffic signals. He was previously employed by the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Transportation Institute, and the City of Dallas. Marc lives in San Antonio with his wife Elizabeth and his children, Asher and Lyla.

Candidates for Secretary/Treasurer

CHRISTOPHER GEORGES, PE



results with better data."

Chris Georges has been a member of the South Texas section since 2005. He has enjoyed serving his section through his involvement on various committees. In 2007, Chris became an international ITE member, and had the opportunity to be a part of the annual conference in Anaheim, California. Chris lives in San Antonio with his wife Rebekah.

ROBERTSON BELARMINO, PE



Robertson Belarmino graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell in 2001. He is currently an Assistant Project Manager with Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc. Rob served as the design engineer on a variety of Land Development and Transportation projects throughout his professional career. He is currently working on traffic signal design projects, traffic impact studies, and roadway/intersection improvements in the South Texas Region. Rob has been involved with various organizations as a student and a professional. He has served as the ASCE Student Chapter President for two years, and was a recipient of the Outstanding Student Service award for his work and effort to promote civil engineering. As an ITE member, he has served on various committees and is currently the Chair for the STITE Holiday Banquet. He is a member of Chi Epsilon, TSPE/NSPE, and volunteers as a mentor for Jackson-Keller Elementary School.