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Committee Meetings...

Board of Directors

Dates: Oct. 12*, Nov. 12, Dec. 11
Time: 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Place: The Greenspoint Club
*Call for details on this retreat

Business Issues & Resources

Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 29
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

Environment

Dates: Oct. 11, Nov. 8
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

Transportation

Dates: Oct. 24, Nov. 28
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

VP for all meetings by calling
281-875-0660.

The NHA VISION is a
Quarterly Publication for
North Houston Association
Members.



(l. to r.) NHA President Senator Jon Lindsay, NHA Chairman Dennis Petersen, Congressman Kevin Brady, Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole, and NHA Executive Director Carolyn Wright, pause for a photo following the August luncheon.

Brady Emphasizes Need for Trade Agreements

Congressman Kevin Brady told NHA members that trade is key to the United States' economic prosperity, and that negotiation of free trade treaties is essential to the country's growth.

President Bush is seeking trade promotion authority to enable him to open up trade, and Brady feels that the President needs this power in order to retain the country's leading economic role in the global market.

In his comments at NHA's August luncheon, he said that with only two international trade agreements, America is only slightly ahead of, "those bastions of democracy of Cuba and Morocco."

"It's like Lewis and Clark days in the world," he said. Countries are staking claims in trade and the U.S. needs to be in the game.

Brady reminded the group of business leaders about NAFTA's impact to the state. He said that due to NAFTA, in five years, enough new jobs have been created in Texas to fill every seat in the Astrodome twice.

"Trade is key to our prosperity," he said. "Texas is the second largest and fastest growing exporter."

He cited Ray Perryman's research that concludes two of every three new jobs in the state are created by trade.

"The potential for new jobs is huge. These international jobs pay more than domestic jobs," said Brady.

"Look at China," he continued, "and what they need to buy and what they have to sell. No state will benefit more than Texas, where we could see as many as 30,000 families benefit from trade with China."

"When you open markets, you open minds," he said. This provides people in other

countries with the "touch and taste" of freedom.

"Freedom is our strongest export," stated Brady.

When asked about the economy, he agreed that the economy is slow, and the country will have less revenue this year than projected. "But," he added, "we will still have the second largest surplus in American history."

Regarding Social Security reform, he stressed as inevitable a transition to a prepaid retirement plan, and noted that there is no escaping that transition.

Brady also responded to a question from an audience member about President Bush's energy strategy. He noted that the President is taking a three-pronged approach: conservation, new technologies and new supply.

Brady, who represents the 8th District of Texas, has been named to the Ways and Means Committee for the 107th Congress, considered by many to be one of the most powerful committees. He will serve on the Social Security and Select Revenue Measures Subcommittees.

As a member of Congress, Brady has focused on international trade, technology, tax reform and closing safe havens around the globe for criminals who flee American justice.

He is best known as author of the Federal Sunset Act, and has a special interest in curing Pulmonary Hypertension, an incurable disease that strikes primarily women and young children in growing numbers.

In Congress, Brady has been named a *Hero of the Taxpayer*, *Small Business Champion* and a *Super Friend-of-the-Seniors*. He has received the *Golden Bulldog Award* by Watchdogs of the Treasury, special recognition by Citizens Against Government Waste, and is a perennial winner of the *Guardian of Small Business Award* and *Spirit of Enterprise Award*.



From the Executive Director

Carolyn S. Wright
*NHA Executive
Director*

As we emerge from a sense of shock at the unbelievable acts that occurred on September 11, we are faced with the reality of an economic impact to our nation, and to the north Houston region. The North Houston Association lobbied our legislators shortly after the attacks, requesting financial assistance to the airline industry, and specifically for Continental Airlines. Congress, and President Bush, responded to our collective pleas with funding to aid the industry. In the days to come, NHA will help in this fight to restore our sense of security by lending its voice and the strength of our members to help the region's economy recover.

Specifically regarding NHA activities, we have created a Visioning Taskforce to discuss the Association's role in the community in the coming three years. We have worked on our mission statement, adjusting it to more accurately reflect NHA's purpose and activities. One goal of the Visioning Taskforce is to identify about three issues for each committee on which the Association will focus its efforts. There are so many issues that we can, and do, get involved with. While each issue has its own merits, we as an organization need to stay on track with the areas that are key to our mission.

The Visioning Taskforce will give a report at the coming NHA Board Retreat in October, and the Board will work with the committees to identify these issues and create a plan to have an impact on these areas. This time of refocusing is sometimes tedious, but necessary to keep the organization moving forward in the direction that will benefit the region and our members. I'll update you on the progress of this taskforce and let you know how you can get involved in helping NHA accomplish these goals.

ECO Resources, Inc., RS&H Join NHA

Two companies joined NHA's membership in the third quarter of 2001: ECO Resources, Inc., and Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc.

ECO Resources, Inc. is the leading utility operations company in Texas, providing innovative, economical utility operations since 1973. Headquartered in Sugar Land, ECO employs nearly 400 people in four states and maintains regional offices in Austin, Texas; Biloxi, Mississippi; and Newark, California. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Southwest Water Company. Southwest is a public traded corporation listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange under the symbol SWWC. Southwest has assets exceeding \$100 million.

Since its inception, ECO has specialized in the water and wastewater treatment industry, providing comprehensive environmental services to a long list of satisfied clients and customers. ECO serves more than 120 client cities and municipal utility districts in the southern United States, performing a multitude of services, i.e. water production and distribution,

wastewater collection and treatment, storm water collection, meter reading, and customer billing and collection.

ECO brings a proven expertise and quality resources to serve clients in a manner that will enhance their wastewater operations without increasing costs.

Joe Zimmerman, regional vice president for ECO Resources, serves as the chairman of NHA's Business Issues & Resources Committee.

Since 1941, Reynolds, Smith and Hills (RS&H) and its predecessor firms have developed a reputation for client-focused success. Today, the firm is comprised of 12 offices and is infused with new solutions for meeting the challenges of tomorrow.

The Houston office of RS&H was started in 1998, based on a commitment by the company to expand into promising markets where a need for quality services had been identified. Since that start, RS&H has been very successful in obtaining new projects and growing its

staff to 20 professionals.

The office is currently staffed to provide Aviation and Transportation services for private and public sector clients.

The RS&H transportation program serves federal, state and local authorities as well as multimodal agencies. The firm's transportation planning services include: systems planning, travel demand forecasting, master planning, corridor designation studies, interchange studies, transit route studies and project development as well as environmental studies for multimodal and intermodal transportation systems.

The firm's experience includes freeways, turnpikes, arterials, interchanges, transit systems, rail passenger and container ports, airports, and intermodal freight and passenger facilities.

Niko Mozaffar, P.E., serves as the member contact for RS&H, and plans to be involved in the North Houston Association's Environment and Transportation Committees.

Elkins, Hamric & Lindsay Address Legislative Issues at NHA Breakfast Series

Texas legislators gave NHA members a head start on the 2003 legislative session this summer, when they spoke at a series of legislative breakfasts hosted by the Association.

"Our purpose was not to rehash old issues, but to discover how we can prepare for the next session. We must continue to be proactive and devise a long-term legislative strategy for the north Houston region," said Executive Director Carolyn Wright.

The series consisted of three breakfasts featuring Representatives Gary Elkins and Peggy Hamric as well as Senator Jon Lindsay.

When asked about issues in the 2003 session, Hamric said, "The big issue will be the budget. Comptroller Rylander has already predicted a shortfall for the next session's budget."

Hamric noted that if the economy did not improve in the next couple of years, the Senate Appropriations Committee might be forced to look at making major cuts, or perhaps complete elimination of some programs. Hamric served on the Appropriations Committee in the 2001 session.

Regarding the recently completed 77th Texas Legislative Session, Hamric noted a number of bills that were passed related to safety issues: open container law, graduated driver's license program and child safety seat requirements.

Elkins discussed a number of bills, including HB2134, which revives the issue of vehicle emissions testing.

"Hopefully, it will be a more streamlined process," he said. "The law gives

the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission the authority to develop a revised plan."

Elkins also touched on the creation of the Texas Mobility Fund, which allows the state to finance roads utilizing bonds instead of the current "pay-as-you-go" system. This is a constitutional amendment that will be put before voters in November.

"We desperately need some relief," he said concerning the congestion woes that face the Houston region.

Elkins sponsored the telecommunications soliciting bill, which also passed the legislature. This action created a system so people can get removed from solicitation lists by saying the "magic words," said Elkins. "When they call you, just say 'Please put my name on your do not call list,' and they are required to do so."

One issue all three legislators spent time on is redistricting. Hamric attended a number of Legislative Redistricting Board (LRB) meetings, and is working to ensure Harris County does not lose any districts.

Both Elkins and Hamric noted that rural Texas is shrinking. Elkins estimated that it will

lose about six House seats through the redistricting process.

Lindsay predicted the redistricting battle will result in a conservative legislature.

"The thing to look at is where the leadership will go. Who will be the committee chairs? That's where the speculation will be between now and January," said Lindsay.

He noted that a conservative legislature will bring state budget and school finance issues to the forefront. "The legislature will be trying to reduce taxes, and won't be as focused on the local issues. My point is to remind us, your legislators, to pay attention to your local issues," he said.

Lindsay also discussed the sunset review of the Texas Department of Economic Development, the water supply issue and property values. He also noted that the Senate interim committees were being established.

Elkins referred those present to a web site to find our details on particular bills: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/hrofr/frame9.htm>. Hamric also suggested going online to the State of Texas House Research Organization website.

The breakfasts took place at the Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, and there was no charge for NHA members to attend, due to the generous underwriting of a number of NHA members: Arcadis/WSBC Civil Engineering Company, Cobourn Linseisen & Ratcliff, Inc., Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, ECO Resources, Inc., JNS Consulting Engineers, Inc., The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P., and Turner Collie & Braden, Inc.



NHA President Senator Jon Lindsay (l), Representative Peggy Hamric (above) and Representative Gary Elkins (r) speak to North Houston Association members at the group's Legislative Breakfast Series at the Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel in July.





Charles Manley
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Charles Manley works for a company that Fortune magazine calls "the best little oil house in Texas." Anadarko Petroleum is among Fortune's "100 Fastest-Growing Companies," and is the largest independent oil and gas exploration and production company in the world.

For many, this is reason enough work for the energy firm, but Manley has stayed at Anadarko for 26 years simply because, "It's a great company. The people I work with are a tremendous group of people. They're so energetic and enthusiastic," he said. "Most of them, like me, have been here for the majority of their career, so I have gotten to know them personally."

Anadarko is headquartered in north Houston, and has been for XX years. Because of its growth, next spring the company's headquarters will relocate to The Woodlands, where it will occupy more than one million square feet of office space, not including a 125,000 square foot records center.

In addition to its presence in the United States, Anadarko is active in 15 other countries around the globe. When asked about the

economic effects of the recent attacks on America, Manley said other than some employees stranded overseas for a few days, there were no problems. "Economically, everything's great," he said.

Manley began his career with Anadarko in 1974 as personnel and administration manager for Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company (now Duke Energy), Anadarko's former parent company. In 1976, he was appointed director of employee relations for Anadarko Production Company, and a year later was promoted to vice president of administration and employee relations. Manley was named senior vice president of administration in 1993, and executive vice president of administration in 2000.

To prepare for his career path, he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1967 from The University of Texas at Austin, and has also completed advanced studies at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, and at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

He is an active member of several professional and civic organizations, including the

Society of Human Resource Management, the American Compensation Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the Greater Houston Partnership and the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to serving on NHA's board of directors, he has also been on the Houston Grand Opera's board for 10 years, and was recently appointed to the finance committee.

Manley is an active member of the North Houston Association because, "It's important for Anadarko to be part of a strong, vibrant business community and to have the services NHA provides for our business and employees," he said. "North Houston is an area that has a tremendous amount of amenities, and NHA facilitates that, especially in the area of transportation."

When Manley takes a spare moment from work and community activities, he enjoys playing golf and going snow skiing with his entire family – his wife, five children and five grandchildren.

Vacar Speaks on Airport Security, Expansion

When Rick Vacar initially was asked to speak at the North Houston Association's luncheon on September 26, his topic of discussion was to be expansion plans of the Houston Airport System (HAS).

However, in light of recent events in the nation, Vacar, Director of Aviation for HAS, began his comments with a security update.

He reviewed the security measures rolled out by the Federal Aviation Administration, which include checking the interiors of all vehicles parking in nearby airport garages.

Regarding local economic impact of the attacks, Vacar said that HAS is, "most vulnerable in terms of losing money on our concessions and parking revenues."

He noted that this loss in revenue, combined with the increased costs of security measures will have a negative impact of about

\$50,000. Vacar said the funds are there, but will have to be shifted from the capital improvement program to cover these unexpected losses.

"There is still plenty of activity," he said. We usually about 123,000 passengers per day and lately we've had about 50,000 each day, which is still a lot of activity."

He reported that Bush International Airport's (IAH) air traffic doubled over the last 10 years. "Our growth is second only to Cincinnati, which has a new hub," he said.

Because of this growth and the system's projected growth, several improvements are taking place, including constructing a new garage that will hold 5,600 vehicles, adding a

third parallel runway, lengthening and widening of runway 15R, creation of a consolidated car rental facility, and a new International Services Expansion Program (ISEP).

The IAB Terminal will have many structural and aesthetic improvements, including a name change to "Terminal E." Some roadway improvements on Greens Road and Lee Road will be needed because of the increased traffic due to expansion of cargo facilities.

Also at the luncheon, Harris County Commissioner Eversole spoke briefly on the upcoming 2001 Bond Referendum. For detailed information on this election, contact the North Houston Association office or Harris County Precinct Four.



CHA's 7th Annual Tournament a Big Hit

Special Thanks To...

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Montgomery County Judge Alan
Sadler

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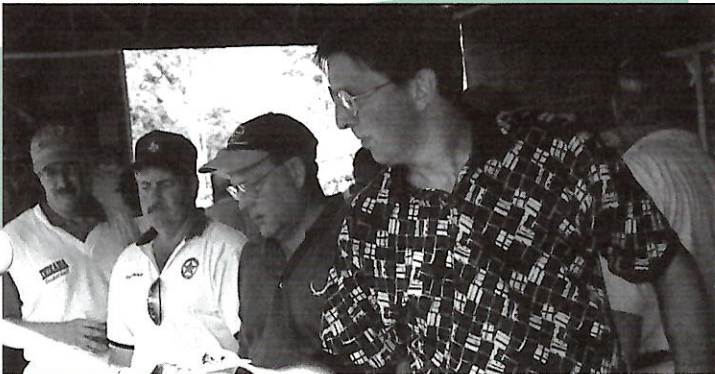
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Alan Hirshman, Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation
Katy Kessler, Walter P. Moore & Associates
Marilyn McInnes, Turner Collie & Braden, Inc.
Cindy Plunkett, North Harris County Regional Water Authority
Kathy Rossi, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.
Lisa Sagstetter, North Harris County Regional Water Authority



Commuter Choice Offers Options

Commuting challenges need more than a cookie cutter approach, and thanks to the Commuter Choice program, employers and employees can discover personalized solutions.

Benefits of this program supported by the Environmental Protection Agency include reduced traffic congestion and improved travel times, enhanced employee recruitment and lower employee turnover, higher quality of life and better air quality, reduced transportation facility costs and greater opportunities for tax savings.

The program can include communities working with residents, schools working with students, and developers working with future tenants to provide and promote choices for travelers.

When reviewing their options, most commuters think of bus transit and Park and Ride options. These are excellent choices available in the Houston region, but there are other alternatives to consider.

A number of north Houston workers are choosing vanpooling as their mode of transportation. A vanpool is ideal in areas where employees commute long distances or lack adequate transit services. In a vanpool, seven to 15 people share the cost of a commuter van. It can save riders hundreds of dollars a year since the commute cost is spread among so many people. METRO also subsidizes a number of vanpools.

Teleworking is another option many employers are choosing. Alternative workplace strategies include part-time and full-time home-based work, setting up satellite work centers, and office-sharing arrangements.

Compressed work weeks allow employees to work additional hours each day in return for a day off. Staggered work hours and flextime allow employees to alter when they get to work and leave for home. This allows them to avoid the peak of rush hour traffic.

For more information on Commuter Choice, go to www.commuterchoice.com.

DeLibero Discusses the Future of Rail

North Houston Association members caught a glimpse of Houston's transportation future at the Association's Business Issues & Resources Committee meeting on June 29.

METRO's President and CEO, Shirley DeLibero, conveyed her vision of the region's transportation options for the coming years, which includes light rail as a component.

The first light rail segment, which connects downtown and the medical center, is currently under construction.

According to DeLibero, the light rail route will result in the elimination of 1,200 buses and will carry 8,000 passengers per hour in each direction. She estimates the economic impact to the corridor will be anywhere between 500 million and one billion dollars.

"Light rail is not for everywhere (in the city), but it is another tool to use in congestion mitigation," said DeLibero.

DeLibero said she hears the same arguments against rail in Houston that she previously heard in Dallas, including concerns about lack of density and ridership. "Look at Dallas now. They are successful," she said.

METRO chose the location of the initial line as part of a long-term strategy.

"When you build a rail system, you do it

from the inside out. You have to have a connectors. You don't build the line and just drop people," said DeLibero.

DeLibero predicts Houstonians will warm up to the rail idea once they have the opportunity to experience it, and will support the addition of lines that connect to the initial corridor.

"I've only seen one system build without adding an extension, and that was in Buffalo, New York," she said.

DeLibero addressed the controversy over a public referendum for this initial corridor.

"We were that because we weren't incurring any debt, we couldn't have a referendum," she said.

However, Senator Jon Lindsay,

who was present at the meeting, said this was changed during the 77th Texas Legislative Session.

DeLibero plans to go to voters in 2004, once a total system plan, including costs and duration, is developed.

Meanwhile, METRO is currently analyzing four corridors to determine the best transportation solutions, including Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and Hardy. DeLibero noted that all studies are mode-neutral, meaning that all alternatives, including rail and HOV lanes, will be considered.



METRO President and CEO Shirley DeLibero speaks at NHA's Business Issues & Resources Committee meeting while Bob Stout, The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P. looks on.

Downtown to Astrodome Project Facts

- 7.5 miles in length
- 16 stations
- Project cost - \$300 million
- Cost is 7% of METRO's \$4.3 billion Millennium Mobility Plan
- Initial fleet - 15 cars
- Off-vehicle fare collection
- Will be operational in 2004
- Projected average weekday boardings in 2020 - about 40,000
- 245,000 employees in corridor (1999)
- 32,000 residents in corridor (1999)

Citizens to Vote on 19 Constitutional Amendments in November

On November 6, 2001, Texans will have the opportunity to cast their votes for a number of political races, but they will express their opinions on 19 Constitutional Amendments as well.

As a service to its members, the North Houston Association is making available an analysis on all 19 amendments, compiled by Senator Jon Lindsay's staff. The full summary is available by contacting the NHA office at 281-875-0660.

The following brief descriptions of each amendment were taken from the information provided by Senator Lindsay.

Proposition 1 (HJR 52) - provides for clearing of land titles by the release of a state claim of its interest to the owners of certain land in Bastrop County.

Proposition 2 (SJR 37) - authorizes the issuance of state general obligation bonds and notes to provide financial assistance to counties for roadway projects to serve border colonias (rural residential subdivisions located in unincorporated areas of counties, typically consisting of substandard housing with few utilities or amenities and little or no infrastructure).

Proposition 3 (SJR 47) - authorizes the Legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation raw cocoa and green coffee that is held in Harris County.

Proposition 4 (HJR 1) - provides for a four-year term of office for the fire fighters' pension commissioner.

Proposition 5 (SJR 32) - authorizes municipalities to donate outdated or surplus firefighting equipment or supplies to underdeveloped countries.

Proposition 6 (HJR 45) - requires the governor to call a special session for the appointment of presidential electors under certain circumstances.

Proposition 7 (HJR 82) - authorizes the Veterans' Land Board to issue up to \$500 million in general obligation bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for veterans' housing assistance and to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide for veterans' cemeteries.

Proposition 8 (HJR 97) - authorizes the issuance of up to \$850 million in bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for construction and repair projects and for the

purchase of needed equipment.

Proposition 9 (HJR 47) - authorizes the filling of a vacancy in the Legislature without an election if a candidate is running unopposed in an election to fill the vacancy.

Proposition 10 (SJR 6) - promotes equal tax treatment for products produced, acquired, and distributed in the state of Texas by authorizing the Legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property held at certain locations only temporarily for assembling, manufacturing, processing, or other commercial purposes.

Proposition 11 (HJR 85) Sponsor: Lindsay - allows current and retired public school teachers and retired public school administra-

school districts to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers that are not held or used for the production of income.

Proposition 15 (SJR 16) - creates the Texas Mobility Fund and authorizes grants and loans of money and issuance of obligations for financing the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, operation, and expansion of state highways, turnpikes, toll roads, toll bridges and other mobility projects.

Proposition 16 (HJR 5) - prescribes requirements for imposing a lien for work and material used in the construction, repair, or renovation of improvements on residential homestead property and including the conversion and refinance of a personal property lien

Spotlight on Proposition 15 - Mobility Amendment

Texas Transportation Commissioner Robert Nichols is asking for support from the North Houston Association and its members regarding Proposition 15. According to Nichols, if the Constitutional amendment is passed by voters, it will create the "greatest opportunity in the past two decades to advance the construction of highway projects." The amendment has three primary components. First, it creates a Texas Mobility Fund that allows the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to issue bonds for the accelerated construction of major highway projects when future legislatures appropriate or dedicate resources to the fund. Second, it allows TxDOT to use its resources to help in the development and construction of tolled highway facilities. Third, it provides the Texas Transportation Commission with the authority to create new Regional Mobility Authorities outside the boundaries of existing regional authorities, which will be controlled by local boards. The new authorities can build, operate and maintain newly created tolled projects, as well as issue bonds supported by future toll revenues.

tors to receive compensation for serving on the governing bodies of school districts, cities, towns, or other local government districts.

Proposition 12 (HJR 75) - eliminates obsolete, archaic, redundant and unnecessary provisions and to clarify, update, and harmonize certain provisions of the Texas Constitution.

Proposition 13 (SJR 2) - authorizes the Legislature to authorize the board of trustees of an independent school district to donate certain surplus district property of historical significance in order to preserve the property.

Proposition 14 (HJR 44) - authorizes the Legislature to authorize taxing units other than

secured by a manufactured home to a lien on real property as a debt on homestead property protected from a forced sale.

Proposition 17 (HJR 53) - authorizes the Legislature to settle land title disputes between the state and a private party.

Proposition 18 (SJR 49) - promotes uniformity in the collection, deposit, reporting, and remitting of civil and criminal fees.

Proposition 19 (HJR 81) - provides for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$2 billion.

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Company, L.P.

Paul Voinis

Turner Collie & Braden Inc.

NHA Elects New Board Members

New North Houston Association board members were elected at the annual membership meeting, which was held during the golf tournament dinner on September 10 at Willow Creek Golf Club.

Senator Jon Lindsay, NHA president, thanked the three outgoing board members for their work for the Association and its programs.

Bruce Hillegeist, Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce, rotated off the board after serving two years in one of the designated chamber of commerce positions.

The second outgoing board member has been involved with NHA since its inception - Gary Montgomery, Montgomery & Associates. Jim Royer, Turner Collie & Braden, Inc. also stepped down from the Association's board. Royer served as chairman in the previous term,

and has been involved with NHA for many years.

All outgoing Association board members received a gift as a token of appreciation for all their contributions to the North Houston Association.

Four board members renewed their terms: Alex Sutton, The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P., Nene Foxhall, Continental Airlines, Inc., Mark Froehlich, Pate Engineers, and Dr. Martin Basaldua, Basaldua & Heller.

NHA members also approved the addition of three new board members. David Millikan, Michael Baker Jr. and Paul Voinis, Turner Collie & Braden, Inc. joined the board, and Suzan Deison, North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce, filled one of the designated chamber of commerce positions.

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Petroleum Corporation

 **ECO Resources, Inc.**

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RS&H

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