

**MINUTES**  
**AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY DISTRICT 18**  
**41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE - 2018**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Wyndham Hotel El Paso Airport, El Paso, TX**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rhenda Kenny	AWS HQ Staff	<a href="mailto:rhenda@aws.org">rhenda@aws.org</a>
Thomas Holt	District 18 Director	<a href="mailto:tholt@techcorr.com">tholt@techcorr.com</a>
Drew Fontenot	Sect 142 Lake Charles	<a href="mailto:drew.fontenot@yahoo.com">drew.fontenot@yahoo.com</a>
Geoffrey Thorn	Sect. 142 Lake Charles	<a href="mailto:geoffrey.thorn@alsglobal.com">geoffrey.thorn@alsglobal.com</a>
John McKeehan	Sect. 93 Sabine	<a href="mailto:john.mckeehan@lit.edu">john.mckeehan@lit.edu</a>
Jim Stuckey	Sect. 93 Sabine	<a href="mailto:stuckey_jb@yahoo.com">stuckey_jb@yahoo.com</a>
Morris G. Weeks	Sect. 93 Sabine	<a href="mailto:mweekswelding@aol.com">mweekswelding@aol.com</a>
Nikki Hughes	Odessa College Student Chapter	<a href="mailto:nikki.hughes@bellows-systems.com">nikki.hughes@bellows-systems.com</a>
Michael A. Martinez	Sect. 82 San Antonio	<a href="mailto:mmartinez3910@yahoo.com">mmartinez3910@yahoo.com</a>
Ellery A. Francisco	Sect. 153 Corpus Christi	<a href="mailto:ellery.francisco@gasandsupply.com">ellery.francisco@gasandsupply.com</a>
Chris Long	Sect. 153 Corpus Christi	<a href="mailto:chris.long@pspindustries.com">chris.long@pspindustries.com</a>
Thomas Evans	Sect. 198 El Paso	<a href="mailto:thomas.j.evans@sbcglobal.net">thomas.j.evans@sbcglobal.net</a>
Lupe De La Cruz, Jr.	Sect. 198 El Paso	<a href="mailto:dlcelp.machine@hotmail.com">dlcelp.machine@hotmail.com</a>
David Twitty	Sect. 198 El Paso	<a href="mailto:dtwitty@nmsu.edu">dtwitty@nmsu.edu</a>
Alfredo Pena	Sect. 22 Houston	<a href="mailto:alfredopena208@aol.com">alfredopena208@aol.com</a>
Jason Trosen	Sect. 22 Houston	<a href="mailto:jtrosen@gmail.com">jtrosen@gmail.com</a>
Dennis Eck	Sect. 22 Houston	<a href="mailto:dennis@eck.email">dennis@eck.email</a>
John Bray	Sect. 22 Houston	<a href="mailto:sales@affiliatedmachinery.com">sales@affiliatedmachinery.com</a>

1. 8:02 am – Director Holt called the meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Thomas Evans, (Sect.198 Sec.), was introduced and appointed conference secretary.
4. All present stood individually to introduce themselves around the room.
5. Director Holt acknowledged the presence of Mr. David Twitty, (AWS member since 1978), and read a short biography of his impressive and extensive record of professional achievements, awards and certifications. Mr. Holt and all present thanked Mr. Twitty for long history of work and contributions in AWS committees, support of the local section, and dedication to student welder training.

6. Acceptance of minutes of last district conference. First motion – Tom Holt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lupe De La Cruz.

7. District activity – Tom Holt

- Mr. Bray's flight will not arrive until later this morning.
- Mr. Holt thanked everyone for their support in his first District Directorship.
- Drew Fontenot, (Sect 142), has been appointed Deputy Director of District 18.
- Mr. Holt summarized his many visits to local section meetings.

El Paso awards dinner, Lake Charles at Bleu's landing, Houston, Sabine, Corpus Christi.

Rio Grande Valley Section hindered by the resignation of their Chair for work-related reasons.

San Antonio awards night and a visit to the Odessa College/ student chapter and talks of bringing the Odessa chapter (re charter) back.

8. Rhenda Kenny –National activities

- Attendance sheet and reimbursement forms passed out.
- Ray Shook retired last December.
- Rhenda will be retiring on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Rhenda discussed the implementation of the computer-based testing Parts A & C of the CWI exam will performed a Prometric stations later this year.
- FABTECH will be held in Atlanta this year. Nov. 6-8. Local sections are encouraged to promote attendance. Registration can be done on-line.
- Rhenda encourages all sections to submit articles to be considered for the Welding Journal. Mary Ruth Johnsen, (Editor), is the contact. The AWS Section activities portion of the journal must receive information by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to be in the next month's issue. Contact is Cindy Wehl.
- New and revised Standard published in the last year were A5.18. D1.3, D9.1 and D17.1.
- New AWS website design was completed late last year. Local sections are highly encouraged to take advantage of the website services made available.
- Rhenda highly recommended that local sections nominate more organizations and individuals for Excellence in Welding awards. Recipients are recognized and presented with awards at the Fabtech show.
- AWS Foundation Director Sam Gentry passed away in August of 2017.
- Over 1 million in scholarship were awarded last year.

9. Break 9:20 to 9:38 am

10. John Bray Scholarship discussion – Dennis Eck

Sections can donate via aws.org. Goal is \$20,000

11. Sect. 153 Corpus Christi report – Ellery Francisco

- Section had three technical meetings
- Recommends Mr. Mike Lang as a meeting speaker
- Two general meetings.
- By far the most popular meeting is the AWS welding competition.

12. Sect. 82 San Antonio report – Mike Martinez

- Older members retiring is causing difficulties.
- Section is in need of more officers.
- Section treasurer is soon to leave as well.
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13. 10:08 am John Bray arrived

14. Sect. 93 Sabine report – John McKeehan

- Had three technical meetings and 3 general mtgs.
- Good average of 40 members/mtg ... most being students.
- Discussions of the difficulties of engaging students.
- Most popular activity was Certification day – 75 students attended.
- Two scholarships were given by the Section.

15. Sect. 142 Lake Charles report – Drew Fontenot

- Had six meetings scheduled but one was canceled due to flood.
- One was a general mtg. the other four were executive meetings.
- Most popular is the annual crawfish boil. (was April 18<sup>th</sup>)
- There are typically 25 to 30 corporate sponsors. Prizes are given.
- Attendees are primarily CWI's

16. Sect. 198 El Paso – David Twitty

- Constant struggle to keep students interested. Free food seems to help.
- Held five meetings. Two were officers meetings.
- Most popular are the Lost Arts Forging demonstration by Chair Gomez and, (of course), the Holiday and award dinner meeting in December. (John Bray and Tom Holt attended.)
- May be officer changes this autumn.

17. Sect. 22 Houston report – Jason Trosen

- Seven meetings averaging approx. 50 attendees.
- Five board meetings of 10 members
- Two Educational programs
- April meeting had the lowest turnout.
- Best activity was Certification day. 500 H.S. students attended.
- BSA welding merit badges
- Bechtel has been a sponsor
- Eight section scholarships have been awarded

18. AWS Leadership Symposium – 2018 District 18 nomination (July 29 –Aug 1)

- Lupe De La Cruz Jr. (Sect.198 El Paso) Nominated
- Motion made by Tom Holt, Seconded by Jim Stuckey
- Alternate is Jose "Pep" Gomez (Sect.198 El Paso)
- Mr. Fred Pena may be attending direct from Houston Section 22

19. AWS Instructor's Institute- 2018 District 18 nomination. (July 22-27)

- Jose "Pep" Gomez (Sect.198 El Paso)
- Alternate is Christopher Kish (Sect.153 Corpus Christi)

20. Break. 11:11 to 11: 28 am

21. Award Nominations – Section Meritorious

-Section 153 Corpus Christi;

- Allen Law
- Thomas Chalkey
- Chris Long
- Jose Cortez
- Matt Richard
- Weston Long
- Shelby Francisco

-Section 93 Sabine;

- Scott Witkowski
- Dusty Green
- Dan Jones
- Geoffrey Thorne
- Louis Fontenot

-Section 82 San Antonio;

- Kenneth Lynn

-Section 198 El Paso;

- Jose "Pep" Gomez

-Section 142 Lake Charles;

- Mandi Terro Miller

-Section 22 Houston

- John Chen
- Alfredo Pena
- Sri Chimbli
- Jason Trosen
- Cindy Lindsey
- Scott Witkowski
- Jeremy Fregia

22. Award Nominations – District Meritorious

- Blake Cureton (142 Lake Charles)
- Drew Fontenot (142 Lake Charles)
- Barney Burks (22 Houston)
- Scott Witkowski (22 Houston)

23. Award Nominations – Section Educator

Sect 153 Corpus Christi:

- Oscar Galindo
- Jaime Escamilla
- Christopher Kish
- Randal Butler

Sect 198 El Paso;

- Mark Lowther
- Jose “Pep” Gomez

Sect 22 Houston;

- Marcus Home

Sect 93 Sabine

- Jason Bingham
- Jeremy Brister
- Alex Lewis
- Rick McAnally

24. Award Nominations – District Educator

- Richard Beasley (153 Corpus Christi)
- Jay Barr (22 Houston)

25. Award Nominations – Section - Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year

- Howard Thomas (82 San Antonio)
- Brian Selman (93 Sabine)
- Chris Pickett (142 Lake Charles)
- Ronald “Mark” Fahlgren (22 Houston)
- Earl Simon (22 Houston)
- Jay Scott (153 Corpus Christi)

26. Award Nominations – District - Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year

- Jimmy Mayberry (22 Houston)
- Tommy Courmier (93 Sabine)
- William Chastain (142 Lake Charles)

27. Award Nominations – Section – Private Sector Instructor

- J.W. Ralls (153 Corpus Christi)
- Mike Castro (153 Corpus Christi)
- Christopher Kish (153 Corpus Christi)
- Margaret Noble (93 Sabine)
- Caity Brown (22 Houston)
- Will Elliot (22 Houston)

28. Award Nominations – District – Private Sector Instructor

- Mike Tolar (153 Corpus Christi)
- Morris Weeks (93 Sabine)

29. Award Nominations – Student Chapter Member Award

- Thomas “T.K.” Tamplin (93 Sabine)
- Ginger Plummer (198 El Paso)
- Nikki Hughes (82 San Antonio)

30. 2018 District 18 Scholarship Nominations

Mr. Drew Fontenot, (District Scholarship Committee Chair), and Section representatives had an early morning meeting before the conference was to be called to order at 8 am.

2018 District Scholarship Recipients are as follows;

- |                   |                      |            |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|
| • Jasper Acota    | (198 El Paso)        | \$666.66   |
| • Cody Bowman     | (22 Houston)         | \$500.00   |
| • Mike Cisneros   | (198 El Paso)        | \$666.66   |
| • Sabrina Cline   | (93 Sabine)          | \$1,000.00 |
| • Jorge Rojas     | (198 El Paso)        | \$666.66   |
| • Joshua Rupert   | (22 Houston)         | \$1,000.00 |
| • Tanner Sorrells | (82 San Antonio)     | \$1,000.00 |
| • Kobie Stephens  | (22 Houston)         | \$500.00   |
| • Tommy Tate      | (93 Sabine)          | \$1,000.00 |
| • Bobby Tijerina  | (82 San Antonio)     | \$1,000.00 |
| • Zachary Zermeno | (153 Corpus Christi) | \$2,000.00 |

31. **Next Meeting**

The next District 18 Conference will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Corpus Christi, TX

32. Meeting adjourned 12:32PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas J. Evans