



Huntsville Regional Chapter of INCOSE Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2005

1. Rick Leonard, President of HRC INCOSE, welcomed the attendees with a special welcome to Mr. Mo Brooks.
2. Rick Leonard highly recommended the Cost Risk Tutorial. It had excellent reviews from cost risk and program management types. Technical folks had mixed reviews. He will forward both presentations to Bob Robinson to put on the web-site ASAP.
3. Rick Leonard welcomed Walter Hammond as new Secretary for the Chapter.
4. Rick said we need to take minutes of the meetings and publish them on our web-site. We need to start a newsletter (Secretary's duties). We could render from minutes, announcements, bios, chapter events, who has done what. It will be published on the website and e-mailed to our membership. Walter will be drafting the next newsletter and sending it out as soon as he receives a working template/example from Wanda Carswell. As a guide for future newsletters, the posted newsletter must be two pages plus a current list of officers.
5. Speaking of officers, Rick said we need to schedule an officers' meeting for March 31. After canvassing the leadership, it was concurred to hold the officers' meeting at Green Hill's Grille again, with the chapter paying for dinner. Nobody objected to this provision, otherwise VP Jerry Wocken would have to coordinate a different meeting. Here is the Agenda for the March 31 meeting:
 - Our Participation in the DOE SIG (Special Interest Group)
 - Officer responsibilities & duties
 - TEAMS participation
 - Passing on announcements/eNotes from HQ to members
 - Networking improvements
 - Training and conference announcements
 - 2005 Alabama Chapter goals and plans
 - Newsletter and Status
 - Other issues.
6. Took a vote on the motion, "Do all officers agree that the current president's, past President's, and Treasurer's name should be on the checking account"? We reached consensus on this, with voting:
 - Yea's - 11
 - Nea's - 0
7. Richard Gallman with the Defense Acquisition University will be our April 21 (3rd Thursday of the month) speaker. We cannot have the April meeting here so I am open to suggestions. Would you prefer:
 - SAIC's Millennium Room - 9
 - TBE's Training Room - 1
 - Other - 1
8. Any thing the membership would like to add? Tony Lindeman introduced Mindmanager X5 Pro software by Mindjet: See www.mindjet.com. A raffle was held, and five copies on introductory Mindmanager software were passed out. Tony



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said that Boeing has found Mindmanger to be effective for systems engineering and also for other uses, like Fault Tree analysis for reliability.

9. Mo's Bio –

BIO: Mo Brooks is a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Alabama. He graduated from Duke University in three years with a double major in political science and economics. Mr. Brooks' degree in economics is with Distinction, Duke's highest honors in a major. Mr. Brooks graduated from the University of Alabama's Law School and began his legal career as a prosecutor for the Tuscaloosa District Attorney's Office. He prosecuted more than 20 felony jury trials, all guilty verdicts, before returning to Huntsville in 1980. In 1982, Mr. Brooks was elected as a Republican to the Alabama House of Representatives with 57% of the vote. He was re-elected to the Alabama House in 1983 with 82%, in 1986 with 73%, and in 1990 with no opposition.

Mo has been married to Martha Brooks since 1976. Martha is a University of Alabama graduate, a retired Certified Public Accountant, a former mother of their four children, and a soon-to-be high school math teacher.

Please visit the INCOSE web site at <http://www.incose.org/huntsville> for a complete bio.



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SPEECH SYNOPSIS: Mo Brooks spoke with passion on the following topics--

Fiscal Affairs: revenues, taxes, expenditures

Legislative Ethics and Conflicts of Interest: impact on public policy, expenditures of monies, and need for reform

Free Enterprise System/Capitalistic Economy: need for protection from socialists and other fools (of which there are many in public office !)

Evolving Theme: illegal immigrant impact on Alabama economy, blue collar unemployment, crime, health care costs

Mo Brooks started his talk by saying that honesty and integrity are very important in public service. Considered on a per capita basis, Alabama is ranked #42 in the nation on gross revenue from all taxes at the State level. So there are only seven states ranked below us that bring in less money to operate the state government than Alabama, and this should be a barometer of the efficiency with which our state is able to provide essential goods and services for the citizens of Alabama. For example, we can house an inmate in state penal institutions for \$9997/year, versus a national average of the low \$20K's/year. Alabama does have the lowest property taxes in the US, in this regard we are ranked No. 1!

Today in Alabama there are 35 legislators (30 Democrats, 5 Republicans) who also serve in the Executive branch of the state government. This is a blatant violation of the hallowed separation of powers doctrine among the three branches of Government: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. As voters we should not stand for this, no one should be allowed to hold two such responsible positions or offices concurrently! As often the case, you have a "rent a legislator" mentality: for example, higher education institutions basically "hire" legislators to represent their interest in the state government. Duane Freeman was "hired" by UAH, and when he was elected he went down to Montgomery to, basically, lobby for UAH! Athens Community College engages in a similar practice. Interestingly, Alabama A&M does not have a "rented" legislator, at least not now. The danger in all this is that you foment a cadre of "professional politicians", versus persons of bonafide integrity in public service. Mo Brooks said he would have to build an effective coalition in Montgomery to try and block or undo these deplorable trends.

Because we as a state earmark 90% of state revenue funds, this hog-ties your legislators as far as being able to appropriate money. The next closest state is 58%. What this basically says is that we don't trust our legislators, nor what Alabama citizens perceive as a potential 'pork barrel' process in Montgomery. The salaries that your state legislators get are small, when compared to the fees attorneys in private practice can earn, for



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example. Travel and per diem pay is a joke, you only can get 10 cents/mile, and this only for two major legislative sessions (in Montgomery) per year. In the past this has led to proration, meaning reallocation of monies on a prorata basis. The Alabama Governor presently insists that there is a shortfall in the state's budget. But statistics tell a different story. Over the last 50 years, there have only been two years where Alabama experienced a decline in state tax revenue. The truth is that the State of Alabama General Fund had \$550 million last FY (2004) in revenue growth. This FY (2005) we are running 8-9% above this! Teachers had an average 9% pay raise last FY (2004) in Alabama. Our great state has 40 or 50 different earmarkings which imply a distrust of the Alabama legislature by the people. The Alabama teachers' union (AEA—Alabama Education Association) controls many votes, including strong lobbying influence on the Business Council of Alabama. Alabama Power, in fact, secured a significant tax cut. The National Federation of Independent Business Schools is another entrenched lobbying group always screaming for more money! Amendment 1 was voted down in 2003, it would have given the Alabama General Fund a whopping \$1.2B net tax increase. So, what is in the best interests of the people on this great state: The school kids and their parents want better schools, more up-to-date buildings and equipment, adequate books, and reasonably updated facilities. The AEA and their chief lobbyist Paul Hubbert want most of all better benefits for teachers and faculty. Right now they are getting tremendous benefits: an unbeatable Blue Cross/Blue Shield subsidized insurance plan, maxing out on retirement from 30 to 25 years' service, and they are lobbying for a 6% pay raise. Are Alabama teachers' salaries very low? Is it fair to compare salaries (\$32,500 base in Alabama) versus \$55,000 base in California)? No. The cost of living is 38% higher in California! Property prices are sky high there, not to mention property taxes. Alabama is the lowest state in the Union on property taxes. The work day is shorter, teachers get off, basically, at 3:00 to 3:30 most days. They have off for an extended time in the summer.

The professional lobbyists also have been known to use 'scare tactics' in order to achieve an end of getting more state money siphoned to their special interest. For example, the AEA threatened that high schools would have to cut out "essentials" like football or basketball because of funding shortfalls for schools at the state level. The truth is that Alabama has many sources of revenue (besides property taxes, which admittedly are very low). There are 1900 nursing homes in the state paying a special tax. There are "sin" taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. In this state you are taxed to participate in lawsuits.

Another danger is that Alabama citizens are approaching a situation where tax producers become a declining percentage as compared to tax consumers. In other words, the biggest long-term threat to America's fiscal health is having the tax consumers vote in huge tax deficits and eventually either bankrupt the economy, or turn us into a socialist democracy. Case in point: in Europe, western socialist democracies suffer an average



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9% unemployment rate (in Germany, it is 10.5% !). The fact is that today, we are still more efficient than Europe, in other words on a per capita basis the generated wealth produced per worker \$10,000 more in the US on average than in Europe.

Drugs. Methamphetamine usage is reaching crisis proportions in our country, and some states (Tennessee) have resorted to pulling all over-the-counter drugs containing pseudoephedrine (such as Sudafed) off the shelves. Methamphetamine usage is a high addictive epidemic facing this whole country.

Another issue is our out of date or obsolete state constitution. The problem, though, boils down to **who** gets to rewrite our state constitution? For example, the recently voted upon Amendment 2 had face language which everyone would want to remove racially prejudiced bad language from the Alabama constitution of 1901. Problem was that Paul Hubbert and his cronies snuck in a provision in the enabling legislation saying that the public has no right to a public education at public expense. This would open up relatively “rich” regions like Huntsville to equity funding lawsuits, and we would unwillingly be forced to subsidize public education in “poorer” counties in the southern region of Alabama, as an example.

The illegal immigrant issue in our state is a Federal issue, and (Mo said) should be addressed at that level (i.e., Senator Shelby, Congressmen Cramer and Sessions). Illegals often get free health care, and since they often drive uninsured vehicles, the insurance industry also has to subsidize them when involved in accidents. Today US citizens also have to shell out for emergency room care for undocumented, illegal aliens involved in accidents. Two different organized crime units have moved into our country (Ed. Note: there was a recent article in *Time* about one of these as rapidly growing into the most dangerous criminal gang in America today). The dilemma of the “*paracaidistas*” is also a problem. In Spanish, this means a parachutist. In other words, illegal aliens “parachute” themselves into border areas and despoil crops or take illegal possession of the land (Mo cited a case in Arizona where a landowner quit paying taxes on 3-4 thousand acres because of illegal alien intrusions and robbery. Illegal aliens have also practically taken over some professions, masonry and chicken houses are two examples. English must be the official language (Ed. Note: in Texas there is a tremendous Hispanic population, legal as well as illegal immigrants, and there the billboards, TV stations, news, radio, etc. are often in Spanish). In some states (Texas, California) voting ballots have to be in Spanish and English.

Mo requested our votes in the upcoming election. He said he will fight the “bully pulpit” issue, will elevate the true issues, and “create heat in the (state legislative) kitchen”. The last time Alabama had a governor from Madison County was the 1870s ! Of 31 statewide



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elected officials (26 Republican, 5 Democratic) there are exactly ZERO from north of Birmingham/Jefferson County in our state.