President's Message
By Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE, STP

First, I’d like to say that it has been a great honor to be able to serve and represent the Capital Area Section as President in 2017. ITE has been undergoing many changes over the past couple of years that are coming to fruition this year and it is my goal to shepherd our Section through these changes in as seamless a manner as possible that will benefit our Section and help us to meet our goals of advancing our profession and delivering meaningful technical and social events.

I’d like to thank our immediate Past-President, Rob Belarmino, for his continued support and advice this year as we undergo these transitions and for continuing to spearhead this newsletter. Rob has been a great partner on the board these past several years and I am so glad he has continued to serve our Section with the newsletter.

I also wish to welcome James Schwerdtfeger to the board as our Secretary-Treasurer. Anyone who has filled this role before knows that it is the most critical to keeping our Section activities going – room reservations, budgets/sponsorships, and communications. I thank James for putting so much of his time and attention to the job. I know that with the support of James, Tom, Alex, and Rob, 2017 is on track to be another great year.

As I announced at our May meeting, my personal focus as President for the 2017 year is to get our Section IRS compliant from a tax standpoint and have us obtain our 501(c)3 nonprofit status. We have formally registered as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Texas and we’ve made an initial attempt at filing our taxes and getting Federal nonprofit status. We are working with the full support of ITE and TexITE as needed and I believe we’ll be able to achieve this goal this year. It is my hope that in doing so, we’ll provide greater value to our corporate sponsors and allow us to continue to meet our fundraising and scholarship goals. I’ll continue to keep the Section updated with our progress.

This year, we’ve had some great meetings with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) and Capital Metro and we’ll have more to come! Our most recent Adopt-a-Street cleanup was our most successful yet with over 12 students and professional members participating. We’re planning on three more clean-ups this year and it is a great opportunity for us to give back to our community and enjoy some social time with our members after the clean-up; if you haven’t come out yet, please consider doing so. Our collaboration with the student chapter continues to improve with much thanks to the efforts of our liaison Jake Gutekunst and we’re looking forward to supporting the student chapter at the Traffic Bowl in Toronto this year!

Finally, none of this could be happening without the support of our sponsors whom I can’t thank enough. It is your generosity that allows us to provide great programming, engaging social events for our professionals and students, and has helped us get our “house” in order with respect to our recent business filings. Thank you! I hope all of our members and sponsors have had a great 2017 so far and I feel confident that we have even more to look forward to for the remainder of the year. I’ll see you there!
February 3rd Section Meeting
2017 Kick–Off & TBPE Ethics

By Cody Stone, EIT

CAS–ITE welcomed in 2017 section meetings on February 3, 2017, with a presentation on engineering ethics. The meeting was held at One Texas Center in the City of Austin. It was attended by 37 affiliate and non–affiliate CAS–ITE members. 2017 President Valerie Kaiser, started with an introduction and general section business. She thanked the chapter for their continued support and shared ideas on the upcoming year. Valerie also summarized the 2016 membership, accomplishments, and financial operations.

Secretary–Treasurer Tom Gerrity presented the 2016 CAS–ITE scholarship awards to the winning participants. 2016 saw the highest number of applicants, all of which had impressive academic and professional resumes. Three applicants were selected and the awards amounted to $3,000. Congratulations to all applicants and recipients and a special thanks to the recipients for attending the meeting!

The CAS–ITE chapter had the pleasure of welcoming guest speaker, Mr. George Hartmann, PE, licensing Project Manager for the Board. He discussed engineering ethics and professional practice updates. For the ethics portion, George gave an inspired presentation on the history of the Texas Professional Board of Engineers (TBPE) and the key dates along the Texas professional engineering timeline. He delved into the process of filing a complaint to the board, the number of filings they receive each year, and the normal course of action. George also quizzed the audience on how to handle challenging ethical situations that could arise and the best ethical course of action.

In the professional practice update, George discussed the recent decoupling of the PE exam with licensee experience/reference requirements. He mentioned the success of the first exam semester and the expected continued improvement of the application program.

March 11th
Adopt–a–Street Clean–Up

By Rob Belarmino, PE

CAS–ITE’s participation in the Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) Adopt–a–Street Program 2nd scheduled clean–up date is a resounding success. CAS–ITE had a total of twelve representatives made–up of University of Texas students and regional professionals.

With the 600% increase in participation, the team was able to split into two teams to thoroughly clean–up the segment of 45th street between Burnet Road and Guadalupe St.

Please see ADOPT on page 3
ADOPT from page 2

The perfect weather enabled the team to collect as much as eight bags of waste.

After making a difference and impact to our community, the team celebrated with a crawfish boil style lunch at the Flying Saucer.

As always, we would like to continue to grow participation to this program and we hope to see more members at future clean-up events, one street at a time!

April 13th

Traffic Bowl Scrimmage with UT–Austin Student Chapter

By Jake Gutekunst, EIT

CAS–ITE and the UT–Austin ITE Student Chapter gathered together in Austin, TX on April 13th, 2017 at The Varsity Pizza and Pints to hold a practice competition with the local student team from UT–Austin for their competition at the Spring TexITE meeting. The meeting was attended by 4 members of the Capital Area Section and 10 students from the UT–Austin ITE chapter. 2017 President Valerie Kaiser, RS&H, opened the meeting by introducing herself and welcoming attendees, and participated on the team of professionals with Vice President Tom Gerrity, Trafficware and other members of CAS–ITE. Jake Gutekunst, CAS–ITE member, moderated the competition and provided the questions for the quiz.

The first game was won by the ITE professionals. The UT student chapter came back strong and won the second game, however, and appeared poised for victory at the Spring TexITE meeting. The event brought together the local student chapter and the CAS–ITE for a fun and engaging time to connect, and continues as a tradition each spring. The UT student team went on to win at TexITE, representing the Capital Area Section well and continues to prepare for the annual meeting in Toronto where they will take on the champions from other ITE districts for the national champions.

TexITE – Spring Meeting

By Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE, STP

The TexITE Spring Meeting held in Frisco, Texas was yet another success. There were some great technical tours on offer, including the 5 Billion Dollar Mile featuring local developments surrounding the Dallas Cowboy’s Training/Frisco High School Football Stadium as well as the Frisco Traffic Management Center/Safety Town. The Frisco TMC is co–located with the City of Frisco’s Fire Department and features a completely wireless system that is slated to expand and include some fiber connections. The Thursday night social event included a fun minor league baseball game right next door to the conference.

Please see SPRING on page 4
Our own UT–Austin Student Chapter was the winner of the TexITE Traffic Bowl and we are looking forward to continuing to support the student chapter on the road to the international competition in Toronto.

Representing the Capital Area Section at the Spring meeting were John Habermann (TTI), who moderated a session on Smart Cities and Innovative Technologies, Ronnie Bell (City of Austin), who spoke on Pedestrian and Vehicle Operator Interactions and elaborating on situations where the rules guiding those interactions are unclear, and Anna Martin (City of Austin), who was part of a panel discussion on Public Agency Traffic Engineering. Carlton Thomas (ABIA) spoke on Austin’s Experience with Uber and Lyft.

Thanks to everyone who attended and represented the Capital Area Section at this meeting!

President Valerie Kaiser, opened the meeting with a roll–call and section business. Valerie along with Vice President Tom Gerrity and Secretary–Treasurer James Swerdtfeger informed the attendees that the UT Student Chapter had won the TexITE Traffic Bowl. The board members congratulated the students on the win and wished them luck at the 2017 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Toronto, Canada. In preparation for the International Traffic Bowl, the CAS–ITE will host another Traffic Bowl Scrimmage in July prior to the international games.

Valerie also provided an update on the current CAS–ITE filing as a non–profit organization. She informed everyone that CAS–ITE’s previous EIN cannot be reactivated as it has expired and that we would have to re–register as a new Texas non–profit with a new EIN. The IRS will be refund the filing fee back to CAS–ITE. Valerie and Tom also reminded everyone about the upcoming Joint Meeting with South Texas Section and upcoming increase to the annual business card ad sponsorship fee from $100 to $150 by June 2017.

Section Representative Alex Reyna added that the Austin Area is a candidate for the new ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit, while Past President Rob Belarmino, reminded everyone that the CAS–ITE is hosting the upcoming TexITE Fall Meeting in September and that anyone who is interested in helping the Local Arrangements Committee should contact Committee Chair Sabas Avila.

May 12 Section Meeting
Capital Metro’s Strategic Plan and Capital Projects Update
By Rob Belarmino, PE

The second section meeting held on May 12 at the Waller Creek Center with a presentation from Capital Metro’s Community Involvement Coordinator, Sam Sargent, JD. The meeting highlighted Capital Metro’s Strategic Plan, including an update on Capital Projects. The meeting was attended by about 29 affiliate and non–affiliate CAS–ITE members.
Following the section business, Valerie introduced Sam and provided an overview of his background and presentation. Sam started his presentation by outlining Capital Metro’s history, organization, service area, and system. Capital Metro currently provides transportation services through a fleet of bus, rail, shuttle and ride share services. The system currently has 14.75 million revenue miles and experiences 105 thousand daily ridership, and 32 million annual ridership.

Capital Metro currently offers three types of bus services on its system, which include: MetroBus, MetroRapid, and MetroExpress. MetroBus provides local services and UT shuttle routes, this service is expected to receive major changes as part of Connections 2025 program. MetroRapid is the bus rapid transit system and currently operates in two routes (801, and 803), which has experienced a 20% increase in ridership as of March 2017. MetroExpress provides commuter services through seven routes, which will increase to eight routes with the addition a new Howard Route using the MoPac Managed Lanes.

Capital Metro’s also offers both passenger and freight rail services. The passenger rail services are offered through the Red Line which extends from Leander to downtown Austin. The freight line operates between Giddings and Llano.

The Red Line began operations in 2010 and currently has nine metro rail stations, and had over 814 thousand in ridership in 2016. The continued ridership growth of the Red Line has prompted Cap Metro to re-evaluate service and improve commuter experience. Capital Metro will use a TxDOT $50 million grant to add four additional rail cars to their fleet, and develop a new Downtown Rail Station. The Downtown Rail Station project will construct two new tracks to capacity and create a new public plaza near the Austin Convention Center along 4th Street. The downtown project is currently in the 60% design phase.

Moreover, Capital Metro also has a TIGER V Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program aimed at improving rail infrastructure. This program was developed through a $35 million FTA grant to provide improvements to track sections, bridges, vehicle improvements and develop new passing tracks. Some of the project locations include infrastructure improvements at the Austin Junction (East 6th Street and Pedernales), Lakeline Station, Crestview Station, and Brushy Creek Trail.

With the increase in rail cars, Capital Metro is also improving their North Operations Rail Maintenance Facility. The project will increase fueling capacity, expand maintenance building, improve safety, and add a track section. This project is scheduled to complete by 2018. Furthermore, Capital Metro will plan to develop a new Leander North Maintenance Facility to further improve operations.

Sam also discussed several park and ride improvements that are being developed. With several facilities at near, or over, occupancy Capital Metro plan to increase parking accommodations at Lakeline, Howard, and South Congress Transit Center. Capital Metro will also develop a new Westgate Park & Ride Facility that will be located between Pack Saddle Pass and Manchaca Road at Ben White Boulevard.

Finally, Sam outlined several of the bus route improvements that are taking place. Some of them include addition of MetroRapid stations for both Route 801 and 803, accessibility and amenity improvements such as shelters for select locations, signing/technology improvements, and connectivity improvements.
June 30 Annual CAS–ITE and STITE Joint Meeting

By Derek Mueller, PE

The Capital Area Section joined the South Texas Section for our annual Joint Meeting in August. The meeting has become a tradition where both sections meet to learn about topics relevant to transportation in both areas. 21 Capital Area members and 15 South Texas Members enjoyed a BBQ lunch at the San Marcos Activity Center. The first speaker was **Representative Ina Minjarez** from Texas House District 124. As a member of the Transportation Committee, she was able to provide insightful information on transportation legislation from this year’s session. Representative Minjarez gave an overview of the transportation bills passed by the legislature, including funding allocations for TxDOT. Other bills ranged from legislation to improve safety to better defining coordination between state and local agencies.

The second speaker was **Hays County Precinct 2 Commissioner Mark Jones**. As one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, Hays County is experiencing a rapid increase in congestion. Commissioner Hays described the challenges associated with a fast growing County and efforts the Commissioner’s Court and other agencies are taking to plan for future growth. He highlighted Interstate 35 as a key concern for County mobility and praised the active involvement of TxDOT and CAMPO in helping to develop plans to improve the corridor. He also mentioned steps the County has taken with their transportation bond to address safety and congestion concerns on County corridors.

In September, many members will return to San Marcos for the TexITE District Meeting.

Member & Budget Status

By James Schwerdtfeger, PE

Capital Area Section of ITE membership registration increased compared to last year. As of July 2017, we have a total of **137 ITE members** as listed on the ITE website ([www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)). The membership grade breakdown is shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1: CAS-ITE Membership Breakdown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<td>137</td>
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This is an increase from the previously reported 135 ITE members in July of 2016. The growth is significantly due to an increase in International Members.

Please see **BUDGET** on page 7.
Table 2 shows the CAS–ITE Balance Sheet as of July 2017.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2: CAS-ITE Balance Sheet</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2016 Balance Forward</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Section Dues Disbursements (ITE International)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section Dues CAS-ITE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Sponsorships</td>
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<td>IRS Refund</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest Speaker Lunches</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Scholarship Award (Late Remit)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Account Balance</strong></td>
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The current CAS–ITE balance is $3,350.38. Current income to date is from membership dues (both section and disbursement from ITE) and annual sponsorships for a total of $1,931.00. We have collected $831.00 in Section Dues and $1,100 in annual sponsorships as of this month. Expenses are under-reported at this time, showing $90.25 on UT Student Chapter Traffic Bowl event and $500 for Scholarships. We expect to pay out reimbursement to assist the UT Student Chapter attend the International Meeting ($400), reimbursement for tax filings ($275) and another Traffic Bowl Scrimmage event ($100). We also expect to continue to bring in additional income through more company sponsorships, as well as, our annual scholarship fundraiser event.

The CAS–ITE Board is developing fun, interactive events and fascinating meeting topics to continue to increase member participation and attract sponsorship funding to our events. This year we have asked our members to participate in an online vote to determine which fundraising activity is likely to get the biggest response.
2017 CAS–ITE Officers

Please contact any of the following officers, if you have questions about the Capital Area Section, TexITE, or ITE.

- Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE, STP – President
  valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com
- Tom Gerrity, P.E., PTOE – Vice President
  TomGerrity@trafficware.com
- James Schwerdtfeger, PE – Secretary Treasurer
  james.schwerdtfeger@rpsgroup.com
- Alex Reyna, PE, PTOE – Section Representative
  alex@reynainc.com
- Rob Belarmino, PE – Past President
  rbelarmino@hntb.com

ITE Website Addresses
If you are interested in the latest developments at ITE or TexITE, please check out the following websites:

- ITE – www.ite.org
- TexITE – www.texite.org

You can find section meeting information on the CAS–ITE website: http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/

Thanks to Tom Gerrity for continuing to maintain the Capital Area Section website. Please contact him if you would like to join the website committee.

Communications Committee

Please contact any of the following committee members if you have questions about the Capital Area Section Newsletter:

- Rob Belarmino, PE – Editor
  rbelarmino@hntb.com
- Valerie Kaiser, PE – Member
  valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com
- Jake Gutekunst, EIT – Member
  jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com
- Cody Stone, EIT – Member
  CStone@emailatg.com
- Derek Mueller, PE – Member
  DMueller@pape-dawson.com

The Communications Team is always looking for article contributions, upcoming events, employment opportunities, or legislative updates. Please contact any of the members of the Communications Committee if you would like your submittal or story to be included in the next newsletter issue.

UT Student Chapter
If you would like to speak at one of the Student Chapter meetings, please contact their officers at utexasite@gmail.com.

Membership Information
Interested in becoming a CAS–ITE member? Please send a completed form below to James Schwerdtfeger, 8140 North MoPac Expressway, Building 2 Suite 100, Austin, TX with $15.00 annual dues payment; or bring both to the next section meeting. Section membership can also be paid with your annual TexITE and/or ITE dues.
Professional Services Directory (continued):

Contact James Schwerdtfeger at james.schwerdtfeger@rpsgroup.com for additional information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!
Professional Services Directory (continued):

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!
Professional Services Directory (continued):

If your firm/organization is interested in sponsoring CAS-ITE, please contact James Schwerdtfeger at james.schwerdtfeger@rpsgroup.com. The cost of sponsorship is $150 annually per firm/agency and your logo and/or business card will be featured on two newsletters, e-blast and on the CAS-ITE website for a 12-month period.