

Unapproved minutes of the January 4th, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting.

HOUSTON AREA LEAGUE OF PC USERS  
MINUTES OF January 4th, 2001  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
4543 Post Oak Place  
Houston, Texas

Any corrections, changes, additions to these minutes will be noted in the next month's minutes when the minutes are approved by the Board.

ATTENDEES:

Officers

President Robert Gunn  
First Vice President - SIGs Mike Mashburn  
Vice President - Programs Matthew Castillo  
Vice President - Communications Jay Thomas  
Recording Secretary Anne Sipes  
Membership Secretary Jeff Boggan  
Treasurer Wes Leggett

Directors:

Michelle S Annis  
Mel Babb  
Norman Blaylock  
James Coon  
Stephen Cravey        Absent  
William A Goetschius  
Robert P Grefe  
Moe Jones            Absent  
J Kolenovsky  
Tiffany Kong        Absent  
Donald McGowan  
    Absent  
Ray Morris  
Joseph E Morris Jr   Absent  
Mike Novominsky  
David R. Pausky  
Brian Sadler

Parliamentarian: Marilyn Gore Absent

Guests:

29427 Jeff Hupp  
3999 Jimmie Stewart  
9831 D. Flato

1 21321 Noe Lopez  
2 32 Charles Evans

3 I. CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM

4 Brian Sadler made a motion (**Motion 010001, Agenda Attachment 1**) that the Minutes of  
5 the December Board of Directors Meeting be approved.  
6 The Motion passed.

7 The President reported that as of today HAL-PC is part of the EduPop exchange. He said  
8 that Rice, University of Houston, Alief Independent School District, Houston Independent  
9 School District, Spring Branch Independent School District, and Texas A&M are all  
10 connected to the EduPop through HALNet.

11 Jeff Hupp stated that HALNet is the first dial up and the first DSL provider to the  
12 EduPop.

13 Mike Novominsky asked if there was a marketing plan.

14 The President stated that there would be a meeting at the University of Houston in  
15 February to push the service.

16 Bob Grefe asked how this would affect service.

17 Jeff Hupp stated that all users connected to the EduPop would see faster transfer speeds.

18 The President stated that no HALNet users would be adversely affected by this and that  
19 no additional equipment would be required.

20 The Treasurer offered his report ( **Attachment 2** )

21 Ray Morris asked if the Audit was available to the Board.

22 The Treasurer stated that he had distributed copies of the audit to all the Board Members  
23 at the last Board of Directors Meeting. He also told Ray Morris that he could have a  
24 copy of the audit.

25 The VP-Communications offered his Report ( **Attachment 3** )

26 Ray Morris asked what the Magazine Production Cost is.

27 The VP-Communications stated that the Magazine is costing between \$16,000 and  
28 \$17,000 a month.

29 Michelle Annis reported that she had received fewer complaints about the Magazine since  
30 the Magazine Publisher had started doing the magazine entirely on the PC.

31 The VP-Communications stated that the Magazine Publisher had really knocked herself  
32 out. He stated that as a result of her efforts we now have lower production costs and  
33 quicker turn-a-round time.

34 Ray Morris asked how many new HALNet customers might be coming out of this

35 EduPop arrangement with University of Houston.

36 The VP Communications said nearly 10,000.

37 Ray Morris asked if those would be dial up accounts.

38 The VP Communications stated that some would be dial up accounts but hoped that many  
39 would prefer aDSL. He said that aDSL would be a better choice for those interested in  
40 distance learning.

41 David Pausky asked when we would see the SWB ADSL customers coming back.

42 The VP Communications stated that should happen in February and March. He said that  
43 there is still some problem with customers changing from SBSI because the customers do  
44 not own their own line. He also said that there is now a procedure in place for moving  
45 those customers. He said that we are having to keep the pressure up on that issue but we  
46 are seeing some cooperation.

47 Ray Morris stated that some other ISP is advertising a discount. He wanted to know if  
48 we were considering offering a discount.

49 The VP Communications stated that there was no way to offer an alternative membership  
50 right now.

51 Jeff Hupp stated that dial up accounts are currently costing us about \$6 a month. He said  
52 we couldn't knock down the cost by much.

53 David Pausky asked about the Tech Fair in February.

54 The VP Communications stated that there was not a firm date yet. He said that we will  
55 be there and we will be signing people up.

56 David Pausky stated that we should be certain to go ahead and get the printed materials in  
57 place.

58 The Membership Secretary offered a verbal report.

59 We are currently part of Randall's sharing or donation program. Any Randall's customer  
60 with a Randall's card can go to Randall's customer service booth and ask that a portion  
61 of their purchasing dollars be donated to HAL-PC. Randall's will donate a percentage of  
62 what they spend at Randall's to HAL-PC at no cost to them. He suggested a business  
63 card size ad in the magazine to make the members aware of this option.

64 Michelle Annis stated that we should put something about that in the new member  
65 package.

66 David Pausky asked about the new membership cards.

67 The VP Communications said that there had been a lot of research done.

68 The President stated that building management had given us permission to use scanners  
69 for building access.

70 The Membership Secretary also stated that Comp USA was offering a discount again. He  
71 stated that they were offering a 15% discount with a minimum \$2000 purchase.

72 The President said he didn't think we spent that much at Comp USA. He said that if  
73 Comp USA would use the total of the members purchases and offer the members the  
74 discount then that would be a good idea.

75 The Membership Secretary stated that he would look into it.

76 The VP Programs offered a report.

77 He stated that all the information about the January 20<sup>th</sup> Barbecue is now on the HAL-PC  
78 web site.

79 He asked that the Rules Committee consider changing the bylaws. He said that while he  
80 agreed with a yearly business meeting he would prefer that we not be required to have the  
81 business meeting in January.

82 He stated that the members of the Programs committee are now: Matthew Castillo, Noe  
83 Lopez, Nancy Ward, Lance Neidig, Norman Blaylock and Rueben Wilson.

84 He said that the committee has begun making plans for the June General Meeting.

85 He asked Noe Lopez to address the BoD.

86 Noe Lopez stated that the Programs Committee was considering a mini Comdex like  
87 event in June. He said that we could have up to 119 booths in the main hall and that we  
88 would require vendors to prepay two months in advance. He said that we could eliminate  
89 all of the audio visual costs that had been associated with previous General Meetings. He  
90 asked for feedback from the Board.

91 The VP SIGs had nothing new to report.

92 The Director of Education offered his report ( **Attachment 4** )

93 Mike Novominsky asked about the progress being made by the Data Base Committee.

94 Jeff Hupp reported that the Data Base Committee is now setting up offices at HAL-PC  
95 Headquarters to facilitate working with the office.

96 Brian Sadler moved (**MOTION 010002**) to adjourn

97 The January 4th, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

98 Respectfully Submitted,

99 --

100 Anne Sipes  
Recording Secretary

## Attachment 2

### **HAL-PC Treasurers Report for month ending December 2000\_**

We closed the month with a balance of \$109,641.87 in our Bank of America cash account. There has been no transfer of funds with the exception of opening an account with Citizens National Bank of Texas. We intend to eventually use this account as our primary checking account. No request for a grant from the HAL-PC Endowment Fund of The Greater Houston Community Foundation has been made, to date. HAL-PC's bills are paid and the prospects of collecting from those who are in debt to us is improving.

This month we did receive the audit and tax return for the year ending June 2000, from our accountant. With the close of this business I am pleased to provide the attached statement of revenues and expenses. Please note that some of the expenses present in this report were unpaid bills from the prior year and consequently were not anticipated by the budget.

I am further pleased to note several new magazine advertisers and that the advertisements of those who have a history of nonpayment are not present in the January issue of the HAL-PC Magazine.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley L. Leggett

### **Attachment 3**

#### **HAL-PC Vice President of Communications Report to the Board of Directors, 4 January 2001**

##### **Magazine**

With much effort on the part of our HAL-PC Magazine Publisher, Meredith Foster, the HAL-PC Magazine is now being produced, in its entirety, on - A PC! With the move to Western Lithograph as our magazine printer, the HAL-PC Magazine is now being produced using "direct to plate" technology. This results in, as some of you may have noticed, less delay in getting The Magazine out to the members and is anticipated to result in lower production costs.

##### **Internet**

ADSL user growth has been occurring at an increasing pace - over 15 new ADSL users (at least one of whom was a new HAL-PC member) were connected in December. Our emphasis on quality of the Internet connection provided and the locality of our servers is beginning to pay off. Upgrades have been made to our news peering server to keep up with the ever-growing volume of usenet news. Further upgrades to the news reader host are planned for the near future to further enhance our service offering.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Thomas

## Attachment 4

### Education Committee Report December 24, 2000

Our current financial position is as follows:

Income	\$8815,00
Disbursements	\$1712.36
Net Income	\$7102.64

Since rendering my resignation as Chair of the Education Committee, I sent out a request to members of the board for a volunteer to step forward and take on this job. To date I have had no response. I know I don't have to emphasize the importance of our education efforts as they affect the HAL membership. Once again, let's see who wants to do something really worthwhile. Step forward and be recognized.

I have made arrangements for our current system to continue with two replacements for our working staff and I will be glad to pass on any information I have regarding the Education Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Grefe  
EX Chairman of Education Committee