Unapproved minutes of the November 1st, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting.

HOUSTON AREA LEAGUE OF PC USERS MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1st, 2000 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 Stephen Cravey Vice President - Communications Jay Thomas Recording Secretary Anne Sipes Membership Secretary Jeff Boggan Treasurer Wes Leggett

Directors:

Michelle S Annis Mel Babb Norman Blaylock Jeff Boggan Matthew Castillo James Coon Absent William A Goetschius Robert P Grefe Moe Jones Absent J Kolenovsky Donald B McGowan Absent **Ray Morris** Joseph E Morris Jr Mike Novominsky David R. Pausky Absent Brian Sadler

Parliamentarian: Marilyn Gore

Guests:

26990 Nancy Ward 9831 David Flato 41190 Barry Woolbright 29427 Jeff Hupp 5234 Jim Ehman 9316 Gary Coplin

- 1 I. CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
- The President asked for corrections to the Minutes of the October Board of Directors
 Meeting.
- 4 Norman Blaylock asked that Tiffany Kong's name be put back in the list of Directors.
- 5 William A Goetschius made a motion (Motion 100001, Agenda Attachment 1) that the
- 6 Minutes of the October Board of Directors Meeting be approved as corrected.
- 7 The Motion passed.
- Ray Morris asked the President if anything had been done on the contract negotiations with
 Southwestern Bell.
- 10 The President said no.
- 11Ray Morris asked the President if any action had been taken regarding hal-pc.com. The12President stated that the issue had been turned over to the legal committee.
- The President asked for questions regarding the VP SIG's Report(Agenda Attachment 2).
 J Kolenovsky asked who Will Simmons was.
- 15 The VP SIGs said that Will Simmons has been a member of the Linux SIG since the SIG's 16 conception.
- Ray Morris asked the VP SIGs if he could provide any numbers on SIG attendance. The VP
 SIGs stated that he was in the process of converting the old spreadsheet data to a database
 and that he expected he would be able to provide numbers on SIG attendance at the next
 Board Meeting.
- Ray Morris asked the VP SIGs if there was any information on revenue from classes. The Director of Education stated that he would need to get that information from the Office. He did say that registration is down. The Office Manager stated that she thought she had deposited about \$1,200 from class registration last month. She did also say that she would need to verify that figure.
- 26 The President asked for questions about the Treasurers Report (Attachment 3).
- Ray Morris said that he had asked repeatedly for a Report from the Treasurer showing how 27 28 this years spending compared with the budget. He asked if there was any hope of getting this information. The Treasurer suggested that Ray Morris recall the words of the previous 29 President when asked the same question. Just look at what's in the bank! The Office 30 31 Manager suggested that Ray Morris come help the office straighten out the records. Norman Blaylock stated that deficiencies in the previous administration's bookkeeping practices were 32 33 responsible for the current problems. Mike Novominsky said that he would be in to help Monday or Tuesday. The Office Manager reported that the Auditor is unwilling to sign off 34 35 on last years reconciliation. Mike Novominsky said that when he talked to the auditor he had agreed to sign off on the reconciliation. He asked if the Auditor had been paid. The Office 36 Manager reported that the auditor had been paid. Mike Novominsky said that it might be 37 necessary to bring him before the State Board. The President asked Mike Novominsky if he 38 would talk to the auditor again. Mike Novominsky said he would do that. 39

- 40 Ray Morris asked about the status of HAL-PC's tax return. He was told that we have filed
 41 for an extension. Mike Novominsky said that we might have to file another extension.
- 42The President asked for questions regarding the Vice President Communications Report43(Attachment 4).

The Vice President Communications reported that we have made no commitment to any 44 advertising program at this time. He said that HALNet has made significant improvements 45 by making a number of no-cost peering agreements with local Internet Service Providers. He 46 also said that there will be a meeting November 2nd that could be helpful to HAL-PC. He 47 said that a major over-billing issue had been resolved and that over-billing was mentioned in 48 49 the Treasurers Report. He said that the Magazine's Advertising Sales Manager Durhmon Jennings was experiencing better health and anticipates representing HAL-PC at COMDEX. 50 51 He also said that the Membership Secretary would be representing us at COMDEX. He said that advertising was being sold in three month contracts and that things were looking up in 52 that area. 53

- 54J Kolenovsky asked about HALNet DSL Accounts. The VP Communications reported that55DSL Accounts were picking up slowly. He said that we currently have about 170 DSL56Accounts. He said that Southwestern Bell will probably attend the TISPA Meeting on57November 2nd. He said that a prime issue is Southwestern Bell's current procedure for58converting accounts to a different ISP. He said that some customers are out of service for59three weeks.
- 60 Mike Novominsky asked if the Magazine's three month advertising contracts were being paid 61 in advance. The Office Manager reported that they were being paid monthly. Mike 62 Novominsky asked if any current advertisers were in arrears. The Treasurer reported that 63 there had been improvement but that there were still two advertisers in arrears. Mike 64 Novominsky stated that if we really wanted to finance somebody he would resign and we 65 could finance him.
- Ray Morris asked if any of the advertisers were getting further behind. He recommended that
 advertisers who were seriously behind be put on a cash only basis. The Vice President
 Communications stated that he had considered that and that he thought the issue should be
 revisited. J Kolenovsky stated that historically the longer a bill goes in arrears the less likely
 it is to be collected.
- 71 Ray Morris asked if the new Mail Server was in place.
- The VP Communications reported that he was reticent to drop that on the office right now
 because of the procedural changes it would require. The President said he expected that to be
 a Christmas gift. The VP Communications stated that might be reasonable.
- Mike Novominsky asked if we could get a database Committee Report. Jeff Hupp reported that we are still making progress. He stated that the tables have been defined, the approach has been defined and the development tools have been defined. He stated that the database Committee had met on October 31st and planned to meet again on Monday or Tuesday next week. He said that development tasks would be divided up at the next meeting. He said that the Committee is on track for the time frame he had defined at the last Board Meeting.
- Ray Morris asked about HALNet accounts. The VP Communications stated that we are bottling right around 8,000. Jeff Hupp stated that his web page always shows the current number of accounts. He said just add two to what's on the Web Page. The VP Communications stated that he would like to be seeing growth. Jeff Hupp stated that

- 85 Membership would have to grow in order for HALNet to grow.
- The President asked for a report from the Director of Member Services. The Director of
 Member Services stated that he had nothing to report. He does intend to continue looking for
 product to sell with our new logo.
- The President asked for a report from the Membership Secretary (Attachment 5). The Membership Secretary stated that last years amnesty letter had been a success. He presented a proposed amnesty letter for use this year. (Amnesty.pdf) He asked that we e-mail him with any good ideas for generating new membership.
- 93 The President asked for a report from the VP Programs. The VP Programs reported that the
 94 Programs Committee Chairperson had resigned. He also stated that his schedule had not
 95 allowed him to have much time for Programs.
- 96 Norman Blaylock nominated Matthew Castillo as VP Programs
- 97 Ray Morris seconded the nomination.
- 98 Matthew Castillo was appointed VP Programs by acclamation.
- 99 The President asked for a report from the new VP Programs. The VP Programs reported that the Programs Committee had met on Monday. He said that only three committee members 100 had participated in Monday's meeting. He said that the Programs committee members had 101 decided that restructuring the committee was required. He said that they had begun the 102 process of reviewing the jobs required to put on a General Meeting. He said that they 103 intended to classify those jobs into positions and then post those positions on the Web Page. 104 He said that he would need support from the board. He also said that if there were not 105 significant changes within the committee this month he would resign at the next Board 106 meeting. 107
- 108 Ray Morris asked if the Directors Liability Insurance was in place.
- 109 The President said that it was.
- 110 Robert Grefe made a motion to adjourn.
- 111 The November 1st, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Respectfully submitted, Anne Sipes Recording Secretary

Motion 100001

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 1

Unapproved minutes of the October 5th, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting.

HOUSTON AREA LEAGUE OF PC USERS MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5TH, 2000 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 Stephen Cravey Absent Vice President - Communications Jay Thomas Recording Secretary Anne Sipes Membership Secretary Treasurer Wes Leggett

Directors:

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

Parliamentarian: Marilyn Gore

Guests:

29427 Jeff Hupp44959 Butch Blasingame32 Charles Evans18082 John Koppenhauer46330 David Turner30460 Pat Freeman

1240 Warren Frost 32856 J. S. Gilstrap 49805 Valerie Belcher

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I. CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM

The President presented an Amended Agenda (**Motion 100001**) and asked for objections. There were no objections to the Amended Agenda. The Amended Agenda was adopted.

The President asked for corrections to the Minutes of the September Board of Directors
 Meeting (Motion 100002, Agenda Attachment 1). The Minutes of the September Board
 of Directors Meeting were approved as presented.

7 The President stated that Tim Kraemer had resigned from the Board of Directors and that 8 the Board needed to elect a new Board Member.

- 9 Bob Grefe nominated Jeff Boggan.
- 10 Brian Sadler moved (Motion 100003) that nominations be closed.
- 11 Jeff Boggan was elected to the Board of Directors by acclamation.
- 12 The President stated that the next order of business was the election of a new Membership 13 Secretary.
- 14 Mike Mashburn nominated Jeff Boggan.
- 15 J Kolenovsky moved (Motion 100004) that nominations be closed.
- 16 Jeff Boggan was elected Membership Secretary by acclamation.
- The President asked for questions regarding the Presidents report (Agenda Attachment
 4).
- Ray Morris wanted to know who determined the winner of the HAL-PC Logo contest. The President stated that Marilyn Gore had determined the winner. Marilyn Gore stated that she had asked for the opinions of many of the HAL-PC Members that were active at Headquarters and that she had not made the decision alone.
- Moe Jones stated that he would like to see all the entries. Marilyn Gore agreed to show him all the logos that were submitted.
- The President asked for questions about the Treasurers Report (Agenda Attachment 2).

Ray Morris stated that he would like to revisit Tim Kraemer's resignation. He wanted to know what had become of the Product Distribution Committee's investigation of the ViewSonic Monitor. He was told that the Product Distribution Committee had submitted a report to the Board of Directors and that it had been the recommendation of the committee that the Publisher of the Magazine assume possession of the monitor. Ray Morris stated that he would like to hear another report from the Product Distribution

- 32 Committee at the next Board of Directors Meeting.
- The Treasurer stated that we still do not have an audit. He said that the auditor had requested additional information and that we did comply. The auditor had then made a new request for additional information. Mel Babb asked what had happened to LouAnn Coy. The Treasurer stated that other commitments had prevented LouAnn Coy from being able to give HAL-PC the time required to maintain the books. The President stated that it appears that the bank statements had not been reconciled for the last two years. Michelle Annis stated that they had reconciled to
- 40 the bank statement but not the GL. Mike Novominsky confirmed
- that the bank reconciliation to the Accounts Receivable and the Accounts Payable had not
 been done. Ray Morris said that he understood the problem the Treasurer was having
 with getting the information to present to the Board. He said that he hopes every effort is
 being made to get the problems straightened out. Michelle Annis stated that the real
 problem was that this was not addressed last year. She said that all the current records
 are to date. She said that having to go this far back is extremely difficult. Mike
 Novominsky said that he will help.
- The President asked for questions about the VP Communications Report.(Agenda
 Attachment 5)
- J Kolenovsky asked when would most of the people who had gotten into a one year 50 contract with SWB for DSL service start seeing their contracts expire and have the option 51 of coming back. The VP Communications said that most of those contracts would expire 52 in January and February. The VP Communications said that we are seeing some of those 53 trickle back now because of SWB forcing them to use PPPoE. He also said that SWB is 54 stringently enforcing a single IP address where HALNet is allowing the registration of 55 multiple computers. Ray Morris asked why anyone would choose HALNet DSL when 56 there are companies out there that are offering free DSL. The VP Communications stated 57 58 that he was not aware of this offer. Ray Morris gave the URL and the Parliamentarian displayed http://www.winfire.com on the overhead projector. The VP Communications 59 stated that he did not know how well operated this service was. He also said that some 60 people would be leery of spyware. He stated that people were beginning to get a little 61 wise to this stuff. He stated that he would be happy if we concentrated on the 62 knowledgeable segment. J Kolenovsky said that Academic Planet is thinking about 63 providing DSL Service. He said that could be significant. Mike Novominsky asked what 64 was the efficiency ratio between modems and DSL. Robert Gunn stated that it was much 65 less expensive to provide DSL Service. J Kolenovsky stated that DSL is not connection 66 oriented. With the dial up accounts we have to pay for a \$23 a month telephone line. 67 Jay Thomas stated that our DSL costs are fixed at \$3000 per month. Jeff Hupp stated that 68 we are currently equipped to handle up to 4000 DSL accounts. The VP Communications 69 70 stated that DSL customers have a pretty heavy investment in their connectivity. Mike Novominsky said that cable modem is faster and costs about \$40 a month. Jeff Hupp said 71 72 that while cable modem providers advertise faster connections they do not deliver. Robert Gunn stated that SWB caps the customers time allowed to be connected to their News 73 74 Server. HALNet customers have full connectivity. Jeff Hupp stated that it takes SWB customers 3 to 5 times longer to connect to SWB's Mail Server and 5 to 6 times longer to 75 connect to their News Server. Jay Thomas said that SWB's always on DSL Service isn't 76 always on either. Jeff Hupp said that the problem we have is educating the customers that 77 this is a vastly different service that HALNet offers. Robert Gunn said that there was an 78 ex SWB customer present. David Turner said that owning his own internet based 79 business he could not afford to shut down for 5 to 6 hours at a time while SWB was 80

- down. Michelle Annis said that her brother had gotten into a one year contract with SWB and that he is tap dancing waiting to get back to HALNet service. Jeff Hupp said that the problem is not the DSL lines provided by SWB it is SWB internet service. He said that the DSL lines stayed up even when all the telephone service was out on the north side of town this last week. He said that SWB just doesn't have enough experience to operate an ISP.
- 87 Ray Morris asked if anyone knew where hal-pc.com was located.
- The VP Communications responded that someone bought a domain that we didn't have the foresight to purchase. Ray Morris stated that HAL-PC does own the service mark and asked if anyone had looked into that. The President stated that the problem was enforcement. He said that these people were not likely to stop voluntarily. Mike Novominsky stated that it was his opinion that we should authorize up to \$10,000 to stop hal-pc.com's use of the HAL-PC Service Mark. The President offered to request a report from the legal committee on the matter.
- 95 Robert Grefe asked about the ongoing efforts to collect on past due advertising accounts. The VP Communications advised that letters had been sent to all past due accounts. We 96 have asked them to "help us update our records". We are also sending statements to all 97 these accounts. What we have basically said is if you think you paid us, prove it. Some 98 payments are being made. One debtor made a partial payment and marked the check 99 "final payment". One sent us a check but it bounced. Some of these people don't have 100 101 the money. Mike Novominsky said that we should stop running their ads. Jeff Hupp said we could fill that space with Boy Scout ads or we could bump paid half page ads to full 102 page ads. 103
- Brian Sadler made a motion (Motion 100005) that we take a 10 minute break.
- 105 The President asked for questions regarding the Member Services Committee Report.
- 106The Director of Member Services stated that Member Services had brought in \$1,300 to107\$1,500 since he had taken the position. He also said that now that we have a new logo he108will be looking into getting new HAL-PC t-shirts.
- 109There was a request for a report from the VP Programs. The VP Programs was not110present.
- Mike Novominsky said that it had been two months since he had asked for a report. He said that it was obvious that the VP Programs was not doing his job. The President asked if anyone would like the position. There were no volunteers and no nominations.
- 114 Mike Novominsky said that nothing had been decided about the December Meeting. The 115 President said that a dinner and dance were being considered for Christmas or New Years.
- Mike Novominsky asked about Internet elections. The President informed him that Internet Elections were going to require a bylaws change. Mike Novominsky offered to help the Rules Committee with the bylaws changes. Mike Novominsky was appointed to the Rules Committee.
- David Turner volunteered to help the Library Committee. David Turner was appointed to the Library Committee.
- Brian Sadler asked if anyone had heard anything from Aspen about the Membership

- Database. Jeff Hupp stated that the developer was unavailable. He said that Aspen has 123 been asked to refund HAL-PC's money. He also said that he has two qualified 124 125 programmers working on a Membership Database and that there is already an SQL Server in place. Mike Novominsky asked how much this was costing HAL-PC. Jeff Hupp said 126 that this was being done by volunteers. Mike Novominsky said that we've trying to get 127 128 this done for five years. He asked if the Board was aware of how useful this would be to HAL-PC. Ray Morris said that the real problem was that the available solutions were 129 MicroSoft Products and that there had been an unwillingness to accept a MicroSoft 130 solution. Most members of the Board indicated that MicroSoft Products were not 131 132 solutions. Jeff Hupp stated that his team was working on a good solution. We will have a UNIX Interbase Server and Paradox Clients running on Windows. He asked the Board 133 134 to give his team three months. He said if it wasn't done in three months then we should buy something 135
- 136The President moved (Motion 100006) that the November Board Meeting be moved to137the 1^{st} .
- 138There were no objections.
- 139 Brian Sadler made a motion (Motion 100007) to adjourn
- 140 The October 5th, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Sipes, Recording Secretary

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 2

To :

Anne Sipes, Recording Secretary

From:

Mike Mashburn, VP-SIGs

Date:

10/20/2000

Re :

November SIG Report

New SIGs

- 1. Linux 101 Class Leader: William Simmons Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- Webmaster Certification (CIW Security Track) Leader: Jeff Boggan Meeting: Every Tuesday, 6:30pm
- Sybase Technologies Leader: Tony Broussard Meeting: 3rd Tuesday, every other month beginning 11/2000, 3:00pm

ATTACHMENT 3

Report of the Treasurer to the HAL-PC Board of Directors 1st November 2000

HAL's financial condition for the month of October, as with the previous several months, reflect that we are sustaining operations with present revenue. We have been able to leave the funds at Greater Houston Community Foundation undisturbed and I am pleased to report 3rd quarter fund growth of \$20,852 as indicated by this quarter's statement.

Bank Account and other Dollar Denominated Balances are,

BoA (cash collected)	\$74,409.49
BoA (cash uncollected)	\$12,541.82
Prudential Securities	\$1,947.52

In the month of October, HAL-PC settled a billing error by SW Bell by paying for ATM connectivity delivered over the past several months. This resulted in a one-time charge of \$20,483.25, and is reflected in the present bank balances. The ongoing charge for this ATM link is about \$3,000 per month.

We are continuing to learn about the Business Works Accounting system's capabilities and limitations. This will facilitate not only the ongoing operation of the HAL-PC office, but hopefully will shed some light on the out of balance condition of some of HAL's accounts. This presently, is the major impediment to HAL being able to complete last year's audit.

Many thanks to the volunteers, office staff and in particular Joe Morris Jr. for putting in the many hours necessary to partially compensate for Michelle's unexpected and unavoidable absence. I also wish to thank Michelle not only for her exceptional ongoing efforts and the additional catch-up work that she undertook upon her return.

Respectfully submitted, Wesley L. Leggett

ATTACHMENT 4

Vice-President of Communications Report to the Board of Directors of HAL-PC

Advertising -

A number of methods of promoting and advertising the benefits of HAL-PC membership and its many member services are currently under consideration. In the past, some very costly attempts have been made with very little result in actual membership gains, so all options are being carefully considered.

HALNet -

On last Thursday, October 26th, HAL-PC hosted a meeting of participants in MAGIE (Metropolitan Area Gigabit Internet Exchange), a Houston-area traffic-peering arrangement for Internet Service Providers and Content Providers. A number of no-cost peering agreements were made and work is underway to accomplish the necessary arrangements to implement them. Additionally, improvements have been recently made in HALNet connectivity to a number of Austin ISPs.

The Magazine -

Sales of advertising in the HAL-PC magazine are up. Many of the recent ads have been sold on a 3-month contract basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Thomas

ATTACHMENT 5

HAL-PC Membership Secretary's Report for November 2000

Membership figures have dropped back to what they were about this time last year. (Please refer to the HAL-PC Membership Summary Statistics attachment 1.) Apparently, this drop is due to current members allowing their membership to expire. The majority of the members who are allowing their membership to drop are HALNet subscribers. (HALNet requires subscribers to be members of HAL-PC.) Some of these subscribers only joined HAL-PC to get Internet service.

Currently, there are competitive Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the Houston area that provide Internet service at or below the rates HALNet now charges. Historically, HALNet provided the Houston area with quality Internet service at the lowest price available. Additionally, these other ISPs do not require an additional membership fee. So, from an economical point of view, a HALNet subscriber that became a HAL-PC member solely to receive Internet service may not see the benefits of continuing their membership with HAL-PC. Also, those particular HALNet subscribers are only concerned with their Internet service. Therefore, they are motivated to pay their Internet subscription but not renew their HAL-PC membership.

Last year, the membership committee developed an amnesty letter to entice delinquent HAL-PC members to renew. This letter was mailed to a large number of members that allowed their membership to lapse. The amnesty letter campaign was very successful and a large number of the recipients did renew their membership. Therefore, we will follow through with the amnesty campaign again this year. The original amnesty letter was created by Mr. Mike Mashburn. It is well thought out and has been proven to work. So we will simply update last years amnesty letter with current dates and add the new HAL-PC logo. (Please see the proposed updated amnesty letter attachment 2.)

The amnesty letter includes an added incentive of a prize. Last years prize was a Logitech Cordless Mouse and Keyboard. This is a worthwhile prize, however we are considering a different prize. Something new that would tend to catch a persons interest a bit more. The Logitech prize is worth approximately \$70 to \$80 in retail stores. Therefore, the new prize should be something of an equivalent value. If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact me, Jeff Boggan (boggan@hal-pc.org).

The Fall 2000 Comdex is November 13th through the 18th. I will be representing the HAL-PC Board of Directors at Comdex this year. I will see the latest and greatest that hardware and software that venders will be offering for the year 2001. So, my suggestion is to wait until the week of November 20, after I get back from Comdex, to name the prize for the amnesty letter.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or want to volunteer your services to the membership committee please contact me. We need to make plans on how to keep current membership coming back year after year. We also need to make plans to generate new areas of interest and service to bring in more members. I have several new ideas and I want to hear yours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey J. Boggan HAL-PC Membership Secretary <u>Membership Report November 1, 2000, attachment 1</u>

HAL-PC MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY STATISTICS

<u>Counting</u>	newslet	<u>ter mai</u>	ling label	<u>s for 2000 -11</u>	<u>11,890</u>
Counting	member	rs who	will expir	<u>e 2000 -10</u>	331
Counting	number	of for	eign label	<u>S</u>	11
Counting	number	of bac	l addresse	2 <u>S</u>	<u>96</u>
				<u>Total:</u>	<u>12,328</u>
Counting	number	of act	ive memb	ers	<u>12,166</u>
-				<u>ers</u> ry newsletters	<u>12,166</u> 162
-					
-				<u>ry newsletters</u>	<u> 162</u> <u> 12,328</u>
Counting	<u>number</u>	<u>of con</u>		<u>ry newsletters</u> <u>Total:</u>	<u> 162</u> <u> 12,328</u>

Membership Report, November 2000, Attachment 2 Amnesty.pdf