



The International System Safety Society

Tennessee Valley Chapter
ALABAMA - MISSISSIPPI - TENNESSEE

<http://www.iss-s-tvc.org/>

May 2019 Newsletter

Tennessee Valley Chapter Officers

President: Rita Turner, 256-336-1343

Vice President: Denise Garcia,

Treasurer: Ken Rose, 256-645-1621

Secretary: Warren Fleming,

Immediate Past President: Melissa Waters,

Webmaster: Don Swallow, 256-842-8641

President's Corner

Election - The current Chapter President can see the end of her reign rapidly coming to a close now that the ballots for voting on new membership positions in the TVC Chapter will be sent out soon. I strongly urge you to throw your name into the hat and run for a position in this respected Society. If you choose not to run for one of the Chapter Officer positions, I remind you of the importance of voting for someone for each of the Chapter Officer positions. Remember that during the Chapter Officer Elections, your vote matters.



NASA Rover Challenge – I had the opportunity to participate in the NASA Rover Challenge (formerly the Moon Buggy Race) for High School and College Students from all over the United States as well as all over the world. It was a 2-day event hosted at the US Rocket and Space Center hosted by NASA. The festivities began with a Appreciation breakfast for all the sponsors, then there was time to watch some of the racing on the track behind the Mars Grille. There were two days allotted for racing and engaging with the teams. While there were 106 teams participating, only about 6 submitted materials to the ISSS TVC for consideration for the Safety Award. After a lot of hard work, the teams and sponsors assembled in the Marriott Ballroom to present awards to the teams. There were many awards given from Overall best to Crash and Burn. While everyone had a good time, it was a good learning experience for all the teams. The two teams that received the Safety Award



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were: International Space Institute from Germany (top in photo below) and the Mukesh Patel University from India (bottom). Checks were presented to the two teams at the banquet.

I would encourage others to participate in these activities. I found the time I spent at the event was very rewarding and plan to participate next year.



News

James S. Blanteno , October 29, 1941 - April 30, 2019

Mr. James "Jim" S. Blanteno, age 77 of Ardmore, AL, passed away Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Jim was a Treasurer for the TVC (2005-2007), initiated our support of the NASA Rover Challenge (formerly the Moon Buggy Race) and was our first and only Special Events Coordinator (2007-2012). Jim was the TVC Educator of the Year for 2008. Jim was born October 29, 1941 to Joseph Robert and Dorothy Hawbaker Blanteno in West Fairview,



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PA. Jim served 21 years in the military with three tours in Vietnam. He then worked for NASA and A-P-T Research in the AMCOM Safety Office. Jim was Past Master at Helion Lodge #1 Free and Accepted Masons. He was also a member of the Knights Templar and Woodmen of the World. Jim is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sylvia and his son Scott. Jim was interred on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Upcoming Meetings (2019)

May Speaker: Tom Pfizer at APT Research

June Speaker: Gregg Taylor

July Speaker: Marty Ohme

August Speaker: [Not One More Alabama](#)

Elections

Ballots for the 2018-2019 Chapter Officers will be sent out soon. The following positions are open for election: Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Per the Chapter By-laws, Denise Garcia will be moving up to President and Rita Turner will be the Immediate Past President. Many hands make light work so donate your leadership talents to help make the Chapter go!

Awards

Nominate members for awards is open. Recognize one of your peers for a job well done. Chapter Awards are given for the following:

Manager of the Year. A Chapter member who has made significant contributions through the implementation of an effective system safety management program for a major system effort.

Engineer of the Year. A Chapter member who has made significant contributions to system safety through the development of engineering methods, standards or designs that improved the safety of an operation or products.

Educator of the Year. Outstanding achievement in, or contribution to, system safety education and the advancement of system safety knowledge.

Professional of the Year. Chapter member who has set the standard for professionalism in our discipline. Submitted for [HATS Professional of the Year](#)

Chapter members are also eligible for awards at the Society level. Use this link to learn more: <https://system-safety.org/development/societyawards.php>.

To the chapter's membership, keep expanding your knowledge and thanks for all that you do!