

TSO Headquarters History, Dallas, Memories and Reflections



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Backstory... TSO Secretary/Treasurer's offices through the years—
1929-1982: Austin, Fort Worth, or Snyder home of the state officer.
1982-2005: TWU, Denton.
2005-present: Dallas.

From the Camera's Lens

As editor/photographer for the state from 2004-2011, I had a unique opportunity to observe and participate to some extent in all the activities involved in moving into our new headquarters facility.

From Denton to Dallas

My first knowledge of our being told we needed to move from the office at TWU came from President Carolyn Adkins. Texas headquarters had been housed there for



22 years, and with little notice, all the office materials had to be moved to a new location. The Executive Committee had to act quickly. Nelda Gossett Landrum was our executive secretary/treasurer at the time, and she graciously offered her dining room to house the office until a suitable location was obtained.

Carolyn appointed a committee headed by Past State President Sandy Whitney (*in photo on left*) to search possible sites and report to the 2005 State Convention in Dallas. Sandy presented their findings with the recommendation that Alpha State purchase property in Dallas on Campbell Road near Preston Road, where commercial offices were under

construction. The convention body overwhelmingly accepted the motion. Our leaders determined that the best way to buy the property was to borrow from our own scholarship fund, and then repay the fund over time.

The Construction Begins

As new state officers were elected at the 2005 convention, training the new state personnel followed. Catherine Davis was the new state



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president, and during the training a break time was available when those who wanted to see the property were able to go to the site. I took a few pictures of members on the building site (*in photo on previous page*), and I was able to take more as construction continued.



When the Executive Committee met in the fall, the group toured the site with the building's framework under way (*in photos on left and below*). I wanted to be able to have some record of the construction, so I was happy to have an opportunity to capture the progress. These pictures were used in

a CD I made after the Open House was held in October of 2006. When the building was complete, the ribbon cutting (*in photo below right*) was held April 1, 2006. Many members and several past state presidents attended. Then the moving into the new facility began.



Money to Pay for the Building

Throughout the building process, much thought was given to raising funds to repay the debt to the scholarship fund. There was also much thought given to reaching out to chapters with information as the building process continued so that throughout Texas the members would feel an ownership of the building. Not many states have their own headquarters building. We could be proud that the largest membership state and the state where the Society began now had an office that was not only usefully designed, but also elegant. We could be proud to have members visit, view the lovely setting, and see archival items from our history. Many different money raising projects that Dr. Vicki T. Davis mentions in her "Memories and Recollections" resulted in a large portion of the debt (\$200,000) being repaid at the



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2011 TSO Convention in McAllen. The remainder is being paid in yearly installments from the TSO budget.



Preparations for Open House

The time from the ribbon cutting to the October 15, 2006, Open House was spent moving in and decorating the space with furniture. All state committee meetings except the area coordinators' training were planned for headquarters. Special items of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and Phyllis Ellis were placed where visiting members could see them. Other special gifts were also appropriately placed.

The Open House (*in photo*) was a special opportunity for members across the state to see the new headquarters.

Dr. Barbara Day, 2006-2008 international president, attended, as well as many Texas past state presidents. Sandy Whitney welcomed attendees and spoke about some of the archival items that are on display and how they were obtained. As editor, I was taking lots of pictures. When Sandy started to speak, I thought this was a special moment, so I turned on my camera's video and recorded her words.

What Members Bought

I used the Open House photos and video, along with pictures I took of construction, to make a video that is now at headquarters. The video was offered at convention in 2007 as we wanted members who couldn't attend the open house to have an opportunity to see what they had built. Every two years when members attending Leadership Seminar come to Dallas, they have an opportunity to see the headquarters building. The wonderful staff always welcomes visitors who come to the Dallas area as we want all our members to see what their money has bought.

Grateful

I am extremely appreciative of the opportunities I have had to participate in some of the events of the headquarters history.

All Texas members can be proud of the result of our state organization's moving from rented TWU offices to a headquarters building members own.



*Text and photos courtesy of Joanne Davis.
Document compiled by Marilyn Nease, 2017-
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