



Dear HESS Club Members and Patrons,

After 102 years of existence the Board of Directors of the HESS Club has come to the unfortunate conclusion that the Club cannot survive. The shutdown forced by the COVID-19 pandemic imposed a financial burden that cannot be overcome. As you know, to help slow the spread of the virus restaurants and event venues were mandated to close in late March. Cancellation of events began in mid-March prior to the mandated closure, all April events were cancelled and most events in May have been cancelled.

Even in the best of times the HESS Club has struggled to earn a profit. The engineering community has been a huge supporter of the club. Over the years many of the engineering organizations and associations have held their monthly meetings and special events at HESS. Many of the companies have held their corporate events at the club. These events alone do not support the club. To survive financially special events such as weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, quinceañeras, and others, are necessary. The special events marketplace is very competitive and has proven to be difficult for the HESS club. Quite frankly, a board of directors that consists of engineers and contractors is not well suited to navigating the special events marketplace.

The time when the HESS Club was a club that existed strictly for the benefit of the engineering community passed long ago. For many years the club has been a convenient place to hold meetings. The difference between the HESS Club and other meeting venues has been the management and staff. The reason the club has lasted as long as it has is because of the management and staff including Jennifer Bernal, the club's General Manager, Chef Chica, Michael Whitehead, an employee for 34 years and the club's Ambassador as well as all the friendly servers that we may not know by name but are none-the-less familiar to us all. We can find a place to have our meetings but leaving these dedicated people without jobs is what makes closing the club the most difficult.

The process by which the board has decided to close the club is an orderly process legally referred to as "wind-up". The goal of the board is to close the club in dignified manner leaving a lasting positive impression with the community it served.



Additional funds are needed to accomplish the wind-up, pay Jennifer during the wind-up process, cover deposits received for future events and other obligations. The board has established a goal of \$75,000 to help with these efforts. We ask that you consider a donation of \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 to achieve closure of the club in a manner that reflects the class of the engineering and construction community.

To support closure of the club the undersigned individuals contributed the legal expenses needed to accomplish the wind-up. Attached is form that includes information on how the checks should be made out and where they are to be sent.

We request your thoughtful consideration and action at your earliest convenience, **preferably by April 30th**. Should you have any questions please contact any of us.

Jack Miller
President

Jeff Collins
Vice President

Lee Lennard
Board Member & Past President

Jim Russ
Board Member & Past President



HESS Club wind-up expenses

Check one

Donation Levels

\$250.00

\$500.00

\$1000.00

Other Amount \$

Name: _____

Company: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: HESS Club

with a notation in the memo line stating "HESS Club wind-up expenses"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!