

INSIDE



TAID

Board of Directors

Marilyn Roberts, ASID, RID
AUSTIN
PRESIDENT

Julie Reynolds, ASID, RID
DALLAS
PRESIDENT ELECT

Pat Campbell McLaughlin, ASID, RID
DALLAS
PAST PRESIDENT & VP PRACTICE

Diane Alexander, ASID, RID, LEED AP
HOUSTON
VP STUDENTS

Robin Black, ASID, IIDA, RID
SAN ANTONIO
VP PUBLIC RELATIONS

Louise Nicholson Carter, IIDA, RID, AAHID
HOUSTON
VP MEMBERSHIP

Harmony A. Edwards Canfield, IIDA
AUSTIN
SECRETARY

Grace Padron Gonzales, RID
SAN ANTONIO
VP EDUCATION

Stephanie Burritt, RID
HOUSTON
VP GULF COAST

Denise Hostick, IIDA, RID
LUBBOCK
IIDA REP

Amanda Kendall, IIDA, RID
DALLAS
VP LEGISLATION

Pamela Krisan, ASID, IIDA, CKD, RID
AUSTIN
VP SOUTH

Carol Myers, ASID, IIDA, RID, AAHID
DALLAS
VP NORTHEAST

Steve Patterson, IIDA
DALLAS
VP INDUSTRY

Rosa Salazar, Allied Member ASID
LUBBOCK
VP WEST

Donna Vining, FASID, IIDA, RID, CAPS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAID
11418 Hylander Drive
Houston, Texas 77070
281-257-3523 Phone/Fax
www.supporttaid.org

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2008/09

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

By the time you are reading this, the 2009 legislative session will be well under way. The TAID board has been working toward this time ever since the 2007 session ended. We have been visiting with many legislators and preparing to reintroduce the Interior Design Practice Act.

Again this session there will be a big event for Interior Design Legislative Day on Tuesday, February 17th. There will be a "kick-off" dinner on Monday, February 16th for students, professional interior designers, industry, and our friends who are supporting our legislative efforts. On Tuesday we will visit the office of every Texas legislator to be certain each one of them understands why we feel there should be a practice act for interior designers. We want them to see how interior designers with their education, experience, and testing have the knowledge to create interior spaces for the public to safely use.

To help us give this message, there will be a display of projects by Texas interior design students from CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation) accredited schools. This display will be set up in the hall of the Capitol extension the entire week of our Legislative Day events. Legislators and their staff will be able to see how the students are learning about designing for the life safety of their clients by seeing their projects showing issues such as barrier free design and sustainable design.

I hope to see many of you at the Capitol as we "march" through the halls. If you want more information about Legislative Day, you can contact me at marilyn@supporttaid.org.

Marilyn Roberts
Texas Association for Interior Design, President

www.supporttaid.org
Visit our website for additional information

Executive Director News

Happy New Year and welcome to the 81st Legislature session in the great state of Texas. The Legislature kicked off at noon on Tuesday, January 13th. The regular session will last for 140 days as prescribed by the Constitution, and end on June 1st.

HOUSE NEWS

While the Republicans retain the majority in the 2009 House, the partisan split is now 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats, whereas the 2007 House had 80 Republicans and 69 Democrats.

The election of Representative Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) as Speaker of the House by acclamation starts a fresh era for the Texas House of Representatives. The elevation of Straus as the compromise Speaker candidate just last weekend concludes the battle for that position that began in 2007. Straus, who was only just elected to his third term, has promised to bring more civility, fairness and true bipartisanship to that chamber's process. In his remarks to his colleagues, Straus said " ... Collaboration is the key to success in this session. A house divided against itself cannot stand...The Texas House of Representatives cannot conduct the people's business if it is divided and this is why I became a candidate for speaker... Together we will build a House where members have an opportunity to express their views and the chance to do something great for their districts and for Texas. We will create an atmosphere where everyone's voice can and should be heard, a place where we respect each other's points of view..."

There are 20 members in the 2009 "freshmen class":

Democrats: Carol Alvarado (145/Houston), Al Edwards (D-Houston) Roland Gutierrez (119/San Antonio), Carol Kent (102/Dallas), Diana Maldonado (52/Round Rock), Marisa Marquez (77/El Paso), Robert Miklos (101/Mesquite), Joseph Moody (78/El Paso), Tara Rios Ybarra (43/South Padre Island), Kristi Thibaut (133/Houston), and Armando Walle (140/Houston),

Republicans: Angie Chen Button (112/Richardson), Allen Fletcher (130/Houston), Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi), Tim Kleinschmidt (17/Lexington), Ken Legler (144/Pasadena), Tryon Lewis (81/Odessa), Doug Miller (73/New Braunfels), Ralph Sheffield (55/Temple), Mark Shelton (97/Fort Worth), and Randy Weber (29/Pearland).

Both Al Edwards and Todd Hunter have served previously in the House.

SENATE NEWS

Democrat Wendy Davis (10/Fort Worth), who defeated long-time incumbent Kim Brimer in the 2008 general election, and Republican Senator Joan Huffman (17/Houston), who won the open seat formerly held by Kyle Janek, are the two new senators. The 2009 Senate has 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats. The 2007 Senate had 20 Republicans and 11 Democrats.



Senator Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock) was elected President Pro Tempore. Although this is primarily an honorary position, the President "Pro Tem" serves as Governor when the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are out of the state.

TAID BOARD NEWS

Please join me in welcoming our newest board member, Harmony Edwards, from Austin. Harmony Edwards, IIDA, RID is a registered Interior Designer in the State of Texas, a NCIDQ certificate holder, a Past Director for the Austin City Center of IIDA, and the current Austin City Center IIDA Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs. A graduate of Western Michigan University with a bachelors of Science in Interior Design, she relocated to Austin with her husband in 2000 and spent several years in Facility Planning and Health Care design. In 2005 she established her own Interior Design firm focusing on healthcare and a wide variety of contract interiors.

Harmony is passionate about the field of Interior Design and firmly believes in the importance of the work of Interior Designers as a benefit to the community. A staunch advocate of Interior Design legislation to protect the profession as well as the public, she is honored to have been asked to join the TAID board.

We are here if you need us or have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Thanks,



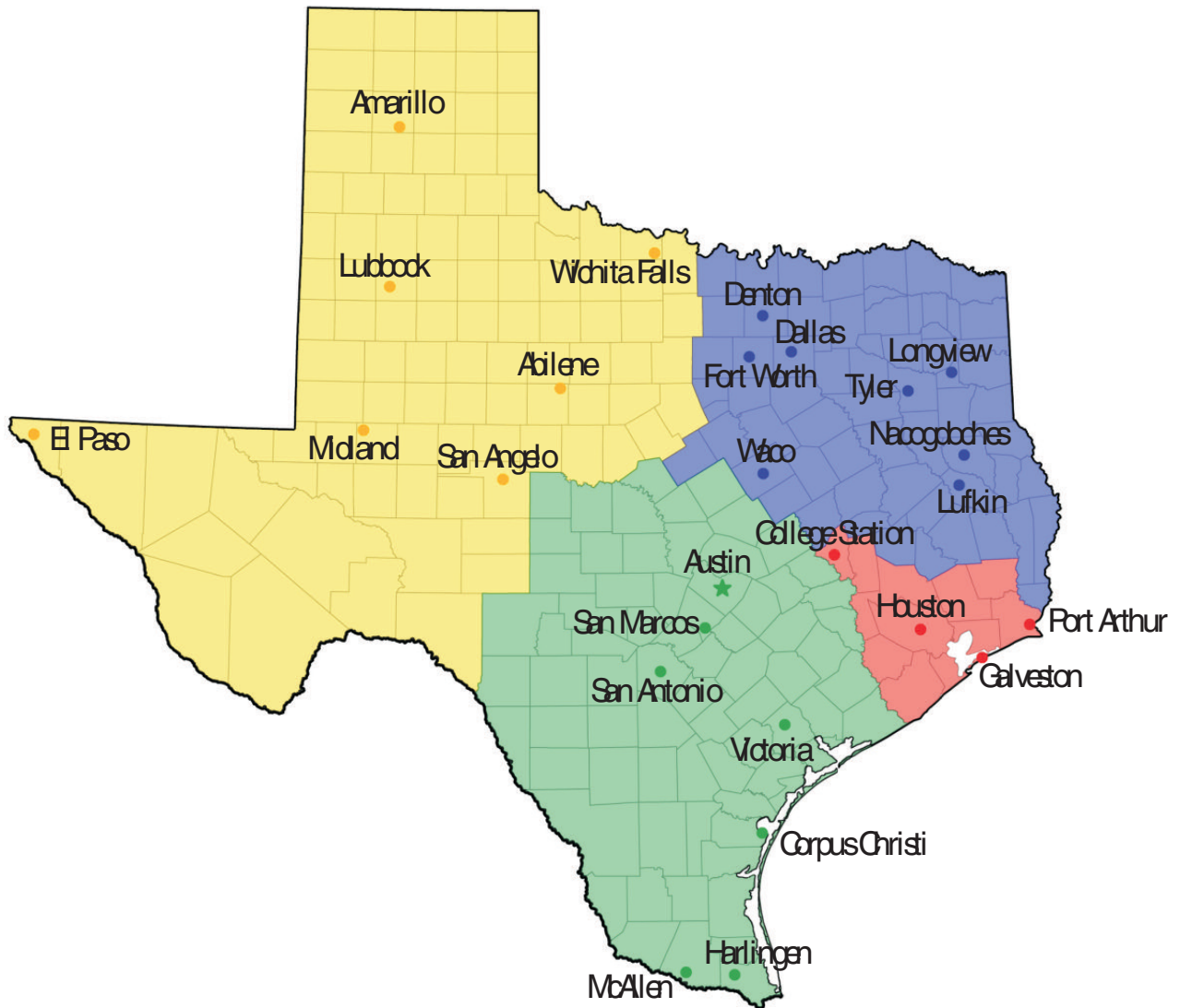
Donna Vining, FASID, IIDA, RID, CAPS

WEST

Rosa Salazar
VP – West Region
Off – 806-793-0300
Rosa.g.salazar@ttu.edu

NORTH

Carol Myers
VP Northeast
Off – 972-239-0554
Crlgmtx@earthlink.net



SOUTH

Pamela Krisan
VP – South Region
Off – 512-637-1745
pamela@definingspace.org

GULF COAST

Stephanie Burritt
VP – Gulf Coast
Off – 713-844-0130
Stephanie.burritt@gensler.com

Effectively Communicating With Your Legislator

One cannot overestimate the power of constituent communications on elected officials. As they say in football, you never win the games you don't play. Given the general apathy in the public towards governing issues, it's no wonder we lose – we don't show up!

Indeed, the most effective way to communicate with an elected official begins simply with communicating with the elected official. As U.S. Sen. Everett Dirksen pointed out, he only saw the light when he felt the heat – the heat of his constituents.

Very often lawmakers – even those who genuinely believe in our ideas – can be swayed simply by the argument that “your voters won't care.” You and I can take the position of simply letting our elected officials know that we do, indeed, care deeply about the votes they take. Our communications remind them that we are watching.

Vote. Few people want to admit this, but at the end of the day the only people whose opinions matter are voters. That's why the opinion polls politicians pay for only study the views of registered, likely voters.

Know Their Job. Spend time learning about the specific role of the position. When you make an “official” communication, make sure it pertains to issues they can affect. The quickest way to be labeled an annoyance – and therefore be dismissed – is to communicate on issues which the particular elected official cannot act.

Develop A Relationship. Make sure you get to know your elected official, even if they are from a different political party – especially if they are from a different political party. People

tend to listen to those they know, even if they don't always agree with them. By building a cordial relationship with your elected officials, you will enhance your ability to effectively communicate your ideas and concerns.

Write Letters. Nothing is as politically powerful as the pen, but it has to be used wisely. There is nothing wrong with regular communication, as long as each letter is written concisely on one topic and addresses an issue which the elected official can address. A letter, fax, or hand-delivered note is highly effective, but a simple postcard is even more so. A postcard forces the writer to be concise and to the point, making it easier for the elected official and their staff to read and respond. Don't forget to ask your family, friends and neighbors to write, also!

Don't rely on telephone messages. Be sure to put your message in writing if you make a phone call. A written record of your position is always best. Be sure to include your voting address and your business address. Stick to the facts. Keep it simple and timely.

Don't Mess With E-Mail. E-mail is powerful tool for quick communication with friends and loved ones, but it is not as effective a way to communicate with elected officials unless you have a strong, personal relationship. E-mail's lack of effectiveness comes from what we all know to be true – so much spam, generated in foreign lands, makes all e-mail received from an unknown person suspect, and therefore of diminished value.

Remind Them Who You Are. In writing to your elected official, always include your name and the mailing address where you are registered to vote. This helps not only in getting you a response, but it reminds the elected official that you are, in fact, a voting constituent.



Call When Votes Are Pending.

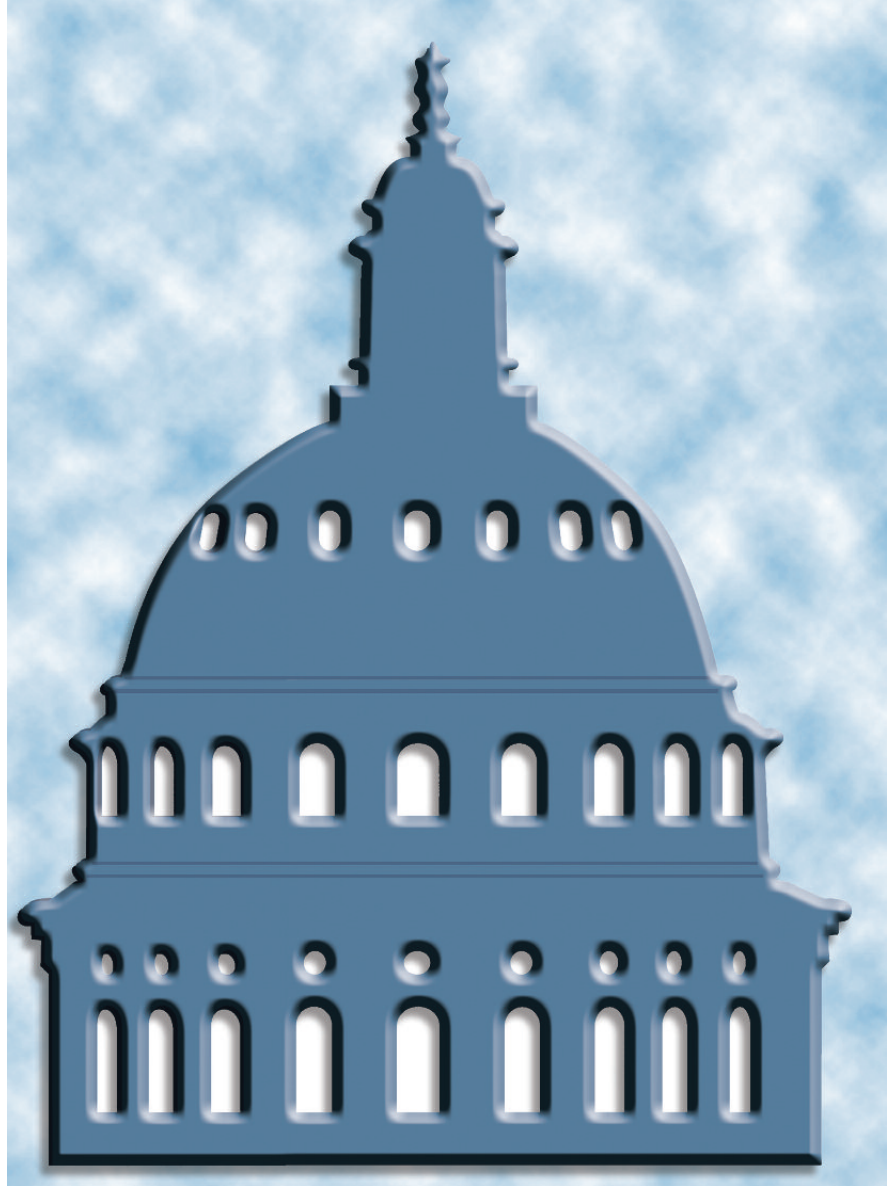
Telephone calls can be effective, but there is a limit to how many calls can be answered. If you must call, be concise, reasonable and calm. But calls are still only marginally effective. Remember: you are then relying on an intern or secretary answering the phone to be able to accurately summarize your position. Calls can only be effective when it is a very simple request: vote against this specific bill, vote for this action. Anything else gets lost in the shuffle. We will advise you of times when calls will be appreciated via our weekly newsletter updates.

Never Threaten.

While the issues can inspire great passion, we must always seek to check that passion against civil discourse. It never does any good to threaten to “vote against” someone, tattle to their donors, or picket their offices. We should make our cases reasonably and clearly. If they vote badly, we may indeed vote against them, communicate with donors or protest at the offices – but then simply do those things; threats are counterproductive.

Know Your Issue & The Facts.

Regardless of the means of communication, make sure you have your facts in hand. When supporting or opposing legislation, be sure you know the bill numbers, authors and other relevant information. For as important as a piece of legislation may be to us, legislators and staff deal with thousands of pieces of legislation on a regular basis. Do not assume anything.



Always Thank Them. We very often neglect to thank our elected officials for two very important things: their service, and their actions. For the vast majority of elected officials, public service comes at great cost, personal and financial, to themselves and their families. Even those with whom we disagree vehemently are almost always serving because they truly want to improve the quality of life in their sphere of influence. Let's remember that while we disagree on issues, on methods, even on end-results, we can at least presume agreement on good motives. Second, we must remember to thank them when they follow through on our requests – and be willing to give them credit beyond their actions; political people react to positive praise. So when we can give praise, heap it on, as it will pay dividends in future communications.

Q And A: Your Professional Seal

Q: When should I seal a document, and when shouldn't I?

A: When you issue a construction document, you must take one of two possible actions:

1. Sign, seal, and date the document, or
2. Label it with your name, the date, and this statement: "Not for regulatory approval, permitting, or construction."

It's as simple as choosing one or the other (but definitely not both)!

Q: What does it mean to "issue" a document?

A: Here is how the Texas Administrative Code defines "issue:" To mail, deliver, transmit, or otherwise release plans or specifications to an owner, lessee, contractor, subcontractor, or any other person acting for an owner or lessee for the purpose of construction, applying for a building permit, or obtaining regulatory approval after such plans have been sealed by an architect, interior designer, landscape architect, or engineer. In the case of a state-funded or other public works project, it is the time at which plans or specifications are publicly posted for bids, after such plans or specifications have been sealed by an architect, interior designer, landscape architect, or engineer.

Q: What is a construction document, anyway?

A: Here's the definition, straight from the rule: "Construction Documents--Drawings; specifications; and addenda, change orders, construction change directives, and other Supplemental Documents issued by an Interior Designer for the purpose(s) of Regulatory Approval, permitting, or construction."

Q: So a very informal, off-hand sketch of how a room might be laid out wouldn't need to be sealed, right?

A: Even for such an informal sketch, if you release it and don't intend for it to be used for regulatory approval/permitting/construction, you should mark it so. Better safe than sorry!

Q: OK, what are "Supplemental Documents?"

A: Again, straight from the rule: "Supplemental Document--A document that modifies or adds to the technical interior design content of an existing Construction Document."

Q: Where can I find all the sealing rules so I can read them myself?

A: Just head to our Web site at www.tbae.state.tx.us, and find the Laws & Enforcement flyout menu near the top. Then click Statutes and Rules on that menu to find all the laws that govern your professional practice. (Subchapter F of the Interior Designer rules addresses the use of your professional seal, and it weighs in at less than 1,500 words.)

Continuing Education



TAID's First Correspondence Course

Earn .3 CEPH today in your own home

Rules and Regulations for Interior Designers in Texas

Course #7463

The materials necessary will be sent to you within two weeks. You will take the class online via your computer. When finished, mail or fax in your answers and we will send you a certificate within two weeks of receipt of your completed questionnaire.

TAID will have more correspondence CEPH courses in the fall.

Send your name, address,
and check for \$65.00 to

TAID

**11418 Hylander Drive
Houston, TX 77070**

www.supporttaid.org



Remember...

When you complete your classes with TAID,
We track them for you; Your money stays in Texas; and
Your money goes to support your profession, not individuals.

FUTURE CEU DATES

DALLAS

Feb 13

April 3

May 29

July 17

Sept 11

Nov 20

All classes will be held at the
World Trade Center, Room 9065

Check our website for more details.

www.supporttaid.org

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Legislative Media Campaign

We do not know if you are aware of the lawsuit that has been filed here in Texas against the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners. On May 9, 2007, the Institute of Justice (a civil liberties law firm based in D.C.) filed a lawsuit on behalf of four people who are not registered as interior designers in Texas but are practicing interior design. For all the details and related documents visit www.ij.org. Click on 'cases' in the column on the left and then click on 'First Amendment' and scroll down to 'Texas Interior Deign'.

We need to do everything we can to save our legislation. We need your help in educating Texans about the difference in a registered interior designer and a decorator.

We would like to do the largest media campaign we can afford and we need your help. We need money and/or contacts that could help us with this huge undertaking. You have spent a lot of time and money to become a registered interior designer, please make one more contribution to help us promote the profession. If each registered interior designer sends us a check for \$50.00 we believe we can make a difference. Obviously, we will accept any amount of donation.

If we do not get enough funds to launch a successful campaign, we will have to forego the idea. Please let us know if you want us to return your contribution or keep it to continue our work to protect our right to practice.



HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR DESIGN STAMP?

Especially for the Interior Design profession, exclusively from Texas Association for Interior Design.

TBAE Stamp

Stamp # **101** Rubber Stamp \$25.00
102 Self-Inking \$35.00

The Interior Design Rules & Regulations Handbook requires that the information on this stamp be provided to clients.

The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners	
333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-350	PO Box 12337
Austin, TX 78701-3942	Austin, TX 78711-2337
Telephone (512) 305-9000	
has jurisdiction over complaints regarding the professional practices of persons registered as interior designers in Texas.	

Interior Designer Seal

Stamp # **201** Rubber Stamp \$28.00
202 Self-Inking \$38.50
203 Embosser \$42.00

***Non-TAID members add \$5.00 to the above figures

NEW Design mandated by the State
EFFECTIVE January 1, 2006

The Interior Design Rules & Regulations Handbook requires that the information on this stamp be provided to clients.



Name to be on Seal

TBAE certificate number

Drawing Stamp

Stamp # **301** Rubber Stamp \$20.00
302 Self-Inking \$35.00

ANY DRAWINGS OR SPECIFICATIONS
ARE FOR DESIGN INTENT ONLY.
THESE ARE NOT INTENDED FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING PURPOSES.

ORDER FORM

Bus. Name: _____
Address: _____

Stamp #	Stamp	Cost	
101	Rubber Stamp	\$25.00	_____
102	Self-Inking	\$35.00	_____
201	Rubber Stamp	\$28.00	_____
202	Self-Inking	\$38.50	_____
203	Embosser	\$42.00	_____
301	Rubber Stamp	\$20.00	_____
302	Self-Inking	\$35.00	_____

Make all checks payable to **TAID**, and send check and this order form to:
TAID, 11418 Hylander Drive
Houston, Texas 77070
For additional information, call **281-257-3523**

Sub Total	_____
Tax x 8.25	_____
***Non-TAID member	\$5.00
Shipping & Handling	\$6.00
	\$6.00

TOTAL _____

Not a member of TAID?

Simply fill out the short form below and remit \$75.00 for annual dues to participate in this important organization representing Texas interior designers.

Name _____ Business Name _____

Address/Phone & Fax # _____ Business Address, if different _____