

PERSONAL JOURNAL

ACG

ACG Austin Has Its Eye on Expansion

By Roy B. Graham

With a 45% rise in membership last year, ACG Austin experienced a breakthrough year. Last year was one when the chapter's membership and treasury reached a point where it could advance the chapter to the next level.

Last June, we held our first Corporate Awards Program. Designed to tie into the ACG National Outstanding Corporate Growth Award and Emerging Company Growth Award, the event was a sell-out, and some people had to be turned away. Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams presented the keynote address and assisted chapter VP Awards Chris Kaine and me in making the awards presentations.

In October, we hosted our initial "Toast to Private Equity" event, created to recognize the contribution of Texas private equity firms to the local M&A community and foster networking and dealmaking opportunities. Hosted at Sullivan's in downtown Austin, the event was sold out, and plans are under way for a larger-scale event this year.

For several years, we've looked to our southern neighbors in San Antonio and tried to cultivate interest in our events. While we've occasionally had San Antonio visitors, the reality has been that the 70 miles separating the two cities is a prohibitive distance for regular attendance.

After considerable study, we determined that the markets could best be served by holding an ongoing series of programs in both cities. Accordingly, Austin will continue to meet monthly for its regular luncheon meetings while San Antonio will meet, at least initially, every other month for luncheon meetings. A new chapter name reflecting our regional collaboration is now under review.

On February 2, we held our inaugural ACG meeting in San Antonio. The 140 attendees included many of the city's leading business executives representing both large and mid-sized public and private companies.

Other events planned for 2007 include continued participation in the ACG Texas Capital Connection, a new quarterly CEO breakfast series that will be



Chapter President, Roy Graham (right) congratulates new chapter VP Communications, Christopher Justice.

rolled out in both San Antonio and Austin, and a Corporate Development Roundtable program.

By adopting an Austin/San Antonio regional approach we think we can dramatically expand the chapter and grow closer to the size of our Dallas and Houston neighbors.

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