



CANDIDATE STATEMENTS/BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer

Cynthia (Cindy) Pionke, P.E.

- **Candidate's professional biography, including number of years of ITE membership, transportation experience and accomplishments:**

I have over 26 years of transportation engineering experience in the public sector – 19 years as the Director of Planning and Development for Knox County's Department of Engineering and Public Works. This experience includes prioritizing road projects, intersection improvements and sidewalk construction; providing long range planning for future road construction; developing and enforcing development and traffic control policies and ordinances; representing the department at meetings; serving on various committees; making presentations; developing both an operating budget and a capital improvement budget; selecting, hiring and directing the work of consultants; and conducting field reviews of traffic complaints. My seven years with the Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission were spent maintaining the computer model for long range transportation planning and reviewing developments by the private sector for compliance with the subdivision regulations.

Member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers since 1987

Professional Engineer in Georgia (1990) and Tennessee (1998)

- Member of Chi Epsilon since 1981
 - Member of Tau Beta Pi since 1982
 - Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission Excellence awarded in 1995 in Honor of Superior Performance and Achievement
 - American Society of Civil Engineers Tennessee Section Government Engineer awarded in 2004
 - Tennessee Section Award in 2005 for Outstanding Individual Service
 - Tennessee Section Volunteer Distinguished Service Award in 2007 for Outstanding Service and Commitment
 - SDITE Marble J. Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award for 2011
 - SDITE John F. Exnicios Outstanding Government Employee Outstanding Service Award for 2012
 - Recipient of a resolution by Knox County Commission honoring Knox County Director of Planning and Development July 2013
 - Member of the 2017 LeadershipITE class (International ITE)
 - SDITE Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award for 2016
- **Prior service to the Southern District; prior service to your state ITE section; and prior service to other organizations and other qualifications:**
 - Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers since 1979
 - Tennessee Section ITE (TSITE) Secretary/Treasurer 2000

- TSITE Vice President 2001
- TSITE President 2002
- TSITE Section Representative 2007-2008
- Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) for the 2007 Annual Meeting in Knoxville
- SDITE Team Leader for the Annual Meeting Team 2010 – 2011
- SDITE Team Leader for Strategic Planning (Leadership, Technical Knowledge, Workforce Development, Annual Meeting, and Information, Communication and Outreach) 2012 – 2016
- SDITE Team Leader for Members Services (Leadership, Technical Knowledge, Workforce Development, Annual Meeting, Information, Communication and Outreach, and Young Members) 2016 – present
- **Reasons for running for office:** At this stage in my career, I have a lot of experience to share. I was fortunate to be selected for both the SDITE Leadership training and the International Leadership training classes. By taking both classes, it makes it even easier for me to excite our membership about applying for the classes since I can speak about my personal experience in taking each of the classes. The energy and enthusiasm of my classmates from both classes makes me want to find that same energy and enthusiasm in all of our district members.
- **Discussion of the candidate's goals and priorities as a member of the executive board:** My priorities are to carry out the activities in our 2022 strategic plan; expand our leadership training to an advanced course that will engage both our young members and our seasoned members; and keeping our meetings affordable and technically relevant.
- **Discussion of how the candidate anticipates accomplishing his/her goals:** The implementation of the strategic plan lies both with the SDITE President and the Executive Board as well as those individuals and committees who will be asked to work on pieces of the plan.

The expansion of the leadership training will rely on the willingness of our seasoned membership to provide input to the development of the modules that they have deemed relevant for an advanced course.

Our Annual Meeting is our signature event, and we need to keep it affordable so that employers will see the benefit of sending their younger staff. The technical presentations need to be about real world applications as well as about cutting edge research.

The key to making progress is to take baby steps and do things in bite-sized pieces so that people see progress and want to continue on the path of progress.

- **Discussion of the challenges and opportunities the candidate believes the profession will face in the coming three years:** Transportation funding for an aging infrastructure is the next piece of federal legislation that is supposed to be coming up. I hope that ITE is able to provide input to that discussion. At the local level, we have been doing lots of partnership projects with both the state and private developers.
- **Discussion of the challenges and opportunities the candidate believes the sections, district or international ITE will face in the coming three years:** The “Silver Tsunami” has begun in that our



experienced members are retiring at a rapid rate. My experience so far is that those who are put in charge to replace the retirees are not as knowledgeable nor do they have a sense of history. In addition, our membership needs to attract young members. So a decrease in membership is a serious threat to all levels of ITE.

The face of transportation is changing as technology continues to rapidly evolve. Our membership needs to stay abreast of technology so that we remain relevant as both an organization and profession.