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More than 2.5 million rides were taken at the carnival in 2019!
Cover photo by Debbie Porter.

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SUMMER is officially here and that can only mean one thing — another successful Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is in the books. Before we begin planning for next year, it is important to highlight some of the successes from the 2019 Rodeo, starting with the more than 2.5 million visitors who attended. Despite the rainy and cold weather at the start of the Rodeo, attendance reached one of the largest numbers to date in 21 days.

Adding an extra day to the Rodeo presented its challenges. Working on a compressed timeline to transition from the World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Contest to the Rodeo, and then again on the final night to turn the RODEOHOUSTON® arena into a dirt-free concert performance was challenging, and I do not underestimate the extra effort from our staff and volunteers to ensure the Rodeo’s success. Seeing everyone come together to complete this task says a lot about the Rodeo’s can-do attitude, and I am grateful for your efforts.

All challenges aside, the 2019 Rodeo was one for the record books! With a paid attendance of 80,108, George Strait’s 30th performance at the Rodeo broke the NRG Stadium record, a record he set during his last performance back in 2013.

It was also a record-breaking year for the junior auctions. For the first time in 16 years, the Grand Champion Junior Market Steer record was broken, selling for $625,000 along with 11 additional Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion lots setting world or Rodeo records. In total, the 2019 junior auction sales generated more than $17 million.

In this issue, we recognize our five outgoing vice presidents and 40 outgoing committee chairs. These individuals and their families dedicated countless hours of service to the Rodeo, and we will miss them. Please join me in thanking our volunteer leaders for their service when you see them around the Rodeo.

I know we are all looking forward to some much-needed rest and relaxation this summer and I hope you will take this time to enjoy your family and friends.

All my best,

Jim Winne
KING OF COUNTRY MUSIC
GEORGE STRAIT BREAKS
NRG STADIUM RECORD

In his first appearance at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ since 2013, George Strait closed the Rodeo with a concert-only performance with special guests Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen. With a paid attendance of 80,108, Strait broke his own NRG Stadium record, a record he set in 2013 during his last appearance at the Rodeo. The concert-only performance held Sunday, March 17, marked Strait’s 30th performance in his 22 years at the Rodeo.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE:
2,506,263

WORLD’S CHAMPIONSHIP BAR-B-QUE CONTEST ATTENDANCE:
215,685

PAID RODEO/CONCERT ATTENDANCE:
1,337,725

THREE ENTERTAINERS LANDED IN THE TOP 25 PAID RODEO/CONCERT ATTENDANCE RECORDS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE</th>
<th>Sunday, March 10, 2019</th>
<th>Go Tejano Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>CARDI B</td>
<td>Friday, March 1, 2019</td>
<td>Black Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#16</td>
<td>KANE BROWN</td>
<td>Saturday, March 9, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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75,586  75,580  75,122

“By offering a diverse musical lineup, great rodeo action, a number of agricultural and educational exhibits, and a wide variety of food and fun, the 2019 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo drew more than 2.5 million visitors to take part in our community celebration of Western heritage,” said Joel Cowley, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo president and CEO. “Thanks to our more than 34,000 dedicated volunteers, we were able to successfully host Houston’s favorite tradition in support of our $27.1 million commitment to youth and education.”

OUR CITY.
OUR RODEO.
OUR TRADITION.
CARNIVAL & FOOD

More than 2.5 million rides were taken at the carnival.

The Rodeo debuted the Titan, the tallest portable thrill ride in the U.S., weighing in at more than 200,000 pounds. More than 25,000 riders reached 17 stories high and speeds of more than 60 miles per hour.

More than 600,000 prizes were won at the games. The most popular prizes were basketballs, plush llamas and toy alpacas.

Approximately 700,000 riders enjoyed the view of the Rodeo grounds from the La Grande XL.

Approximately 376,000 Oreos were battered, fried and dusted with powdered sugar.

THE JUNCTION

More than 100,000 little farmers visited Fun on the Farm, presented by TDECU.

More than 18,000 people rode camels.

JUNIOR AUCTIONS:
$17,445,112

BARROW
$3,750,760

LAMB & GOAT
$2,994,208

POULTRY
$2,355,638

SCHOOL ART
$2,093,951

STEER
$6,250,555

Eleven junior auction Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion lots set world or Rodeo records.

AGVENTURE

presented by Occidental Petroleum

- 61,000 people participated in a scheduled school tour or field trip
- 950 chicks hatched in the Poultry Exhibit
- 53 piglets, 25 lambs and 20 calves were born in the Birthing Center

The 2019 Grand Champion Steer sold for $625,000 — setting a new world record for the first time in more than 16 years!

$776,646
Junior Commercial Steer Sale

$400,535
Ranching & Wildlife Auction

$100,000
Calf Scramble Exhibitor Premiums/Awards

$2,191,490
Champion Wine Auction

$843,750
Calf Scramble Certificate Premiums
375 certificates, each worth $2,250

$34,474
Livestock and Horse Show Entries
Just as Texas is one of the largest states, it also has one of the largest agricultural industries. Leading the nation in sheer number of farms and ranches, Texas operates a $100 billion industry that covers nearly 130 million acres. As such, the agriculture industry has a sizeable impact not only on the Texas economy but also the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™.
The primary mission of the Rodeo is to promote agriculture by hosting an annual family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public. The Rodeo’s mission is carried out throughout the year by volunteers on committees such as the Agriculture Education Committee, which is responsible for promoting agriculture in schools and facilitating the educational exhibits in NRG Center. “On top of curating some of the Rodeo’s educational exhibits every year, the committee heads into the community and educates school-age children on Texas agriculture in more than 100 schools every year,” said Rene Humphrey, Agriculture Education committee chair.

Taking a stroll through AGVENTURE, presented by Occidental Petroleum, visitors of all ages met Houston-area beekeepers, studied up on rainwater harvesting and, if they were lucky, witnessed a baby calf being born in the Birthing Center. “AGVENTURE is an educational experience for all ages – not just kids,” Humphrey said. With the addition of a new exhibit in 2019, the Rodeo highlighted sustainable agriculture practices for inner-city and rural visitors to enjoy.

New to AGVENTURE this year, the Aquaponics Exhibit displayed a new way of growing vegetables without the need for soil. Aquaponics, a relatively new trend to traditional farming, is the process of growing plants in a water tank with artificial lights and fish to create a nutritious and symbiotic environment for both plants and fish to flourish. The exhibit drew a crowd as children and adults listened closely to the volunteers explaining the intricacies of this sustainable system.

Brenda Koch, owner of VegOut! Farms who facilitated the exhibit, is a big proponent of aquaponics. “It is a completely sustainable, earth-friendly, environmentally safe and nutritious way to grow your own food simply in your own backyard, without spending a lot of money, feeding you and your family in a safe and long-term manner,” Koch said.

In addition to aquaponics, visitors had a chance to learn about beekeeping, a sustainable venture important to the state of Texas. Although the Bee Exhibit is not new, many visitors to the Rodeo may not realize that beekeeping is important part of sustainable agriculture.

Beekeeper Gregory Donovan began beekeeping with his daughter Sophia after she expressed interest. “Bees help out all of the environment in nature by pollinating the farmers’ crops, trees in the forests and other plants by assisting them in becoming fruitful and causing them to bear seeds, in turn creating new growth, which then assists in stopping erosion and improving water quality, food and cover for native wildlife,” Donovan said. While bees may be small, their impact on Texas agriculture is immeasurable as they pollinate the clovers and hay which feed livestock. “Bees help the entire food chain of Texas,” he said. Agriculture is certainly evident in Texas and will continue to be present at the Rodeo next year.
$54,250
TIE-DOWN ROPING
Michael Otero
Weatherford, Texas

$56,250
BAREBACK RIDING
Kaycee Feild
Genola, Utah
Five-time RODEOHOUSTON champion: 2012, ’14-16, ’19

$111,500
TEAM ROPING
Ty Blasingame
Casper, Wyoming
Kyle Lockett
Visalia, California

$58,000
SADDLE BRONC RIDING
Jesse Wright
Milford, Utah
$57,000
STEER WRESTLING
Josh Garner
Live Oak, California

$56,000
BARREL RACING
NELLIE MILLER
Cottonwood, California
Two-time RODEOHOUSTON champion: 2018-19

$58,500
BULL RIDING
TREVOR KASTNER
Roff, Oklahoma

RODEOHOUSTON Super Shootout*: North America’s Champions, presented by Crown Royal*
Each event champion walked away with $25,000 and members of the winning team took home an additional $12,500.

RODEOHOUSTON

BAREBACK RIDING • Richie Champion, Team Calgary Stampede
STEER WRESTLING • Justin Shaffer, Team Days of '47 Cowboy Games & Rodeo
SADDLE BRONC RIDING • Ryder Wright, Team Calgary Stampede
BARREL RACING • Nellie Miller, Team RODEOHOUSTON
BULL RIDING • Trey Benton, Team San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo
TEAM AWARD • Calgary Stampede

RODEOHOUSTON committed $2.17 million to its contestants in 2019.
Nestled in Houston’s historic Third Ward lies Yellowstone Academy, a nonprofit, faith-based school for pre-kindergarten to fourth grade students facing educational challenges. One of two schools within the Yellowstone educational system — which also includes Yellowstone College Prep, a charter school that opened in fall 2018 — Yellowstone Academy began with just 64 students, operating out of a local church.
When the school opened its doors to the community in 2002, the need for a school like Yellowstone was great, and the school grew by adding a grade level every year until eighth grade. Soon, the school outgrew the church grounds. When the opportunity presented itself for the Yellowstone founders to purchase the historic Douglass Elementary School building, Yellowstone Academy settled into its new home with room to expand.

In 2013, Yellowstone Academy received its first educational grant from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. Since then, Yellowstone Academy has received funding from the Rodeo every year for the past six years, allowing the school’s mission of academic excellence and spiritual growth to flourish by offering a unique and holistic approach to caring for their students.

“Many of the kids who come to Yellowstone are several grade levels behind by the time they get to us,” said Thomas Parker, director of grants and communication at Yellowstone Academy. “Therefore, we have to work really hard to get them onto grade level and then push them even further, if possible.”

Currently serving 350 students, Yellowstone Academy is small but mighty. More than 92% of Yellowstone Academy alumni move on to graduate from high school, with 80% pursuing a college education. Much of the school’s success can be attributed to the individualized attention given to students as they work toward the appropriate grade level academics. Additionally, the school offers a faith-based curriculum with daily Bible study and instruction. However, perhaps the most unique way Yellowstone Academy impacts students’ lives is by providing resources to remove barriers that can affect student performance, including food assistance, bus transportation, health screenings and uniforms, which are all covered by the school if needed.

Parent engagement is another secret to Yellowstone Academy’s success. In addition to paying a portion of their child’s tuition, parents are required to be part of the interview process to gain admission for their child and are encouraged to be involved with various school events, including parent/child workshops, field trips, game nights and activities such as “Donuts with Dad,” Parker said.
JUNIOR MARKET BARROWS

GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Karley Willenborg, 14
Hometown: Waco, Texas
Club/Chapter: McLennon County 4-H
Price: $245,000 (world record)
Buyers: Jackie and Jon Hodges, Gary Lawrence – Aura Engineering LLC, Stronghold Companies, and Shannon and Joe Underwood

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Sydney Crowder, 15
Hometown: Bullard, Texas
Club/Chapter: Bullard FFA
Price: $195,000 (world record)
Buyers: R.L. Walker Transport, Scott Walker, and Sheri and Rob Walker

JUNIOR MARKET BROILERS

GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Logan Grimm, 18
Hometown: Tomball, Texas
Club/Chapter: Tomball FFA
Price: $220,000 (world record)
Buyers: Kristina and Paul Somerville

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Abigail Harmon, 16
Hometown: Conroe, Texas
Club/Chapter: Montgomery County 4-H
Price: $165,000 (world record)
Buyers: Jeff Aronoff, Budweiser, Victoria and Parker Johnson, and Gregory Miller
JUNIOR MARKET GOATS

GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Turner Matkin, 13
Hometown: Boerne, Texas
Club/Chapter: Kendall County 4-H
Price: $183,000 (world record)
Buyers: Mary and Ken Hucherson, Anne and Chris Richardson, Kristina and Paul Somerville, and Pam and Archie Thompson

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Cody Sells, 16
Hometown: Thrall, Texas
Club/Chapter: Williamson County 4-H
Price: $100,000
Buyers: John Cangelosi, Lauren and Chris Lewis, Amy and Mark Melton, and April and Scott Townsend

JUNIOR MARKET LAMBS

GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Jaylin Smith, 17
Hometown: Eastland, Texas
Club/Chapter: Eastland FFA
Price: $325,000 (world record)
Buyers: Mindy and Jeff Hildebrand, and the Hildebrand Family in memory of Dr. Tommy and Ruth Ann Hildebrand

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Exhibitor: Madellyne Adams, 16
Hometown: Brownwood, Texas
Club/Chapter: Brown County 4-H
Price: $120,000
Buyers: Tammy, Peyton and Mitchell Barrier; Michelle Iverson Jeffery; KCEF Foundation – Cookie Michael; and Pamela M. Logsdon, CPA
**JUNIOR MARKET STEERS**

**GRAND CHAMPION**
- Exhibitor: Lillyan Digby, 18
- Hometown: Hermleigh, Texas
- Club/Chapter: Scurry County 4-H
- Price: $625,000 (world record)
- Buyers: J Alan Kent Development – Julie and Alan Kent, McCarthy Building Companies, Schaefer Ranchwear/Emily and Robert Clay, and Kristina and Paul Somerville

**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION**
- Exhibitor: Ethan Drager, 15
- Hometown: Bridgeport, Texas
- Club/Chapter: Wise County 4-H
- Price: $367,000 (world record)
- Buyers: Champagne Cowgirls

**JUNIOR MARKET TURKEYS**

**GRAND CHAMPION**
- Exhibitor: Blake Koether, 14
- Hometown: Sinton, Texas
- Club/Chapter: Sinton FFA
- Price: $190,000 (world record)

**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION**
- Exhibitor: Ty Pargmann, 16
- Hometown: Atkins, Texas
- Club/Chapter: Wilson County 4-H
- Price: $177,000 (world record)
- Buyers: Debbie Adams and Ron Logan, Nancy Kennedy and Judy and Tyson Kennedy, Mach Industrial Group, and Shirley and Randy Meyer
RODEO UNCORKED!

GRAND CHAMPION
Wine: Graham Beck Brut Rosé, Robertson NV
Price: $150,000
Buyers: Randa and Ray Gilliam, Kristina and Paul Somerville, Jennifer and Joe Van Matre, and Sheridan and John Eddie Williams

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Wine: Bodegas Muriel Reserva, Rioja DOCa, 2013
Price: $120,000
Buyers: Andrea and Bruce Bryant, Kathy and Gene Clark, Melinda and Pete Ruman, and The Wine Cru

SCHOOL ART

GRAND CHAMPION
Art: Colored drawing, “After the Storm Comes a Calm”
Artist: Hector Maldonado, 18
Hometown: Pasadena, Texas
School District: Pasadena ISD
Price: $240,000 (Rodeo record)
Buyers: Mary and Ken Hucherson, Kristina and Paul Somerville, Jennifer and Joe Van Matre, and Lynda and Jim Winne

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Art: Painting, “Wouldn’t Change a Thing”
Artist: Melissa Sosa, 17
Hometown: Pasadena, Texas
School District: Pasadena ISD
Price: $180,000
Buyers: Terry and Dr. Joe Agris, Sharon and George Buschardt, Cheryl and Gary Deitcher, and Rene and Taylor Whitaker
When volunteers, members and donors who are heavily involved with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ think about NRG Park, they most likely think about the event that happens in March of each year — the Rodeo and all its accompanying events. The volunteers might also think about the many meetings they attend each year at NRG Center, in addition to the time that they spend getting ready for the Rodeo.

What most people do not pause to think about is all the work that goes into making sure the facility is ready for the Rodeo and especially what happens after it is all over. There are thousands of people who work at NRG Park, and while for them the Rodeo is not “just another event,” there is an urgency of moving on to the next event once the world’s largest livestock show and rodeo is completed for the year.
Nina Jackson is the regional director of marketing and public relations for SMG NRG Park and she works throughout the year to ensure that there is always an event in place at the large facility. There are many rooms to fill and she ensures that event planners for any sizeable events slated to come to Houston know about the capabilities that this event space has to offer. Still, she says few events compare to the scope, scale and excitement of the Rodeo.

“Rodeo is like no other event in this country, or maybe even in the world,” Jackson said. She enjoys her job, which she has held for several years and estimates that 175 employees work full-time at NRG Park. In addition, more than 5.5 million people attend events at NRG Park every year, with the Rodeo bringing in more than 2.5 million of those visitors each year.

Not many hours after the last cowboy has hit the dirt in the NRG Stadium arena and the final song sung by the closing RODEOHOUSTON® entertainer, truckloads of dirt (6,050 tons, or 550 truckloads to be exact) are removed from the arena floor! NRG Stadium is used for a myriad of other things throughout the year, including concerts, monster truck rallies, and of course, the Houston Texans® football games, so different floorings or turf are used depending on the event’s requirements.

NRG Center, which houses food booths, livestock areas, and the hundreds of commercial exhibitors and vendors who sell food and merchandise, from turkey legs to trucks, during the Rodeo, must be cleared out completely. “When you walk into this massive exhibit hall for the first time after the Rodeo is over, it looks very different, but is not empty for long,” Jackson said. “There are a few other large events that take up all of NRG Center, including the Offshore Technology Conference and the Nutcracker Market.”

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and surrounding events will come and go in a manner of a few short weeks, but NRG Park has something going all year long according to Mark Miller, the general manager of NRG Park. “We consider NRG Park to be the premier sports, convention, tradeshow, consumer show and entertainment complex in the world,” he said. “It takes a committed, experienced, and dedicated staff to get the job done, and that’s what we have here at NRG Park.”

With another successful Rodeo in the books, be sure to come out and see some of the other great events that are hosted by the NRG Park facility staff throughout the year.
BY THE NUMBERS: SOCIAL MEDIA

78 MILLION POST IMPRESSIONS ACROSS FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM

5.9 MILLION VIDEO VIEWS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

1.4 MILLION FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM
In 2019, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Social Station featured a live, interactive photo mosaic wall. Throughout the Rodeo, visitors stopped by to take a photo and each individual photo taken came together to reveal this complete, rodeo-themed mosaic!

**1.18 MILLION**
Impressions on Snapchat

**344,915**
Total uses of rodeo related hashtags on Twitter

**3,200**
Photos on the mosaic wall

DATA REPORTED FROM JAN. 1 – MARCH 31, 2019.
What did you learn about the Rodeo as a vice president that you did not know before?
I learned that there is more to the Rodeo than meets the eye. Until you are intimately involved, it is hard to understand the tremendous amount of parts in motion all year long for a successful event. It takes a team of dedicated staff and hard-working, dedicated volunteers to host the world’s largest livestock show and rodeo.

What did you learn about your committees while you were their officer in charge?
There is an abundance of talent on these committees. I watched our volunteers come together with inspiring new ideas and creatively think out of the box to help the Horse Show achieve more than it has before. It is always inspiring to witness how generously the committee members share their valuable time and resources.

What did you learn about the Show that you did not know before?
I learned that I could not do this by myself — it takes a village! This experience has humbled me and made me realize that you can accomplish a great deal when you have support from your peers, staff and your committee volunteers.

What is your most cherished memory from your term as a vice president?
The friendships and relationships I have made over the last three years, along with the experiences my family has had alongside many, have been the most rewarding for me. As a family, we experienced so many exciting events, and I take great pride in the exposure my two daughters, Katherine and Samantha, have seen to the charitable mission of the Rodeo and the positive impact the event has on the city of Houston and the state of Texas.

What was your proudest accomplishment as an officer in charge?
Given the chance to build more exposure for the Junior Commercial Steer Feeding and Management Contest Committee was a real pride point for me. The campaign helped us capture new buying groups and guest panelists during the annual cattle sale and interview process. It was a great way to ‘pay it forward’ for the next generation of volunteers.

What is next for you?
The focus will continue to be on my family and my career as a Managing Director at NewQuest Properties. I also want to thank my wife Emily. Because of her time and sacrifice helping manage our busy schedules and the needs of our daughters, I was able to do my part as a committee member. This is a true family event, and I could not have done this job without their love and support! I have a lot of passion for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

How would you describe the Rodeo and its mission in one word?
Impactful.
What did you learn about the Rodeo as a vice president that you did not know before?
Across the 107 committees involved in the Rodeo, almost all are working on an 11-month schedule, behind the scenes, to make Rodeo successful. With many of our volunteers on multiple committees, that’s a full time job in itself. Just amazing to think about the wonderful work completed by our dedicated volunteers!

What did you learn about yourself during your tenure that you may not have known before?
I truly enjoy the details of each project and constantly being challenged. I also learned how much joy it brings to my heart that my love for the show and its missions are matched in infinite form by the 34,000 volunteers.

With the daunting schedule and demands of being an officer in charge, what kept you motivated and going strong?
Staying on course for the committee chairs, committees, show members and the youth who depend on our services is what motivates me. Our committees rely on their Officers and we are blessed to be in a position to offer guidance.

What is your most cherished memory from your term as a vice president?
Meeting the grateful scholarship recipients and youth participating in our show and seeing the smiles on their faces will forever be embedded in my heart.

How has the Rodeo changed in the three years you were a vice president?
The forms of communication are ever changing and with it, new innovative media that permits our ability to increase awareness of the show. The possibilities to further the Show’s missions are limitless.

What is next for you?
I am looking forward to spending time with my wife, kids and grandkids this summer and continuing my 41st year of volunteering for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo! For the 2020 season I will continue to serve on School Art, World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Contest, Steer Auction Committee and will be a rookie on the International Committee. Rodeo holds a special place in my heart. I look forward to supporting the organization I consider family for many years to come.

How would you describe the Rodeo and its mission in one word?
Devoted.
What did you learn about your committees while you were officer in charge?
Before becoming a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ officer in charge, my entire volunteer experience was focused on fundraising committees: Lamb & Goat Auction and Corporate Development. When I was elected to serve as an officer in charge, I picked up these two committees as well as two pure service committees (Tours and Graphics & Signage) as well as the rather unique Agricultural Mechanics Committee which has both fundraising and service characteristics. What I failed to fully appreciate beforehand was the absolute passion that all volunteers have for the overall mission of the Rodeo and how this passion drives their everyday efforts. I believe that this passion is the underlying common denominator of the volunteer force.

What is your most cherished memory from your term as a vice president?
I really cannot say that there was just one cherished moment but rather a collection of moments when I and my fellow officers were able to represent our committees and the Rodeo at various events and trips we took to meet our scholarship recipients across the state. Other cherished memories surround the camaraderie of the officer corps and the unselfish mutual respect that we have for each other.

How has the Rodeo changed in the three years you served as a vice president?
I believe that the Rodeo is entering a new development phase to be brought about by embracing new technologies, by taking a more proactive stance in vocational education and by seeking counsel from the ongoing third-party assessment of its organizational structure and the roles and responsibilities of its volunteers and staff. Hopefully there will be a new dawn awakening with new challenges for future Rodeo leaders.

What is next for you?
Put me in coach, I’m ready to play! There are two areas of continued interest besides becoming a lifetime vice president. First, I’d like to stay involved with the Rodeo’s vocational education endeavors to help find a path forward that makes sense to our donors and the various industry factions that could help better define the needs as well as who could become financial supporters of these endeavors. Second, and to the extent possible, I’d like to be involved with the implementation of any final decisions to improve the Rodeo’s organizational structure, processes and efficiencies that may be on the horizon.

What did you learn about your committees while you were officer in charge?
Every day was a learning experience. It was great to learn about the history of each committee, especially those I was not very familiar with beforehand. The volunteers on each committee are just as passionate and committed on one committee as they are on another committee. Being a volunteer with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ creates a common bond regardless of background, age or socioeconomic status.

What did you learn about yourself during your tenure that you may not have known before?
I learned that I have a passion for people, and I was able to help people in ways that I could not have imagined. Being a vice president offered me the opportunity to learn about what resources we have with the Rodeo and within the volunteer corps.

What is your most cherished memory from your term as a vice president?
Way too many to pick just one! Getting to know and spend time with the other vice presidents not only during the Rodeo but throughout the year is something I will forever cherish. Each of us was put into this unique situation and to come together as a team to represent the Rodeo was a huge honor for me. I also had the pleasure of working with the very professional and talented members of staff and I hope to maintain those relationships and friendships going forward.

What was your proudest accomplishment as an officer in charge?
I am proud that I was able to make everyone feel welcome and have a sense of belonging. I think everyone wants to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Many people have generations of volunteers in their families. However, some people have just become involved or have just moved to the Houston area or have recently retired and are looking for some place to spend their time. To me, the Rodeo is bigger than the mission and the scholarships. It is a community and a place to belong.

What is next for you?
I would like to stay as involved with the Rodeo as possible. It has been such a big part of my life for more than 20 years, and I am looking forward to seeing what the next 20 years bring!