A Message From the Chairman

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The Cover

On the final day of the 2004 Show, Danbury FFA member Daniel Bazar of Angleton, Texas, was one of the lucky calf scramble participants to successfully catch and halter a calf.
Dear Friends,

We can all look back on the 2004 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ and be proud. Thanks to everyone’s tireless efforts—volunteers, staff, sponsors, contributors and supporting organizations—we broke records and raised the bar for 2005.

Congratulations!

John O. Smith
Chairman of the Board
Riding, Roping and Wrestling to the Top
Four hundred eighty contestants were invited to Houston’s rodeo, competing for a share of $748,000 in prize money. Taking home the RodeoHouston™ event championships were: tie-down roping – Cody Ohl, Stephenville, Texas, $15,390.32; bareback bronc riding – Cody Jessee, Prineville, Ore., $15,334.86; team roping – David Key, Caldwell, Texas, and Clay O’Brien Cooper, Glen Rose, Texas, $8,134.41 (each); saddle bronc riding – Shaun Stroh, Glendive, Mont., $18,681.48; steer wrestling – Steven Campbell, Midwest, Wyo., $13,074.72; barrel racing – Sheri Sinor-Estrada, Alamogordo, N.M., $14,198.40; and bull riding – Zack Oakes, Mead, Wash. $16,713.09.

“Cash”ing In On a Championship
The High Point Champion Award went to Cash Myers, steer wrestler and tie-down roper from Athens, Texas. With the $25,000 bonus for winning the award, Myers took home a RodeoHouston paycheck of $36,955.39.

Look at that Crowd!
This year’s event drew a record 1,890,174 visitors for general attendance (includes all activities on the grounds). The previous record was set in 2000 with 1,889,861 visitors. Rodeo paid attendance topped 1 million for the 10th consecutive year, with a total of 1,129,092. While this was not a new record, it was the third highest paid rodeo attendance in the Show’s history.
“Steak”ing Claim to Top Honors
This year’s livestock and horse shows boasted 33,732 entries. Topping the 1,857 entries in the Junior Market Steer Show was a 1,278-pound Limousin steer exhibited by Samantha Broadway of Channelview, Texas. The 4-H’er became the first Harris County exhibitor to win the steer show’s top honor.

Winning Twice as Nice
Visitors to the Agricultural Mechanics Project Show might have thought they were seeing double with twins Benjamin and Bradley Stokes, seniors from Cotton Center, Texas, and their 1940 Farmall A tractor. More than 600 individual projects were entered in the competition by FFA chapters and 4-H clubs throughout Texas.

Keep the Bids Coming
Six of the junior auction grand champion and reserve grand champion records were broken. The prices for the top winners were (*records):
*Grand Champion Work of Art, $150,000; *Reserve Grand Champion Work of Art, $90,000;
*Grand Champion Barrow, $156,000; *Reserve Grand Champion Barrow, $82,000;
*Grand Champion Pen of Broilers, $151,000; Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Broilers, $100,000;
Grand Champion Goat, $80,000; *Reserve Grand Champion Goat, $61,000;
Grand Champion Lamb, $140,000; Reserve Grand Champion Lamb, $70,000;
Grand Champion Steer, $250,000; Reserve Grand Champion Steer, $140,000;
Grand Champion Turkey, $120,000; and Reserve Grand Champion Turkey, $55,000.
The junior auction totals* included: market steer ($1,862,500), lamb and goat ($989,226), barrows ($897,100), poultry ($1,076,100), and school art ($1,000,000) (*unaudited preliminary totals that do not include cash contributions and some presale amounts).

Continued on page 14
As the entire crew of America’s next space shuttle mission made its way around the floor of Reliant Stadium in a wagon on opening night of RODEOHOUSTON™, the crowd of more than 50,000 rose to its feet in a dramatic standing ovation. For those astronauts — and perhaps the thousands of others working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and with America’s space program — it was more than applause. It was more than a celebration. It was an overwhelming declaration of pride, respect and support from people who are honored to have the core of the country’s space program located in Houston.

The March 2 appearance of the crew of STS-114 marked the beginning of a 20-day “Salute to NASA” at the 2004 Show, during which one Houston icon celebrated another. “We’ve had a remarkable relationship with NASA and the Johnson Space Center for decades, and we felt it was the perfect time to acknowledge this organization that has been so supportive of the Show,” said Show President P. Michael Wells. “We also wanted to recognize NASA for all its outstanding achievements throughout the years and to encourage these men and women to stay the course.”

Houston’s own Johnson Space Center was established in 1961 as the Manned Spacecraft Center. The center was renamed in 1973 in honor of the late U.S. president and Texas native, Lyndon B. Johnson. From the early Gemini, Apollo and Skylab projects to today’s space shuttle and International Space Station programs, the center continues to lead NASA’s efforts in human space exploration.
The exceptional accomplishments of NASA were showcased in a spectacular Reliant Energy-sponsored video presentation at each RodeoHouston performance. Amidst an impressive indoor fireworks display, the video featured significant milestones in America’s space program — from John F. Kennedy’s legendary 1962 speech and Walter Cronkite’s emotional tears after Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon to the first space shuttle launch and the amazing footage from the most recent Mars rovers. The video presentation also included a tribute to all those who have lost their lives in pursuit of space exploration, including the crews of Apollo 1 and the 1986 Challenger and 2003 Columbia space shuttles.

From astronauts and flight directors to scientists and space shuttle engineers, NASA representatives appeared at each performance and shared their contributions to NASA and the space program in live interviews with Rodeo Houston feature announcer Bill Bailey. “It was absolutely fantastic,” said Eileen Collins, the first female shuttle commander, after watching the video tribute from the Reliant Stadium floor.

Astronaut Chris Hadfield also thought the presentation was a rewarding accolade for NASA. “Seeing the crowd so excited and the dramatic pictures and video made me realize how very proud I am to do what I do,” he said.

In addition to recognizing those who currently work for America’s space program, the Show also welcomed several pioneers who paved the way for human space travel. Former Apollo astronaut Walt Cunningham was elated at the crowd’s enthusiasm as he was recognized at the March 9 performance. In 1968, Cunningham orbited Earth 163 times as the pilot of Apollo 7, the first manned flight of the Apollo program. “It’s amazing to see that people are still excited and fascinated with what I call the ‘golden era’ of space exploration,” Cunningham said.

Another living legend who joined the NASA celebration was renowned flight director Gene Kranz, who was at the reins of Mission Control when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took their historic first steps on the moon. Kranz also led the rescue effort of the well-known Apollo 13 mission, when three astronauts aboard the crippled spacecraft were stranded 200,000 miles from Earth. It was during this mission that he uttered the now-famous phrase, “Failure is not an option.”

On the final day of the 2004 Show, 60,000 spectators stood in awe as they were treated to a spectacular American hero and pioneer, Capt. Gene Cernan. A veteran of two lunar missions, Cernan holds the distinction of being the last man to leave his footprints on the surface of the moon, which occurred during the historic Apollo 17 mission in December 1972.

JSC’s top-ranking official, Gen. Jeff Howell, also made a special appearance at RodeoHouston on March 10. He was joined by JSC Deputy Director Bob Cabana, STS-114 Commander Eileen Collins, astronaut Jim Kelly and International Space Station Program Manager Bill Gerstenmaier.

“The fact that the Houston Livestock Show [and Rodeo] is recognizing [NASA] in this way is phenomenal and very special,” said Howell. “There are thousands of dedicated people working for these two outstanding organizations, and there’s something so unique and special about both. It’s like a marriage of kindred spirits, and we are truly honored just to be here,” he added.

Minutes before waving to the cheering Rodeo Houston crowd, Howell accepted a $25,000 check from the Show’s chairman of the board, John O. Smith, to help fund the Texas High School Aerospace Scholars Program. This unique educational program is an interactive, online learning experience in which students explore math, science, engineering and computer science concepts with JSC scientists and engineers. The culmination of the program is a six-day stint of hands-on experience at JSC. “The Show’s contribution will provide the opportunity for 25 students to participate in this program at no cost to them,” said Smith.

Howell’s gratitude for both the program funding and the honorable tribute to the space program resonated through the dozens of NASA officials and special guests who joined the Show’s salute to the organization.

It seemed that the almost 2 million Show visitors were just as delighted that America’s space program was integrated into this year’s festivities. “It was really neat to see astronauts and cowboys in the same arena,” said Christy Montano, a resident of Pearland, Texas, and longtime Rodeo Houston fan. “Seeing all that NASA has accomplished made me realize how important they have been to Houston and our entire country.”

It would be an impact almost impossible to measure. After all, the people of NASA and all those involved with America’s space program are far more than stars — they’re the ones taking us to the stars.
Every year, thousands of visitors hop over to see the furry, lovable rabbits at the Houston Livestock Show™. Rabbits in Destination: AGVENTURE pack in eager visitors for the duration of the Show. Some even are inspired to purchase a rabbit as a pet for the entire family to enjoy. However, beyond a limited knowledge of rabbits as pets, the Easter Bunny and the famous cartoon character named Bugs, many people are surprised to find out how much there is to learn about rabbits and the many breeds that are shown competitively.

The history of the American domesticated rabbit can be traced back to descendants of European wild rabbits. Credit for domestication of wild rabbits goes to the early French Catholic monks who benefited from the steady supply of food and fur. They selectively bred a rabbit known today as the Champagne D’Argent. Ten well-known, established varieties are derived from those early domesticated rabbits: Angora, Belgian, Dutch, Flemish, Himalayan, Lop, Patagonian, Polish, Siberian and Silver-Tip.

The American Rabbit Breeders Association lists 45 recognized breeds, which vary in color, grade, shade and mixture — from pure white to all black — and vary in coat length, from short to long, silky hair. Ear styles range from small, stiff ears to broad, lopped (loosely hanging) ears.

Call them rabbits or bunnies, but please don't call them hares! Both hares and rabbits have the same general body form and eat a similar diet, but there are quite a few differences between them. Adult rabbits are referred to as bucks and does, whereas hares are called jacks and jills. Rabbits dwell below ground in interconnecting burrows called warrens, while hares live above ground. Because rabbits are born in the relative safety of burrows, their young are born furless and with their eyes closed. Hares, living above ground, are born further developed — ready to spot danger with eyes open and a full coat of fur for insulation.

Owning, breeding and raising rabbits provides an excellent opportunity for young people to experience an animal’s life cycle from beginning to end while teaching both responsibility and respect. Even though rabbits are small and occupy a minimal amount
of space, raising one is no small task. Living quarters need
daily cleaning, and fresh food and water must be offered every
day. Rabbits are very clean animals and even can be trained to
use a litter box — if it is consistently kept clean. Rabbits need
daily monitoring, exercise and social contact with their own-
ers.

For young people with limited space and funds, exhibiting
rabbits offers the opportunity to participate in competitions
such as the Houston Livestock Show. A rabbit project can pro-
vide lessons in record keeping, organizational skills and the
spirit of competition, as well as how to be a humble winner or
graceful loser.

Both the ARBA and state rabbit breeders’ associations
encourage the showing of both purebred and pedigreed rab-
bits. A casual show exhibitor or novice can have as much fun
as a serious competitor. More than 25 sanctioned breeds are
judged at the Houston Livestock Show every year, including
the American Fuzzy Lop, Californian, Dutch, English Angora,
French Lop, Himalayan, Jersey Wooly, Mini Rex, New Zealand
and Satin — just to name a few. These breeds vary in body
type, structure, size, color and markings. Mature adult
weights span from 2 1/2 pounds to 20 pounds.

Rabbits first were shown at the Houston Livestock Show in
1943, when it was still known as the Houston Fat Stock Show.
Only 15 breeds of rabbits were entered that year. Today, more
than 30 breeds and 77 varieties are exhibited. The rabbit show
at Houston is officially sanctioned by the ARBA and is con-
ducted in accordance with its latest rules and breed “Standard
of Perfection” — the ARBA published manual used as the
guide for judging all breeds.

Rabbits are judged on overall condition, color and mark-
ings, fur texture, length, density and conformation. The ARBA
Standard of Perfection lists standards for the 45 accepted
breeds, each with a different point total distribution on differ-
ent parts of the rabbit. Judges must pass rigorous tests and be
familiar with each breed in order to know how to judge and
place each breed. Judges inform every exhibitor of the basis
for the placement of his or her animal. This offers each
exhibitor an opportunity to learn from the show experience
and serves to validate the judges’ decisions.

There are four show categories for
rabbits: the Open Breeding Show, which is for
any exhibitor, whether professional or novice,
and with no minimum or maximum age
restrictions; the Rabbit Youth Breeding Show;
the Rabbit Meat Pen Show, for exhibitors from
8 to 18 years of age; and the Rabbit Youth
Judging Contest.

The Rabbit Meat Pen Show focuses on the skill of
exhibitors to pick three rabbits at an early stage of develop-
ment that display the qualities of an ideal commercial market
animal for both meat and fur. This competition serves to
increase the exhibitor’s knowledge of the breed and improve
the quality of the herd.

The Rabbit Youth Judging Contest tests youth exhibitors’
rabbit knowledge and incorporates both written and hands-on
judging elements. Exhibitors compete on teams and as indi-
viduals and are broken into four age groups: First Timers, ages
8 to 10; Juniors, ages 8 to 11; Intermediates, ages 12 to 14;
and Seniors, ages 15 to 18. To enter this competition, a con-
testant must be an exhibitor in the breeding or meat pen
shows. Successful exhibitors earn trophies, jackets, belt buck-
les and cash prizes. Awards are divided among the breeding
show, meat pen show and judging contest winners.

Although there is little market demand for rabbit meat, it
still is consumed for both the taste and high nutritional value.
As a meat source, rabbit meat is ranked lowest in fat, choles-
terol and sodium, while boasting
the highest protein value and
digestibility of any meat
source. Rabbit pelts are
used for making hats,
coats and mittens.

Rabbits can be
bought or raised for
pure pleasure or
profit. They can
become a favorite pet or
raised for show. Thanks
to local and nationwide sup-
port from rabbit associations,
hands-on exhibits such as the rabbit
display at the Show, and dedicated
rabbit fanciers, opportunities abound
for the casual observer to learn there
is more to rabbits than just a cuddly,
household pet.
Visitors to the second floor of Reliant Center during the 2004 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo might have wondered just what was behind that tall, black curtain and what was the significance of the “Silver Spur Room” sign at the door. The room, with its quiet location and extra amenities, is just one of the benefits for auction buyers resulting from the Joint Auction Alliance — a combined effort of the Lamb and Goat Auction, Poultry Auction, School Art Auction, Steer Auction, Swine Auction, and Wine Competition and Auction committees.

Some auction buyers have purchased lots and made presale contributions to multiple auctions, but they did so without recognition because they divided their contribution into smaller amounts. This new program calculates contributions across all auctions, providing auction buyers with recognition for ALL the money they spend and contribute.

The program has two tiers: $10,000 to $24,999, and $25,000 and greater. At the $10,000 to $24,999 level, the names of donors are recognized on donor boards in Reliant Center, in the Directors’ Club, in the Sales Pavilion, at buyer recognition events and at auction breakfasts.

At the $25,000 and greater level, donors are recognized on all the donor boards but also receive the added benefits of access to the Silver Spur Room, a Show badge and a parking pass. For any donor sustaining this level for three consecutive years, the donor will receive a set of specially made silver spurs with the Show’s logo. The donor will continue to receive spurs every three years as long as he or she consecutively maintains the $25,000-plus contribution level.

For more information about the Silver Spur Club, contact any volunteer on the six committees in the Joint Auction Alliance.

2003 Silver Spur Club
$25,000 and greater

Diane & Ken Akre
Alamo Title Company – Joe Grealish – Lucky Long
Art on the Walls
Atlantis Plastic Company – Darlene & Larry Walters
Penny & Sidney Baldon
Bluebonnet Belles
B.J. & David Boothe
Douglas B. Bosch
Carolyn & Henry Broesch Family
N.M. Brown
Mary & Joe Chastang
Chad J. Clay – Complete Environmental Products, Inc.
Corral Club Cherubs
Misty & T.C. Crawford
Davis Brothers Construction
Mimi & Tom Dompier
J. Pleas Doyle
Fiesta Mart
Rigo Flores
Mike T. Gallagher
Lynn Garner
Alfred C. Glassell III
Hearts for Art
HR&P Solutions, Inc.
Betty T. Johnson
Key Maps, Inc. – J. M. Rau
E.D. Lester - Stewart Title Company
L.I.P.S. (Ladies Into Purchasing Stock)
Lucky Cluckers
Cookie Michael
Gregory N. Miller
Garry L. Plotkin

The PSH Foundation
RBC Dain Rauscher – Darryl W. Traweek
Anne & Chris Richardson
RS MIS Foundation
Lori & Darryl Schroeder
Stacey & Joey Schultea
Sequent Energy Management
The Paul Somerville Family
Pam & Jerrol W. Springer
Standard Constructors Inc. – Bob Gulledge
Steer Starlettes
Texas Honing Inc. – Robert S. Steele
Patsy & Wayne Turner
Elizabeth & Joe Van Matre
Dick Wallrath
Wells Fargo Bank
Beverly Wren
Grand Champion Pen of Broilers - $151,000 (record)
Exhibited by Payton Warmke, Brenham, Texas
Purchased by Doug and Jennifer Bosch

Grand Champion Work of Art - $150,000 (record)
Exhibited by Andrew Cherry, Huffman, Texas
Purchased by Tom and Mimi Domnier, Susan and Mason Hunt, Shelly and Jerome Mulanax, and Stacey and Joey Schultea

Grand Champion Junior Market Lamb - $140,000
Exhibited by Jordan McNeil, Midland, Texas
Purchased by Mike and Susan Garver, Darryl and Lori Schroeder, Thomas Jim and Angie Schwartz, and Robert and Erin Steele

Grand Champion Junior Market Goat - $80,000
Exhibited by Chama Martin, Mason, Texas
Purchased by Lance M. Heacock, Cookie Michael, Garry L. Plotkin, and Patsy and Wayne Turner

Grand Champion Best of Show Wine - $45,000
Exhibited by Alexander Valley Vineyards, Sonoma County, Calif.
Purchased by Everyones Internet and Robert and Roy Marsh

Grand Champion Turkey - $120,000
Exhibited by Bridget Penshorn, La Vernia, Texas
Purchased by David and B.J. Boothe, Gregory Miller, Patsy and Wayne Turner, and Beverly Wren
The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is world-renowned for its auctions and competitions involving animals of all kinds, but one of the most popular Show attractions is the petting zoo, where Show visitors can touch, hold, pet and play with various breeds of tame animals. During the Show, the petting zoo and pony ride offer families an opportunity to learn about loving and caring for animals in a clean and nurturing environment.

Most animals in the petting zoo are allowed to roam and mingle among visitors in a fenced common area. The love affair begins as soon as children of all ages enter the petting zoo, where they hug, pet, feed and gently caress their newfound, furry friends. Animals in the zoo include pot-bellied pigs, miniature horses, donkeys, llamas, wallabies, deer, and a variety of goats and sheep. Colorful signs and graphics adorn the fenced perimeter. A ground tarp holds shavings and straw bedding for authenticity and comfort. Visitors may purchase small sugar cones filled with a mixture of healthy pellets to feed the anxiously awaiting animals.

Experienced, highly trained and knowledgeable assistants supervise excited guests as they are approached and greeted enthusiastically by the zoo inhabitants. The pets appear to have received impeccable training in party manners, and they give their human guests a Texas-sized dose of Southern hospitality in their temporary home away from home. Each inhabitant of the petting zoo has a name and responds to favorite treats. Fourteen caregivers know each animal’s personality and mood and sometimes are able to detect the onset of illness by observing behavioral changes.
The 2004 Show’s petting zoo and pony ride were presented by the Great American Animal Entertainment Company, which has a mission statement emphasizing education about the proper care of animals. Children tend to fall in love with pets without realizing the demands and dependability required to ensure proper physical and emotional development of the animals. The petting zoo demonstrates that relationships between animals and people that are characterized by discipline, patience and kindness usually provide a rewarding outcome. “Studies have implied that this kind of interaction can often be therapeutic for all involved,” said co-owner and vice president April Bassett. The pony ride, a tremendously popular feature, is fondly referred to by Great American representatives as “a living carousel.” It consists of six to eight ponies — with the number depending upon the size of the crowd — walking in a circle beneath a revolving red-and-white-striped tent top. Attendees braved long lines to allow their young equestrians a chance to sit tall in the saddle. Bassett, a 17-year veteran of the business, said, “The animals love their jobs. We brought 16 Welsh ponies to Houston, so they could rotate their days off and have regular grain breaks in an attached resting area. They have great company benefits!” In order to ensure the health and safety of both riders and animals, the ponies’ tack and equipment are maintained immaculately.

The petting zoo is booked at an average of 36 shows per year. One hundred and fifty “show pets” rotate to travel among five small shows or combine to make three larger exhibitions, including fairs, rodeos, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and private events across the United States. This unique experience has been a part of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for 12 years. Specific times are set aside throughout the Show to accommodate senior citizen groups and special-needs students and patients.

After a lengthy road tour, the animals return to their home in Grants Pass, Ore., for rest and relaxation. There, they frolic in a private, 5-acre park and graze in lush, green pastures. While rejuvenating before the next excursion, the animals enjoy continued interaction with employees, which ensures that the animals will remain customer friendly.

The petting zoo’s animals are born into a life filled with love and tenderness. All breeding and raising is done for the purpose of passing petting zoo characteristics from one generation to the next. Their purpose is destined, and their lifestyle is literally in their genes — similar in idea to rodeo animal ranches, where animals are bred and groomed for a lifetime to perform in rodeo events.

Frequently, students and profession-
J.L. “BUBBA” BUTERA

“Just ask for Bubba,” said the native Houstonian, who is a well-known and well-loved fixture around the Houston restaurant scene as well as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. “Bubba” is J.L. “Bubba” Butera, who joined the Show as a life member in 1980. He first started working with the Group Ticket Sales Committee, and he became the first chairman of the Carnival Ticket Sales Committee in 1995. “That first year we sold $12,000 in tickets,” Butera said. “This year our total was [approximately] $1,200,000. Now that’s progress!”

In 1994, Butera was elected to the Show’s board of directors, followed by election as a vice president in 2001. As a vice president, he served as officer in charge of Carnival Ticket Sales, Communications - Broadcast, Communications - Editorial, Group Ticket Sales, Ladies’ Season Box and Rabbit Show committees. Among the Show events he finds the most rewarding is the Lil’ Rustlers Rodeo. “It’s just great to hang around those kids,” he said enthusiastically. For Butera, it always has been about the kids — meeting scholarship winners from across the state and seeing firsthand how funds provided through Show scholarships are changing lives.

After having clocked 1,000-plus hours at the Show this year, he will continue to enjoy life with his wife, Nancy, playing with their three grandchildren and staying busy in the restaurants he co-owns with his cousin, Frank Mandola. “Of course, I intend to stay around, if they can find something for me to do,” he said. “You never really leave this place because of the great friendships you make and the love for what we all do here.”

JAMIE EHRMAN

It took helping a friend with the Horse Show Equipment Committee in the late 1970s to whet outgoing vice president Jamie Ehrman’s appetite for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. “I decided I wanted one of those gold badges and to be involved with what I felt was truly an elite group of people,” he said. “So, I joined in 1978 and became a life member in 1983.” Through the years, one of his greatest pleasures has been helping others become involved with the Show and seeing them become enthusiastic volunteers.

A native Houstonian, Ehrman has been an active leader on the Horse Show Committee, has served on both the Horse Show Equipment and Horse Show Awards committees, and has been chairman of the Horse Show Advisory and Palomino Horse Show committees. His responsibilities as vice president were consistent with his interests, and he served as officer in charge of the Horse Sales Assistance; Horse Show – General; Appaloosa; Arabian and Half Arabian; Cutting Horse; Donkey and Mule; Junior Horse; Paint; Palomino; Quarter Horse; Horse Show Announcers; Horse Show Awards; Horse Show Equipment; Horspitality; and Livery Team committees.

“The Show has been my second family,” Ehrman said. “I have made lifelong friendships here and treasure the experience being a vice president has brought me.” His wife, Teresa, is a vice chairman of the Ladies’ Season Box Committee and also serves on the Magazine Committee.

“It has been an honor to serve as a vice president of this Show,” Ehrman said. After his term as an officer ends, he will spend more time with his business, the insurance firm of Ehrman, Murphy & Co., LLP, and with his family at their ranch.
TOM DOMPIER

Tom Dompier's first involvement with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo came in 1980, when he joined as a life member and began working on the Corral Club Committee. He had recently moved to Houston from his native state of Washington, and he said with pride, "I'm not a native Texan, but I got here as quick as I could!"

A rancher and investor, Dompier became a member of the Show's board of directors in 1989. In addition to serving on the Corral Club Committee, he remains an active member of the Livestock Committee and All Breeds Livestock Sales Committee. He also is an avid supporter of the junior market auctions and the School Art Auction.

His favorite pastime is riding cutting horses, and Dompier maintains memberships in several trail-riding organizations: Tejas Vaqueros, the Rancheros Visitadores and the Salt Grass Trail Association, where he is wagon boss of Wagon 4, the official Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo wagon.

As a vice president, Dompier was responsible for the Judging Contest, Ladies' Go Texan, Membership, School Art, School Art Auction and Souvenir Program committees. Looking back on his term, he has mixed emotions. "It's a lot of work, but very rewarding," he said. "Having great, hardworking and committed chairmen made it a pleasure." Dompier credits the support and sacrifice of his wife, Mimi, as the key to his success. He also is thankful that she and their three daughters have been involved in the Show together. "It's been a great family tradition, which we hope to continue for years to come."

JACK LYONS

A tradition of commitment to the youth of Texas is what originally motivated Jack Lyons to become involved with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and it still motivates him today. "We attend various scholarship events through the year, which enables us to meet and share experiences with our scholarship recipients," Lyons said. "We all should be very proud of the investment we continue to make in our future leaders of Texas."

Lyons became a life member in 1980 and joined the Horse Show – Quarter Horse Committee in 1981 at the urging of his mother-in-law, who raised and showed cutting horses. In 1988, he joined the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Committee. "I worked my way up through the ranks to serve as vice chairman for both committees in the same year. That was a pretty busy year," he said with a laugh. He then served as chairman of the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Committee from 1998 to 2000.

Elected to serve on the Show's board of directors in 1995, Lyons became a vice president in 2001. In his position of vice president, he oversaw the Communications - Editorial, Directions and Assistance, Special Children's, Swine Auction, Western Art, and World's Championship Bar-B-Que committees. He also maintains memberships in Tejas Vaqueros and Wagon 4, the official wagon of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Lyons is a managing director of John L. Wortham & Son, L.P. Following his term as a Show vice president, he plans to remain active by continuing to serve on various committees as well as supporting the involvement of his wife, Nina, on the Horse Show – Quarter Horse Committee.
A Presidential Congrats
Successful calf scrambler and Elkins FFA member Sam Schmittgens of Sugar Land, Texas, got some kind words from U.S. President George H.W. Bush during the March 10 calf scramble. This year’s Show put $1,000 scramble certificates in the hands of 373 young men and women.

Anthem for America
Sgt. Cynthia Miller of the Houston Police Department and the Houston Police Department’s Honor Guard began each RodeoHouston with a stirring presentation of the national anthem. A Houston native and 10-year veteran of the police department, Miller grew up singing in church and at home around the piano with her father.

Look Ma, No Hands
Canadian cowgirl and professional trick rider Niki Cammaert of Calgary, Alberta, garnered Texas-sized applause with her acrobatic feats and equestrian skills.

The Stars Were Big and Bright
The all-time paid attendance record for a RodeoHouston performance was broken on March 17 with a crowd of 70,668 filling Reliant Stadium to see world championship rodeo action and a concert by Kenny Chesney. Three additional RodeoHouston performances had paid attendance in excess of 68,000 — Saturday, March 20, RodeoHouston finals and Brooks & Dunn, 69,813; Thursday, March 18, Beyoncé, 69,008; and Wednesday, March 3, George Strait (pictured on horseback), 68,711.

Taking It to the Xtreme
Thirty-two bull riders competed for a share of $75,000 in PRCA Xtreme Bulls, RodeoHouston’s performance of exclusively bull riding. Cody Buller of Glendive, Mont., took home the crystal cup, a $28,200 paycheck and the RodeoHouston PRCA Xtreme Bulls Championship.

Just a Barrel of Fun
Rodeo bullfighter Rick Chatman, barrelman Leon Coffee and bullfighter Miles Hare generate a lot of smiles, even during their serious task of protecting the rodeo athletes.

A Barrel of Fun
Rodeo bullfighter Rick Chatman, barrelman Leon Coffee and bullfighter Miles Hare generate a lot of smiles, even during their serious task of protecting the rodeo athletes.
Heroes of Our Homeland
While all men and women in uniform were saluted, riding in the Rodeo Parade as Grand Marshals were representatives including the Army’s 1st Lt. Phillip Baker and Sgt. Chris Reitan; the Marine’s 1st Lt. Matthew D. Woods, Sgt. Louis Berei IV and Lance Cpl. Joshua D. Menard; the Navy’s Chief Petty Officer Martin Castaneda and Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Reed; and the Texas National Guard’s Lt. Col. Sherrill K. Daugherty and Lt. Col. Jimmy Roberts.

Having Fun While We Run
Making their way though downtown were approximately 4,800 runners taking part in the 17th annual ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run, a 10K competitive run and 5K fun run. All race entry fees are donated to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Educational Fund to support student scholarships and educational programs, resulting in a contribution of $115,000 for 2004.

Uncorking a New Event
Volunteers served up the best of the best from the inaugural Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition for almost 2,000 attendees at Rodeo Uncorked! The first-ever Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Wine Auction brought in $313,700.

We Take You There
More than 400,000 visitors rode the Ford Trams, which serviced three routes in Reliant Park. To get to the grounds, more than 500,000 visitors rode the Rodeo METRO Express shuttle buses from eight locations, as well as 95,000 taking advantage of the new METRORail to Reliant Park.

A Visit Fit for A President
U.S. President George W. Bush took a moment to visit with and congratulate exhibitors in the Open International Brahman Cattle Show during a special visit on March 8.

Shoe in for Success
Go Texan Weekend at the Show featured competitors from 60 Area Go Texan counties and 25 Metro Go Texan areas competing in events such as horseshoe pitching and dominoes. In addition, the World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Contest presented by Miller Lite broke an attendance record Feb. 26-28 with 183,339 visitors.
As Cody Dawson’s graduation from Flatonia High School approached in 2001, he knew his good grades would get him into college, but that scholarships would be essential. Cody and his twin brother, Bodie, each received a $10,000 FFA Scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 2001. Cody currently studies animal science at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Despite illness and injuries that forced Cody to miss his sophomore year, he hopes to graduate on time in May 2005 by attending summer school. Cody finished the fall semester of 2003, his first semester back in classes, with a 4.0 grade point average, and hopes to maintain his Dean’s List status for the remainder of his college career. He secured an internship with the Texas Pork Producers Association for the summer of 2004.

Reginald Hawkins’ $10,000 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Metropolitan Scholarship helped him attend The University of Texas at Austin. Reginald graduated from Stafford High School in 2000. He plans to finish a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, specializing in structural engineering, in December 2004. Reginald has participated in internships for the past three summers: at Fluor Daniel in 2001 and 2002, and with Halliburton in 2003. He intends to complete another internship with Halliburton in the summer of 2004. Reginald hopes to begin his engineering career in January 2005, and he plans to someday enter an executive Master of Business Administration program at Rice University or the University of Houston.

Denise Martinez, a 2000 graduate of Humble High School, received a $10,000 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Opportunity Scholarship in 2000. Denise completed undergraduate studies at the University of Houston in 2003 and is now in her first year of graduate school at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. “The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo’s Opportunity Scholarships are especially helpful for students who would not otherwise have the opportunity or the financial means to further their education,” she said. Denise said, “I think it is important for students who wish to attend college to know that the money for an education is out there — you just have to ask for it.” Denise plans to complete her pharmacy degree in 2007.

Watch for Scholarship Recipients in the Spotlight in each issue of Magazine as students currently attending Texas colleges and universities on direct Show scholarships are profiled.
Long before the Houston Livestock Show™ left Reliant Hall to move into the spacious Reliant Center, the Houston Fat Stock Show was filling the Sam Houston Coliseum downtown. A photo similar to this one depicting the Coliseum’s arena packed with rows of steers from end to end was used with the slogan, “We Need More Room,” as early leaders looked at building options for future growth. The Show occupied the Coliseum from 1938 until 1965. Show events then moved into the new Astrodome and Astrohall in 1966.

If you have photos or memorabilia that you would like to donate to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ archives, please call the Show at 832.667.1000, and ask for the Western Art Committee staff coordinator.

Planning to leave a legacy and need a starting point? Information about gifting and lifetime legacy opportunities is only a click away. Planned giving and contacts with the Show’s GALLOP Committee can be accessed through the Show’s Web site at www.hlsr.com/info/plannedgiving.aspx. Or, just look for the planned giving option under the general information section.

If you do not have Internet access or would like to talk to someone in person, information is available from all GALLOP Committee members. Committee Chairman Beth Woehler can be reached at 713.561.9331.

This is not legal advice; any prospective donor should seek the advice of qualified legal, estate and tax professionals to determine the consequences of gifting.
Facility Services Committee

By Jodi St. Clair

Trash — it is one of those things that no one notices until it begins to pile up, which is why no one notices it at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. Before, during and after each day's events, the Facility Services Committee works to keep Reliant Park free from trash. The goal of the more than 400 members of this committee is to ensure that everyone's visit to North America's second largest fair or festival is as clean and comfortable as possible.

The committee grew from the Outhouse Gang Committee, which was formed in 1993 by lifetime vice president Tom Glazier and Skip Wagner, then Show assistant general manager. Its original purpose was to help save money, manage contract labor and free up time for the Show staff to attend to other matters by having volunteers tend to trash collection and clean up of the Show grounds. Over the years, the focus of the group expanded from cleaning duties to assisting with setting up and tearing down of tents and booths in various areas.

For the 1998 Show, the Resource Renewal and Outhouse Gang committees were combined into a single committee, which was named the Facility Services Committee. Today, the main purpose of the Facility Services Committee is to work with and assist the Building and Grounds Division in setting up, cleaning up the grounds and handling the recycling duties.

The committee's on-site responsibilities begin three weeks before any Show events and end one week after the last RODEOHOUSTON™ performance. Committee members work around the clock. At times, more than 90 committee members are on duty at Reliant Park. Long after the daily events are over and the visitors have gone home, the committee's members usually are working on the grounds.

In the weeks leading up to the Show, members assist with setup throughout Reliant Park and at select off-site locations, such as various Rodeo METRO Express lots. During the Show, committee members continue to set up, move and tear down tents and booths. Others assist the stage crew with the setup of the RODEOHOUSTON concert stage each night, while others keep pace with cleaning, trash collection and recycling efforts. Howard Cordell, a Show vice president and officer in charge of the committee, appreciated the volunteers' commitment to the 2004 Show and to their duties. “As a first-year vice president, this was my opportunity to learn firsthand all the responsibilities Facility Services has,” said Cordell. “The extremely long work schedule and countless duties did not intimidate this group at all. They are certainly a valuable asset to the Show.”

The committee’s hard work results in a clean and comfortable Reliant Park. In the words of Committee Chairman Gary Brye, the committee strives to “create a clean environment so everyone feels comfortable and wants to come back — kind of like Disneyland.” With the large numbers of visitors returning year after year, it is evident that the Facility Services Committee provides a comfortable environment for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo patrons, and saves the Southwest’s largest charity a tremendous amount of money.
Judging Contest Committee

By Sonya Aston

If showing animals at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ sounds like fun, if hard work is not a problem and if working a Las Vegas-style casino party is not intimidating, then serious consideration should be given to participating on the Show's Judging Contest Committee. In the judging contests, students evaluate a small group of animals, animal products, plants or wildlife habitats and might have to answer questions at the end of the competition. The contestants' answers are recorded on a multiple-choice form, which is read by a computer and reviewed by competition judges from Texas A&M University.

Until 2000, the judging contests were each their own entities, unequally supported and unequally rewarded. All the judging contests now have been brought under one committee, the organization and support of which have brought great recognition to the growing competitions.

There are numerous contests, including dairy judging, horse judging, poultry judging, livestock judging, meat judging, wool and mohair judging, plant identification, and wildlife habitat evaluation. Between 40 and 1,700 students compete in each of the various contests. Some competitions are for 4-H and FFA members exclusively, while other competitions are for college students.

Contestants come from all over the nation to participate in one of the United States' largest judging competitions at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Based on their size and structure, most of the contests are held at the various facilities at Reliant Park. The special nature of some judging requires off-site locations, such as the ranchland in Richmond, Texas, for the wildlife contests. Sizable freezer space is necessary for the meat judging, which previously has been held at the Houston Food Bank and will move to Texas A&M University for the 2005 Show.

It is the responsibility of the 225 committee members to conduct the competitions, monitor the contestants and provide the competitors breakfast or lunch, depending on the time of the contest. The volunteers "show" the horses, cows, pigs, poultry and sheep that the contestants are judging. They also set up the displays for the meat and the wool and mohair competitions. Finally, they assist the competition judges and present awards to the outstanding students.

For all of this to happen, the Judging Contest Committee must raise funds every year to pay for meals for the contestants and for the 3,000 awards that are presented to the successful competitors. The committee has put the "fun" in funding with its annual Casino Stampede, a casino party with silent and live auctions.

Committee Chairman Dr. Gary DeBakey said, “The Judging Contest Committee really epitomizes the goals of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as we work directly with the students and organize the contests while supporting the professors from Texas A&M University in our goal to educate students regarding agriculture. We also see the rewards of our efforts that same day as we present our trophies to the winners.”
Kerry Caudle – Corral Club - Arena Club

Kerry Caudle became a life member at the age of 22 and joined the Corral Club - Main Club in 1991. He has been a member of the Corral Club - At-Large, Corral Club - Directors’ Club and Corral Club - Hideout Club, and he served as assistant club chairman for the Corral Club - Arena Club. His wife, Eileen, has been a member of the Corral Club - Suites East for 10 years, and his son, Derrick, is a rookie on the World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Committee. When not volunteering, Kerry loves spending time at the ranch in Duval County. Kerry is the owner of Olympic Equipment and Machinery.

Terry Dobson – Veterinarian

In 1997, Terry Dobson joined the Show as an annual member and joined the Veterinarian Committee. Terry had received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Texas A&M University in 1996, and his volunteer activities offered a great way to practice his new profession. In 2002, he became chairman of the committee. Terry is married to Carol, and they have three children, Kylie, Cameron and Karson. He is a doctor at Lake Olympia Animal Hospital. They live on their ranch, where he raises Quarter Horses and Maine-Anjou cattle.

Lon Randazzo – Horspitality

Lon Randazzo joined the Show in 1989 and began volunteering on the Horspitality Committee. He became a life member in 1991. Before becoming chairman, he served as assistant captain, captain and vice chairman. Lon has volunteered as an outrider for the Grand Entry Committee and currently serves as a captain. His son, Matt, is a past member of the Parade Committee. Lon is employed by CaseTech International, Inc., an oil and gas equipment company. As a partner of Winn Randazzo Quarter Horses, he raises and trains horses and participates in American Quarter Horse Association competitions. He enjoys hunting and fishing.

Carroll Roden – Lamb and Goat Auction

In 1993, Carroll Roden joined the Show as a life member. He also became a member of the Lamb Auction Committee, which is now the Lamb and Goat Auction Committee. Carroll worked his way up through the ranks as captain and vice chairman before being named chairman. He attained the status of Elite Sheep and received membership in the Rams Club for having reached the levels of $12,000 and $20,000 in sales, respectively. His wife, Barbara, is a member of the Lady Lambs, a ladies’ buying group. Carroll is an accountant and insurance salesman. He likes fishing, bowling, golfing and camping.

Billy Scogin – Horse Show Equipment

In 1996, Billy Scogin began his volunteer efforts on behalf of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo by becoming an annual member and joining the Horse Show Equipment Committee. Billy served three years as vice chairman before being appointed chairman of the committee. Billy has two daughters, Stephanie Nicole and Courtney Renee. He works in production for Anheuser Busch Inc. Billy is president of the Anheuser Busch Bass Club and a member of the company’s hunt club. His hobbies are hunting, fishing and outdoor activities.

Michael Summers – Corral Club - Sky Suites

In 1991, Michael Summers joined the Show as a life member. That year, he started volunteering with the then Corral Club - Press Club Committee, which ultimately became Corral Club - Sky Suites. He also served for three years on the Horspitality Committee. Michael is an estimator/project manager for A & H Electric and has been in the United States Coast Guard Reserve for 16 years. He enjoys spending time with his two daughters, and his hobbies are trail riding, fishing and raising Texas Longhorn cattle.
Members Meet

All annual and life members now can mark their calendars for the 2004 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Annual Meeting, Tuesday, June 1 at 3 p.m. in the 600 series of Reliant Center. The meeting will include reports from Show officers, presentation of first-year chairman pins, and the election of new Show lifetime directors and the 2004-2005 board of directors.

The Show’s Board of Directors Meeting will be Thursday, June 3 at 5 p.m. in the Sales Pavilion in Reliant Arena.

Delete That Debt

The Show’s deadline for members to clear all outstanding debt is Monday, June 14, 2004. All members wishing to remain active in Show activities and eligible to serve on committees should make sure that their accounts are paid in full by this deadline.

Serve for Life

Applications for Lifetime Committee now are available from Show staff coordinators or can be downloaded from the password protected section of the Show’s Web site by going to www.hlsr.com/committee and selecting the form under “General Committee Announcements.” If you do not know the password for the committee section, please contact your staff coordinator. The deadline to submit applications is July 1, 2004, and the application may be submitted by fax or by mail. The 2004 review board is chaired by Show lifetime vice president Keith Steffek and includes vice presidents Jack Lyons and Bill Yates.

The designation of Lifetime Committee may be awarded to individuals with a minimum of 15 years of committee service, when age added to years of service equals 75 or greater. No matter how many committees a person serves on, an individual receives only one year of service credit per year, and years of service do not have to be consecutive on the same committee.

Lifetime Committee members do not count toward a committee’s designated maximum, but they have all rights and privileges of active volunteers and receive a Lifetime Committee gold badge. Participation level on committees is determined in conjunction with committees' chairmen; however, “Lifetime Committee” is the only title designation received regardless of responsibilities held on any committee.

Write It In

Pull out the 2005 calendar to mark March 1 – 20 for the 2005 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

El Tejano

Go Tejano Day at the 2004 Show included a special presentation on behalf of the Go Tejano Committee. The committee presented the Show with “El Tejano,” a limited-edition bronze statuette which is a replica of a life-sized bronze that will be included as a part of the Tejano Monument being dedicated at the Texas capitol grounds in Austin, Texas.

Money for More

With the summer months comes the excitement of several $10,000, four-year Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship presentations. On May 26, 2004, Houston-area students will be presented with 194 Metropolitan, 100 Opportunity and 15 School Art scholarships — totaling more than $3 million in scholarships in one afternoon. Texas 4-H’ers will be recognized in College Station, Texas, in June with the presentation of 70 scholarships, and Texas FFA members highlight July with the presentation of 70 scholarships during their convention in Fort Worth, Texas.

While these recipients are looking forward to their presentations, 60 Area Go Texan students and 10 Texas Family, Career and Community Leaders of America members already have received scholarships. The Area Go Texan scholarships, ranging from one-year, $2,500 to four-year, $10,000 awards, were presented during Go Texan Weekend in February, and the FCCLA scholarships were presented in April during the FCCLA state meeting in Houston.

Little Changes

While there are a few subtle changes in this issue of Magazine, the biggest change is right on the front cover. Beginning with this issue, the magazine will be dated seasonally — winter, spring, summer and fall — reflecting that the content reflects more than just a single month. The issues will continue to be published quarterly in May, August, November and February.
### May
1. Humble/Kingwood BBQ Cook-Off & Car Show
2. Spring Branch/Memorial Cowboy Classic
3. Channelview/Sheldon Chipping and Putting for Kids
4. 21-22 Humble/Kingwood Cook Off and Event Day
5. 26 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Metropolitan/Opportunity/School Art Scholarship Reception
6. 31 Show offices closed – Memorial Day holiday

### June
1. Annual Membership Meeting
3. Board of Directors Meeting
5. Liberty Cowboy Classic Golf Tournament
8. Texas 4-H Scholarship Presentation, College Station, Texas
12. CyFair Fish Fry and Auction
14. Final deadline to clear all outstanding debts with the Show
26-27 Spring Branch/Memorial BBQ Round Up
27-28 New Caney/Splendora Cook Off and Event Day
28 Brazoria Southwest Golf Rodeo

### July
1. Deadline for Lifetime Committeeman applications
2-5 Show offices closed – Independence Day holidays
15. FFA Scholarship Presentation, Fort Worth, Texas
19. Katy 2004 Golf Tournament
31 Deer Park Fish Fry

### August
14. Waller County Go Texan Contest and Turkey Shoot/Archery Contest
21. Aldine/Spring/Klein Rock and Bowl Rodeo