



"BOWLEGGED H" MAGAZINE

FALL 2017 • VOL. XXV NO. 3 • HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™



TABLE OF CONTENTS



FALL 2017
Volume XXV • No. 3

"Bowlegged H" Magazine is published quarterly by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. Copyright © 2017

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Pat Mann Phillips, *Officer in Charge*
Katie Lyons, *Chairman*

Vice Chairmen

Becky Lowicki, *Copy Editor*
Kate Gunn Pagel, *Assignments Editor*

Editorial Board

Samantha Fewox
Melissa Manning
Nan McCreary
Kenneth C. Moursund Jr.
Ken Scott
Marshall R. Smith III
Lyn Stewart
Emily Wilkinson

Photographers

Linda Evans
Meredith Flaherty
Lisa Norwood
Debbie Porter

Reporters

Stephanie Earthman Baird
Sarah Brock
Scott Hill Bumgardner
Kate Bradley Byars
Mollie Dreibrodt
Ginny Ellsworth
Leigh Evans
Abimbola Farinde
Ashley Kearney
Allyson Bandy Lambert
Sarah Langlois
Lawrence S Levy
Sandie Marrinucci
Gigi Mayorga-Wark
Rebecca McGovney-Ingram
Crystal McKeon
Taylor McLaughlin
Wendy McNatt
Marina Olson
David Simpson
Elizabeth Slaven
Sandra Hollingsworth Smith
Gina Steere
Katy Stewart
Amy Tanner
Sarah Tucker
Ashley Wright
Todd Zucker

MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & PRESENTATIONS DIVISION

Clint Saunders,
Managing Director, Communications
Brooke Prather,
Coordinator, Communications
Lindsay Partridge,
Manager, Creative Design

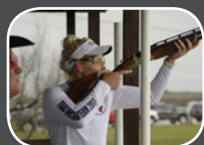
Staff Photographers

Francis M. Martin, D.V.M.
Dave Clements

Comments and Questions:
magazine@rodeohouston.com



2 Growing up Rodeo



4 Young Guns Sporting Clay Tournament



6 Entertainment Under the Stars



8 Sprouting Creativity



12 Scholarship Recipients:
Where are they now?

MORE

- 10** By the Numbers: Feed Store
- 15** Incoming Chairman of the Board: Jim Winne
- 16** Incoming Executive Committee Member: Wesley Sinor
- 17** Incoming Vice Presidents
- 20** Incoming Committee Chairs



2017 Horticulture
Competition Entry

Cover Photo by Lisa Norwood

RODEO OFFICIALS

Chairman of the Board

Jim Winne

President and CEO

Joel Cowley

Vice Presidents

Roger Camp

Andrew "Primo" Cantu

Michael C. Curley

J.W. Daubert III

Terrence Fontaine, Ph.D.

Michael W. Galvan

Ronnie Gulihur

Jeffrey S. Hayes

James "Alan" Kent

Kelly J. Larkin, M.D.

Gregory Miller

Mike Moss

Gary Nesloney

Mike O'Kelley

Pat Mann Phillips

Robbie Smith

Archie Thompson

Wendy Vandeventer

Taylor Whitaker

Executive Committee

Jim Bloodworth

Brady F. Carruth

Ray Hinsley

J.P. "Hap" Hunnicutt

Don D. Jordan

Jack A. Lyons

Ed McMahon

Chris Richardson

Charles R. "Butch" Robinson

Wesley Sinor

R.H. "Steve" Stevens Jr.

Joe Van Matre

P. Michael Wells

Lifetime Members of the

Executive Committee

Don A. Buckalew

J.M. "Jim" Clepper

Tilman J. Fertitta

Wayne Hollis

John O. Smith

Paul G. Somerville

Keith A. Steffek

James M. "Jim" Windham

AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT

WESTERN HERITAGE



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

As your incoming chairman, I cannot help but think of all those who have come before me and their contributions to the continuing success of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. Amazing and talented volunteers such as yourself are not only the reason why we are so successful today, but also why we will be even more successful tomorrow.

In 2018, we will celebrate "The Spirit of the Volunteer" to recognize the generous and selfless service of our entire Rodeo family. Each and every one of you are important to the success of our organization, and your efforts, no matter how great or small, are appreciated and do not go unnoticed. To further acknowledge your achievements, during each night of RODEOHOUSTON®, we will recognize one volunteer who represents the Rodeo's core values and goes above and beyond for our organization.

I cannot express to you how proud I am of each of you who embody "The Spirit of the Volunteer" year-round. This was evident as so many of you stepped up to help your communities in Houston and the surrounding areas rebuild from the devastating impact of Hurricane Harvey, and I commend each of you for going out of your way to help those in need. Please know that we are here for you. As an organization, we have committed \$2 million to support agricultural and educational recovery efforts in the disaster areas across Texas.

Despite the recent heartache in our city, we have been busy planning for the 2018 Rodeo, and we could not be more excited for the upcoming year. In my short time as chairman of the board, the Rodeo has awarded

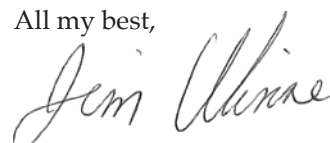
more than \$14.2 million in scholarships to deserving Texas students entering and returning to college this fall. I have had the honor of meeting many of these scholarship recipients on behalf of the organization, as well as traveling to Washington, D.C., to accept the Dreams to Success Award, the highest honor from Scholarship America. Your dedication to our organization is the reason why the 2017 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo was a success and we are able to support these scholars on their educational journey.

I want to thank Jack Lyons for his support and guidance during the transition. Having the opportunity to shadow him during the past year has prepared me for what to expect during my time as chairman of the board. I am entering my first year confident and prepared to lead our incredible team of volunteers.

I am proud to be a Texan, a Houstonian and a part of this great organization. I could not do this job without your support, and I look forward to meeting and getting to know each and every one of you during my tenure as chairman of the board.

Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me to serve as your chairman. My family and I are honored for the privilege to work with you during these next few years. 🤠

All my best,



Jim Winne

GROWING UP RODEO

BY LEIGH EVANS • PHOTOS BY LISA NORWOOD





“It’s about passion!” Jr. Rodeo Committee chairman Lauren Luethold announced while walking from the Mutton Bustin’ tent in the carnival over to Rodeo Express, then up to the Tejas Room at NRG Center. She’s making one of her daily rounds checking on her “juniors” to make sure they are getting the full Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ committee experience.

Looking after the 450 students — ranging in age from 17 to 20 — is a big job, but Luethold is not fazed by it.

“We have room for 550 juniors,” she said with a huge smile on her face, “and we want to reach that point!”

The JRC members each serve on several existing committees during the Rodeo and rotate shifts with the hope they will find a committee to call home when they turn 21 years old. The process is working, as the committee had more than 350 former members return to serve on committees in 2017.

Two of those members have risen through the ranks to break a few JRC records. Cody Robertson, who became a JRC member in 2007, the first year of the program, is the first former junior to become a vice chairman of a main committee. Robertson joined the Calf Scramble Arena Committee in 2009 and served his first year as vice chairman in 2017.

Robertson said he will always be glad for his younger days on the JRC. “JRC helped me have a better understanding of what it meant to be a committeeman and what each

committee did for the betterment of the Show,” he said. “It also taught me that hard work will be rewarded. No matter what I was doing, I was giving everything I had. I was rewarded with wonderful opportunities, and that has carried over to all aspects of my life.”

Lacey Maxwell, who also was a member of the inaugural JRC class of 2007, is the first and only member who has returned to JRC as an adult, and is now captain of the Age Out and Outreach subcommittee.

“It’s an opportunity like no other,” she said. “There are committeemen that have been volunteers for years who haven’t been able to see the various aspects of the Rodeo that juniors are exposed to.” That is how Maxwell ended up on the committees she’s a part of now. In addition to being an adult on JRC, she is also on the Speakers Committee.

“If it hadn’t been for JRC, I would never have ended up on Speakers Committee,” Maxwell said. “In my last year on JRC, one of the adults on the committee insisted I do one shift with Speakers. I agreed and ended up working a shift with their Parade Announcers team. I had more fun on that one shift than I had at almost anything else I had done in five years on JRC and immediately knew that was something I wanted to do.”

JRC is a year-round, working committee, so even after the lights go down at the Rodeo, Luethold and her team will still be working with their group of juniors to help staff Rodeo events throughout the year. 🏠





YOUNG

A group of eager youths recently gathered in West Houston in a fierce-yet-friendly competition — the Young Guns Sporting Clay Tournament. Hosted by the Ranching & Wildlife Committee, this was the fourth year of the competition for 4-H and FFA participants. The competition included boys and girls from 8 to 18 years of age, split into four groups by age and gender.

Sporting clays is an increasingly popular shooting sport consisting of 10 or more stations, where each competitor uses a shotgun to fire on two clay “birds” as they are flung through the air. Each competitor fires on 100 clay birds overall.

Committee chair John R. Braniff Jr. was very proud of his team’s production of this competitive event, which has grown by approximately 12 percent each year.

“In keeping with the Show’s goals, our focus is to be the premier shoot in the state of Texas,” Braniff said.

Although the competition was tough, youngsters were often seen fist bumping and congratulating each other, and spirits were high despite the overcast and rainy conditions.

Throughout the competition, safety was a top priority and safety orientations were required for each shooter.

Nearly 500 young shooters competed in the preliminaries in 2017, with 44 competitors gunning for the top positions in the finals. When the gun smoke and clay dust cleared, the top shooter was Jett Thompson, with a score of 98.

The top shooters received cash awards and certificates for rifles. All finalists received buckles and certificates for a pair of boots. Throughout the four years of competition, the awards have totaled \$230,000, along with \$26,000 worth of guns and \$15,000 worth of boots.

“IN KEEPING WITH THE SHOW’S GOALS, OUR FOCUS IS TO BE THE PREMIER SHOOT IN THE STATE OF TEXAS.”

— COMMITTEE CHAIR JOHN R. BRANIFF JR.



GUNS



SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT

BY SCOTT HILL BUMGARDNER
PHOTOS BY DEBBIE PORTER

Junior Male Champion James Vaquero of Galveston, Texas, has only been competing for one year. He had a smile on his face as he proudly showed off his buckle along with another that he won in San Antonio, Texas. When asked if he would be back next year, Vaquero said, “I sure hope so.”

There were many returning shooters, with some like Senior Female Champion Megan Harrington who has shot at all four Young Gun competitions. Harrington, who competes approximately 20 times each year, said this competition is her favorite.

Thanks to the efforts of the Ranching & Wildlife Committee, the Young Guns Sporting Clay Tournament is sure to fulfill the committee’s focus of becoming the premier youth sporting clays shoot in the state of Texas. The 2018 Young Guns Sporting Clay Tournament will be held Feb. 24 – 25. Learn more about the contest details at rodeohouston.com. 🤠



ENTERTAINMENT

Under the Stars

BY GINNY ELLSWORTH

PHOTO BY LINDA EVANS





Musical entertainment at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is not just limited to the superstar acts on the big stage inside NRG Stadium; entertainment on the grounds has evolved into an array of shows not to be missed.

The Stars Over Texas Stage features family-friendly shows for all ages. “Most of the shows are interactive, so students are able to go up on the stage and be part of the show,” said Julie Bass, executive director, General Exhibits and Attractions.

Starting at 10 a.m. daily, youngsters flock to the stage for kid-friendly entertainment. Amazing Animals is one performance that draws crowds year after year, and keeps moms posting videos of their kids’ once-in-a-lifetime experiences with kangaroos, porcupines and other unusual visitors. Sing-alongs and agricultural-themed magic shows are also a big hit for families.

In 2012, Rodeo Rockstar debuted on the Stars Over Texas Stage. Capitalizing on the popularity of singing contests on television, this attraction gave local youth and musical artists a place to showcase their talent.

Over the last three years, entertainment has transitioned

to include more live music that begins later in the evening. Some of the evening acts include previous Rodeo Rockstar competitors and winners.

In 2017, Throwback Thursdays featured bands covering classic hits such as Back in Black, and Artie V. and the Texas Heat. Spectators for The Young Guns, an ‘80s cover band, performance received neon shades to sport while rockin’ out to ultimate throwback tunes. Visitors are encouraged to show up in their best decade garb to rock out on Thursdays during the 2018 Rodeo.

“When it goes better than you expect, it’s really rewarding,” Bass said.

Tucked away in Carruth Plaza, the Champion Wine Garden hosts a variety of Texas entertainment on two stages for the enjoyment of adult guests. For the Wine Garden crowd, it is not just about the wine, it is about the experience.

From the new Throwback Thursday on the Stars Over Texas Stage to the Champion Wine Garden’s Texas-sized hits, remember to check the live music schedule on the RODEOHOUSTON® app before you get in the gate, or you will miss out on something great! 🎸



PHOTOS BY LISA NORWOOD

SPROUTING CREATIVITY

HOW THE HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE CAPTIVATES AUDIENCES USING PHOTOGRAPHY

BY KATY STEWART



PHOTO BY DEBBIE PORTER



If a picture is worth a thousand words, the Horticulture Committee, one of the newest committees at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, would put a stack of dictionaries to shame. Originally founded as a task force to outfit the Rodeo with elaborate florals and planters, it became a full-fledged, 150-member committee in 2014.

The committee's annual photography contest challenges students to capture their interpretations of an assigned nature-centric theme in a photo. The 2017 theme was wildlife. The range of creative entries stunned Wendy Vandeventer, Rodeo vice president and officer in charge of the committee.

"To see how an 8-year-old interprets the theme is amazing," Vandeventer said. "Many put their own twists on it [the wildlife theme] that we were not expecting."

In 2017, contest entries ranged from a photo of a zebra to a donkey sporting a flower crown. The winning entry captured a delicate hummingbird mid-flight. Not surprisingly, most students snapped the photos on their smart phones, which enables the committee to reach a broader group of students.

For example, many journalism students enter the photography contest when they otherwise might not have had a connection to the Rodeo.

"Kids who aren't involved in raising livestock can get involved in other ways," said Gracie Pavlicek, Horticulture Committee Chair.

Volunteer Shelby Parker is a high school teacher in inner-city San Antonio, Texas. Most of her students are not involved in 4-H or other programs that typically connect students with the Rodeo. However, she always encourages her kids to enter the photography contest, and helps brainstorm ways to express the wildlife theme, even within the city.

"I tell them to take a chance," Parker said. "No entry is ever

wrong. There's always a place to be creative."

Beyond the photography contest, the committee also hosts six horticulture competitions for youth, and coordinates the sunflower seed exhibit in AGVENTURE, presented by Occidental Petroleum, and the beautiful floral displays throughout the Rodeo grounds.

Several professional photographers on the committee help document the six floral and landscaping design challenges.

"The committee photographers help highlight the kids' work, so people can see what it involved," Pavlicek said.

These rigorous contests draw teams of young floral arrangers and gardeners, tasked with designing Texas-inspired floral tablescapes and large outdoor gardenscapes in a timed challenge.

"The kids stay so calm," said Vandeventer. "Their feathers don't get ruffled, and the committee photographers help capture the focus in their eyes."

Parker teaches floral design, and her students are aspiring floral professionals. One student used the photos of her contest entries for her professional portfolio, which helped her land a job with a florist.

The committee also inspires photography from amateurs. As kids plant their own seeds in a cup at the sunflower exhibit in AGVENTURE, many parents snap photos.

"A lot of kids may not have even seen or experienced soil before, and they love scooping the soil and planting the sunflower seeds," Pavlicek said. "There's such great joy for kids and parents."

Pavlicek received one photo from a child whose sunflowers had grown taller than she was. By engaging the general public, the Horticulture Committee helps share the significance of Texas agriculture with the next generation. 🌻

BY THE NUMBERS: FEED STORE

BY DAVID SIMPSON
PHOTOS BY DEBBIE PORTER



30,000

animals exhibited at the
Houston Livestock Show™

400

customers visited the
Feed Store in one day

25,457

items sold, including feed,
minerals and straw

154

Feed Store Committee
members

With more than 30,000 animals exhibited at the Houston Livestock Show™, an onsite supermarket for animals is essential. In 2017, up to 400 customers visited the Feed Store in one day, contributing to the sale of 25,457 items, including feed, minerals and straw.

In two shifts, 154 members operate three stores — Warehouse (located by the Rodeo's warehouse near Gate 1), NRG Center and NRG Arena — guaranteeing exhibitors supplies without leaving NRG Park. For animals whose special blend of food was forgotten at home, the convenience is welcomed, evident from the 4,327 bags of feed sold during the 2017 Rodeo.

In the warehouse, bales of coastal, alfalfa and Sudan hay

ordered six months before the Rodeo are stacked by the thousands to the ceiling. Each hour brings countless orders, requiring members to stack up to 16 bales on an ATV and maneuver to multiple destinations down narrow aisles brimming with patrons.

The store was incredibly busy during 2017 move-in days, selling more than 6,300 straw bales used as bedding for outside stalls when trailers arrived with the next wave of show animals. In addition, 5,789 bags of shavings were purchased for the beds of lambs, pigs and goats.

Charlotte "Charlie" Clawson, Feed Store Committee chair, praises the group for reducing the Rodeo's cost by using volunteers and buying in bulk. Committee members



4,327

bags of feed sold

6,300

straw bales used as bedding

5,769

bags of shavings purchased

3,732

hay bales purchased for feed

must be able to load a 50-pound bale of hay or sack of feed, operate a forklift, and deliver feed in golf carts and ATVs.

Hay is a main source of food for a lot of the livestock throughout the grounds and the Feed Store helps accommodate these large orders. Livestock show exhibitors purchased 895 bales in 2017, and AGVENTURE, presented by Occidental Petroleum, purchased 346 bales of coastal, alfalfa and Sudan. This went to feed the animals in the Birthing Center, Breed Row Barn, petting zoo, pony rides and We're Small Y'all Barn. The largest consumer in 2017 was Grand Entry, with 1,306 bales, followed by contractor, Cervi Championship Rodeo, to feed the rodeo stock with 1,185 bales of coastal.

Even the carnival's camels and kangaroos are paying hay customers. During hay delivery, members might experience the birth of a new animal, and are guaranteed to see a child's wonder and delight as they visit these educational and interactive areas.

"The work is rewarding because you interact with the kids on a personal level," Clawson said.

The Junction, Champion Wine Garden and commercial exhibitors order straw bales for borders, benches and decorations. After the Rodeo ends, recycling is encouraged by the committee with the used bales of straw.

For members of the Feed Store Committee, getting your hands dirty and sweating a little is worth the opportunity of visiting with caring, dedicated youth and their animals. 🐾

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Two native Houstonians who received Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ scholarships in the early 1990s have returned to their hometown to give back to the community they love — all, they say, because of the transformative influence of receiving Rodeo scholarships.

Juliet Stipeche, who received her scholarship in 1992, serves as the City of Houston's first director of education, a position which she said enables her to help drive education as a city-wide priority, focusing on having quality schools as a critical component of education initiatives.

Ryan Levy, owner and winemaker at The Nice Winery, said winning a Rodeo scholarship in 1993 called him back to Houston after studying at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris and becoming a sommelier and winemaker in California.

"Houston is home," Levy said. "I came back here to reinvest in the city and to give back to my local community."

Stipeche and Levy crossed paths while they attended Rice University on Rodeo scholarships. Both were adamant that they would have been unable to attend what they described as their "dream school" without the Rodeo's assistance.

"When I was accepted into Rice, my family and I knew it was a fantastic opportunity, but we were so worried about the cost," Stipeche said. "I am deeply appreciative of the life-changing impact the Show scholarship had."

Similarly, Levy said, "I would not have been able to go to Rice, my dream school, without the help of the Show scholarship. It made a huge difference in my life."

Both vividly remember attending the Rodeo's scholarship banquet, where recipients are recognized for their achievements. "All these years later, I still have my name badge from the scholarship banquet hanging in my room at my



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BY SARAH W. LANGLOIS

PHOTOS BY MEREDITH FLAHERTY

RYAN LEVY

JULIET STIPECHE

parents' house," Stipeche said.

Levy recalled that then-Gov. Ann Richards handed him his scholarship certificate at the banquet, and he keeps a picture captured of the moment in his winery.

"That picture reminds me how important it is to pay it forward and give back to my community of Houston, which has given so much to me," Levy said.

In return, he routinely provides auction items to Go Texan committees and frequently allows Rodeo volunteers to raise money for the Rodeo at his winery.

But having received a Rodeo scholarship is not Levy's only connection to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Levy's Nice Winery's Malbec won Rodeo Uncorked!® International Wine Competition's Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show honors in 2017.

"Winning Best of Show in my hometown is one of the greatest honors I have received," Levy said. "What makes me prouder than anything else is that my bottle of wine was auctioned off to raise money for college scholarships for other young Texans.

"Almost every wine I have made has won either a gold or silver medal in the Rodeo Uncorked! International Wine Competition," Levy said. "Receiving these awards has allowed me to talk about the Show and how the Show



is the largest awarder of college scholarships in Texas.”

Stipeche, who served as a trustee on the Houston Independent School District board of trustees for five years, continues to advocate for Rodeo scholarships.

“I have always been interested in education,” she said. “I try to tell young people, ‘If I can make it, so can you,’ and I regularly encourage students to apply for Show scholarships, as I know first-hand the immense impact receiving one can have.”

Stipeche compared her role as director of education for the City of Houston, in which she said she builds a community in education, to the Rodeo’s role.

“The Show runs on the spirit of volunteerism and bringing great people together to do fantastic things for the city and its youth,” she said. “Similarly, I’m trying to empower students and parents with wonderful resources in our great city.” 🏆



“THE SHOW RUNS ON THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM AND BRINGING GREAT PEOPLE TOGETHER TO DO FANTASTIC THINGS FOR THE CITY AND ITS YOUTH. SIMILARLY, I’M TRYING TO EMPOWER STUDENTS AND PARENTS WITH WONDERFUL RESOURCES IN OUR GREAT CITY.”

– JULIET STIPECHE

INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JIM WINNE



On June 1, 2017, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo board of directors elected Jim Winne as its chairman of the board.


A Rodeo member since 1980, Winne began volunteering for the organization as a member of the Calf Scramble Donors Committee, serving in many different capacities until his appointment as committee chair in 2004. He joined the Steer Auction Committee in 2001 and earned the rookie of the year award.

In 2004, Winne was elected a Rodeo director, and from 2006 to 2008, served as a vice president and officer in charge of the Calf Scramble Arena, Calf Scramble Donors, Calf Scramble Greeters, Parade, Rodeo Contestant Hospitality, Rodeo Operations, Special Children's and Trail Ride committees. In 2014, Winne was elected as a member of the Rodeo's Executive Committee.

"The Show and the people I have met volunteering over the years hold a very special place in my heart," Winne said. "I have spent more than 35 years in the Texas business community and have held positions on public, private and charitable boards. I look forward to utilizing those past experiences and hope to contribute to the continuing success of the Show."

With a long family history in rodeo and ranching, Winne won the 1981 Texas Rodeo Association champion bareback rider title.

Winne was a founder, chairman and CEO of Legend Production Holdings, which operated more than 1,000 oil and gas wells in Texas. In 2013, he retired after 12 years with the company.

He and his wife, Lynda, a member of the Calf Scramble Donors Committee, live in Fulshear, Texas. Winne has one daughter, McKenzy, who is a current Rodeo member and former member of the Jr. Rodeo Committee. She raises cattle with her father. 



INCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WESLEY SINOR

BY DAVID W. SIMPSON




In 2003, a friend offered Wesley Sinor the perfect outlet for his volunteer spirit — become a founding member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Gatekeepers Committee. Sinor said that knowing that the money saved by using volunteers instead of paid employees would turn into youth scholarships was too good of an opportunity to pass up. He immediately became a life member of the Rodeo, merging his passion for horses and animal science with his desire to give back to the community.

Sinor clearly recognizes what Rodeo volunteers do for the youth of Texas. “It’s gratifying to see how the work and dedication of the 33,000 volunteers affect the lives of exhibitors and scholarship recipients,” he said. “I wish every volunteer could meet scholarship recipients to see how they are changing the lives of kids. Our hard work and effort help them achieve their goals.”

In 2010, Sinor was elected to the Rodeo’s board of directors. He became a vice president of the Rodeo in 2014, serving as officer in charge of the Feed Store, Gatekeepers, Houston General Go Texan, Livestock, Rodeo Operations and Veterinarian committees. During his volunteer tenure, he has served on and supported multiple committees, including Armed Forces Appreciation, Grand Entry, Special Children’s Committee and Quarter Horse. He is also an avid supporter of the Lil’ Rustlers Rodeo and the Cutting Horse Show.

As an Executive Committee member, Sinor will focus on education, particularly technical degrees. “I am passionate about education, especially vocational scholarships,” he said. “A four-year degree may not be right for every student. Technical degrees fill a skills gap that has been overlooked and may be a better fit for some students.”

Sinor has a mechanical engineering degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA from Rice University. He began riding horses in college, which led to playing polo at the Houston Polo Club where he serves on the board of directors. His other hobbies include showing cutting horses, team roping, playing golf and hunting. He spends his free weekends at his W Bar S Horse Farm, raising polo ponies.

Sinor is an owner of Sinor Engine Company, a third-generation family business that builds natural gas engines and compressors. His wife, Cassie, whom he met through the Rodeo, serves on the Trailblazer Committee. 

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENTS



ROGER CAMP

BY LAWRENCE S LEVY

Roger Camp joined the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 1999 because friends who were on the Poultry Auction Committee spoke of the fun they were having. He soon earned his first gold badge on that committee, advanced through its ranks and was appointed chairman in 2012. Camp also has volunteered on the Breeders Greeters Committee.

Throughout his time on the Poultry Auction Committee, he looked to Mike Koch, Ronnie Gulihur and J.P. “Hap” Hunnicutt as mentors. From them, he gained an appreciation of what the Rodeo does for the community, its commitment to Western heritage, and its support of college scholarships for Texas students.

Born in Houston, Camp calls nearby Deer Park, Texas, his hometown. He and his wife, Jennifer, and their three daughters, Ginger, Chanler and Spenser, live in Missouri City, Texas. An entire Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo family, Jennifer is a Rodeo member, while Ginger and Chanler both have served on the Jr. Rodeo Committee, and Spenser looks forward to following in her sisters’ footsteps, impatiently waiting to meet the Rodeo’s age requirement.

Although a native Texan, Camp left the state to earn his bachelor’s degree from Arizona State University and his MBA from St. Thomas University in Hialeah, Florida. In 1994, he founded Camp Construction Services. He is also a member of the Houston Apartment Association and serves on the board of directors of Grateful Americans and Camp Hope, two organizations serving our nation’s veterans.

He was elected to the Rodeo’s board of directors in 2013. In his new role as a vice president of the Rodeo, Camp will serve as officer in charge of the Auctions Assistance, Jr. Rodeo, Speakers and Swine Auction committees.

In leading his assigned committees, Camp plans to use his life mantra as his guide: “If you treat people well, you will be treated well. Do what you say, and always try to do the right thing.” 🤠



J.W. DAUBERT III

BY LAWRENCE S LEVY

Joining the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in the early ‘90s, J.W. Daubert enthusiastically volunteered for both the Corral Club – Committeeman’s Club and Poultry Auction committees. Why two? As an early member of The Fowl Bunch barbecue team and its buying group at the Junior Market Poultry Auction, he realized that he could make a greater difference as a committee volunteer. Daubert also held an interest in spirits and wines, so the Corral Club, initially the Committeemen’s Club and then the Chute Club, was attractive to him as well.

During his quarter century as a Rodeo volunteer, Daubert has served on several Corral Club committees, including the Chute Club and Suites West, and served as an assistant club chairman and chairman of Suites East. Wanting to pour himself into a new direction with the Rodeo, Daubert joined the Wine Garden and Wine Sales and Events committees, having served as a chair and vice chair, respectively. He was elected to the Rodeo’s board of directors in 2014.

In 2017, Daubert was appointed officer in charge of all wine committees: Wine Competition, Wine Garden, Wine Sales and Events, and Winery Relations. He is hoping to make a difference in the lives of others as he leads his committees.

Daubert was born in Rye, New York, and has more than 35 years of experience as a CPA/financial planner, owning and operating various small business interests. He also is a Federal Aviation Administration licensed airline transport pilot, holding ratings for three different aircraft types.

Daubert has made Houston his home with his wife, Mary Raia, also a Rodeo member, who has served on the Calf Scramble Donor Committee since 2011, and previously on the Arabian Horse Committee. 🤠

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENTS



TERENCE H. FONTAINE, PH.D.

BY LAWRENCE S LEVY

Houstonian Dr. Terence H. Fontaine began his involvement with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 2005. While working with the City of Houston, Fontaine went to see for himself what Houston's largest annual event was all about. He met the chair of the International Committee, who offered a suggestion Fontaine took to heart — join the Rodeo and apply to volunteer on the International Committee.

Recalling his rookie year on the International Committee, where he earned his first gold badge, he said, "As the only African-American member on the committee, I felt very excited and nervous at the same time."

Fontaine was appointed chair of the Black Heritage Committee in 2014. During his leadership, the committee attained new heights: membership grew from 120 to 175 volunteers; the annual Black Heritage Western Gala gained popularity, hosting 1,800 guests in 2017; and the Rodeo's ever-popular Black Heritage Day attracted 114,786 attendees to NRG Park, with 73,660 in paid attendance for the RODEOHOUSTON® performance featuring Alicia Keys in concert.

Encouraged to gain both experience and education by his father, Fontaine earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, is a licensed pilot, and worked for the City of Houston, Continental Airlines, and Houston METRO. In 2004, he founded Business Operations Solutions, a consultancy serving the transportation industry.

He is committed to his family, his faith and his community. His wife, Diedra, supports his endeavors — whether personal, professional or with the Rodeo. A deacon and lay leader at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Fontaine also reaches out as a motivational speaker to school-aged youth, sharing that with discipline and education, a multitude of opportunities in the world can open up.

In 2016, Fontaine was elected to the Rodeo's board of directors. As a Rodeo vice president, Fontaine will serve as officer in charge of the Black Heritage, Directions & Assistance, International, and Rodeo Express committees. 🤠



KELLY J. LARKIN, M.D.

BY REBECCA MCGOVNEY-INGRAM

Dr. Kelly Larkin is not from Texas, but once she arrived, she embraced Houston, its nationally renowned medical center, and its Rodeo. Her first exposure to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ was when paramedics brought injured cowboys into the emergency room at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston where she was working. It piqued her interest, and she wanted to find out more.

"My first time to attend [the] Rodeo over 20 years ago was with the Safety Committee," Larkin said. "I walked into the Astrodome at the dirt level and experienced the Rodeo and cowboys front and center! I then returned and did some research for my residency on cowboy injuries, as well as what type of injuries or ailments the kids participating in rodeo get."

Her volunteer career began on the Houston General Go Texan Committee, and she later served as its chair in 2005. Nine years ago, Larkin was part of a task force to provide medical care for the rodeo athletes. It later became the RODEOHOUSTON® Sports Medicine Committee, of which she was the first chair in 2013. She also served as a vice chairman on the Ladies' Season Box Committee, which became the Trailblazer Committee in 2006.

"There are so many people who are new to Houston as part of the medical center and who don't get exposed to Rodeo," Dr. Larkin said. "I felt getting more involved and helping promote the Rodeo in this setting was something I could do."

As an incoming vice president, she will be overseeing the Premium Seating, Rabbit, RODEOHOUSTON Sports Medicine and School Art Auction committees.

Larkin is CEO of her Houston-based healthcare company, The Larkin Group. She is married to Fernando Parra, and she has three children: Grace Beasley, Greer Beasley, a second-year volunteer on the Jr. Rodeo Committee, and Matthew Parra. 🤠



MIKE MOSS

BY REBECCA MCGOVNEY-INGRAM

Mike Moss' first experience with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ was as a commercial exhibitor when he sold lawn equipment at the Rodeo for 10 years. He was so impressed with the Rodeo that he became a life member in 1979, and he began his volunteer career in 1982 on the Group Ticket Sales Committee.

"I showed up all prepared for what I thought was a commercial exhibit meeting; got a little pamphlet and open it up and it's all about Rodeo ticket sales," Moss said. He was so moved by what he heard that he went up to the speaker after the meeting to ask about becoming a volunteer that very day.

"I had already joined the Show, had a Corral Club card, and that was all fun," he said. "But, then I found out what the Show is all about and its mission. It was a neat way to give back and to do something for the kids."

As a Rodeo vice president, Moss will be the officer in charge of all 23 Corral Club committees. It is a role he will have no problem fulfilling after serving as a committee member of several Corral Club committees, including Corral Club Level West, Corral Club Auctions and Receptions, and Corral Club divisions committees, as well as Grand Entry and Group Ticket Sales committees. He has also served on the Rodeo's board of directors since 2004.

Moss attended Sam Houston State University for two years before starting his own business, Southwest Mower Service Center, Inc., of which he is currently a partner and president. He takes a special interest in the Rodeo's focus on different forms of education for the youth of Texas, such as technical and vocational training.

He has been married to his wife, Doris, for 46 years. They have two sons, Jeff, who is married to Michelle, and Chad, and two grandchildren, Cooper and Averej. 🤠



TAYLOR WHITAKER

BY REBECCA MCGOVNEY-INGRAM

Taylor Whitaker first learned about the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ more than 20 years ago, through a local FFA group in Chambers County. He joined the Rodeo as a life member in 1992, and while waiting for word on becoming an official volunteer for a committee, he helped the Houston Metro Go Texan Committee for two years before joining it in 1995.

He has also served as a committee member on Armed Forces Appreciation, Events & Functions, and Grand Entry committees. After years of serving as a Rodeo volunteer, Whitaker was asked to become the chairman of the Houston Metro Go Texan Committee in 2010, and was elected to the Rodeo's board of directors 2013.

Whitaker enjoys promoting the Rodeo throughout the year at Go Texan dances and cook-offs, and Rodeo banquets, where he can interact with those who have been impacted by the Rodeo.

"I get more gratification out of having the opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients and talking with them and their families," he said. "I think volunteering is giving of your heart and soul, and the Rodeo adds that piece to my life that I would not get anywhere else."

As a Rodeo vice president, Whitaker will oversee the Events & Functions, Go Texan Contests, Houston Metro Go Texan, and Safety committees.

"I think that the Show does more than any other organization in the state of Texas in providing our youth with educational and future opportunities in the job market," Whitaker said. "If you ever have the chance to meet one of these scholarship winners, you see how appreciative they are and how sincere they are about what they've gotten from the Show."

The most important person in his life is his wife, Rene, who also has volunteered with the Rodeo as a member of the Armed Forces Appreciation, Events & Functions, and Houston Metro Go Texan committees. They have five children, nine grandchildren and one "big dog" that rules their house. Whitaker is a senior director of project management at Enterprise Products Co. 🤠

INCOMING COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Jeff Alexander
Llama and Alpaca



Sally Allen
Membership



Wendy Lewis Armstrong
Black Heritage



Connard Barker
Steer Auction



May Bentley
Western Art



Larry Biediger
Corral Club – Division II



Heather Boyce
School Art



Aaron Butler
Corral Club – Committeemen's Club



Walter Campbell
Area Go Texan



John Clarke
Calf Scramble Donors



Jason R. Cook
Horse Show – World Shows



Johnathan Dutton
Auctions & Receptions



Christopher Ennis
Corral Club – General



Mitzi Fleissner
Ticket Sales



Annie Flores
Armed Forces Appreciation



Kim Folger
Horse Show – Paint Horse



Juan Garcia
Go Tejano



Tami Grimm
Horse Show – Quarter Horse



Frank Hart
Horse Show – Donkey and Mule



Rock Hillman
Corral Club – Stockman's Club



Chris Jackson
Junior Commercial Steer Feeding and Management



Carson Joachim
Commercial Exhibits



Delon Laqua
Corral Club – Sky Suites



Michelle Lilie
School Art Auction



Russell Machann
Area Go Texan



Marti McDaniel
Corral Club – The Hideout



Jewel Mitchell
Information Services



Nancy Motley
Tours



Tina Pearson
Corral Club – Support



Garry Pigg
Transportation



Keith Powell
Souvenir Program



Mac Ruffeno
Horse Show – Chuck Wagon



Jamie Spring
Ranching & Wildlife



Jennifer Summerour
Trailblazer



Justin Tankersley
Gatekeepers



Jody Teykl
Livestock



Kelly Traylor
Trail Ride



John Vachala
Judging Contest



Jack Waddill
Feed Store



Dr. Danny Welch
Veterinarian



William "Bill" Yates
Lifetime Vice Presidents



Livestock Committee



Gatekeepers Committee



Jasper County Go Texan

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™

HARVEY RELIEF COMMITMENT

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has been committed to the city of Houston and the state of Texas for more than 85 years, and we are proud to donate \$2 million to the Hurricane Harvey relief efforts in support of our community.

We are even more proud of our outstanding volunteers who went above and beyond to help those in need in Houston and the surrounding areas, especially our fellow Rodeo family members. Our volunteers are **#HoustonStrong!**



P.O. Box 20070
Houston, Texas 77225-0070
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
Permit No. 9791



Join the Conversation **#RODEOHOUSTON**

RODEOHOUSTON.com



You **Tube**