



# SUPER STARS

*of the*  
**Chamber!**

a historical look at the  
Weatherford Chamber of Commerce  
Presented by the Weatherford Daily News



Celebrating the rich history and  
influence of our Chamber Super Stars!



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## Past Presidents

### Martha Sauer

Martha Sauer, owner of The Kloset, in Towne Centre Weatherford remembers her year as chamber president as one full of adventure and success saying the chamber generated more than \$250,000 in 1989.

Sauer's year was highlighted with 14 active committees who all understood they were not sitting on a board to build a resume but to work. She recalls board member Dick Anthony who was 3M plant manager at the time, arriving from a flight in a 3-piece suit and

expensive shoes.

"He immediately got into Weatherford grabbed a weed eater and trimmed the weeds around the rodeo arena so it would look nice before the rodeo starts, and in a 3-piece suit," Sauer said.

Sauer credited her hardworking board and committee chairs for all the success. She said it was a year of firsts with the first chamber rodeo, an education banquet featuring local scholars, just to name a few.

Her active committees included: Rodeo, Economic Development,

Ag-Business, Oil & Gas, Retail Trades, Senior Citizens, Spring Fest, Arts Festival, Education, Membership Development, Convention and Tourism, Health Education and Development, Community Affairs and Ambassadors.

Sauer said all-in-all it was a wonderful time in Weatherford.

"Just to see all the people out at the arts festival and numerous events just brought the community together in so many ways," Sauer added.



WDN  
**Martha Sauer presents Marion Davidson with the Hall of Fame Award for his service in 1989.**



# Past Presidents

## Tommy Nabors

The year I was president of the chamber, we had a dedicated board of directors who made it a point to be involved in the events of the chamber.

We began the annual car show as a fundraiser for the chamber and for the first several years contributed the proceeds back to the chamber.

This year we

celebrate our 30th year of the cruise and car show. The event now contributes all the proceeds to the DARE program in our public schools.

The chamber has made a significant impact on our entire community over the years. The chamber's success is due to the commitment of so many dedicated volunteers who love their community.



Tommy Nabors

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# Past Presidents

## *Bruce Magill*

Most memorable meetings during my year as president were centered around the question of “liquor by the drink.”

Custer County had placed the option of liquor by the drink on the 1986 ballot to be decided by voters. The chamber had many members on both sides of this issue, and some members felt very strongly the chambers should take

a public stand, either for or against the issue, depending on their beliefs.

We had several lengthy and lively board meetings to discuss the issue. Finally, the Board decided that rather than split the long-standing Weatherford Chamber of Commerce over the matter, we would remain neutral and let the voters decide.

Being an avid country

music fan, I distinctly remember the SWOSU live concert with “up and coming” Reba McEntire scheduled during my year as president. Of course, I felt it was important she be given a special Weatherford welcome. TG&Y, currently still operating in Weatherford, had scheduled a promotional personal appearance by Reba earlier

that afternoon in the store.

I contacted the manager and he allowed me to welcome her on behalf of the chamber and present her with a Weatherford Diamond Jubilee Belt Buckle. I will never forget how gracious she was, and the big kiss she planted on my cheek.

There isn’t room to mention all the reasons I am proud of Weatherford. I was born in Weatherford, so I remember it as it was in the 40s. I have seen so many wonderful changes in the past 70 years. I am extremely proud of

SWOSU and the positive influence the university has on our community.

Our public-school system is one of the best in the country and a chief reason so many young parents want to live and raise their families in Weatherford. Our city officials and our citizens supported three Yes campaigns allowing them to make significant improvements to Weatherford, with more to come. Historically, when there is a need or project with overall benefits to the City of Weatherford, the people support it.

Our Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation, with the help of the chamber, the City of Weatherford, and many dedicated volunteers, has promoted projects to significantly increase business and economic development in the city. Two 160-acre business and industrial parks have been developed and occupied. Recently the Weatherford Industrial Trust purchased an additional 70 acres currently under development. I am proud to live and serve in Weatherford.



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# Past Presidents

## Richard Ratcliffe

### Specific memories

I remember how much help Brian Adler, Chamber EVP and Gene Burch, Office Manager, were to all members and directors. They took care of the day to day business with ease.

First Pitch: The 89ers baseball team in Oklahoma City had community nights at the ball park, then at the fairgrounds. Weatherford night was June 1, 1985. The first pitch honor was very memorable. I threw a 100-mph fastball strike, as I remember.

Dr. John Huser was the traditional emcee for the chamber banquet. He would typically have the crowd laughing so hard the rest of the banquet was easy.

### Specific events

We tried to raise money to buy land for industrial development by "borrowing" from individuals. We made a note to repay each donor with interest.

We had an early morning meeting at the Mark Restaurant banquet room. The room was full of chamber members and guests. With pressure and by staying for one more round after round, we raised \$245,000.

As chamber president, I signed each note. It seemed really dumb at the time but it worked out fine. Most donors never called the note, they just donated the note to the chamber.

George Nigh invited

community chambers to the governor's mansion for a reception. Several from Weatherford went with Rose and I.

At that time in history, we would have an annual joint meeting with the Clinton chamber directors and officers. We found many areas of common interest and areas where we could work together.

Steve Stroud was the chair of the Parks Committee and their work began the process to add irrigation sprinklers to the golf course, Rader Park and the athletic fields. Irrigation at Rader Park has been a 40-year-long attribute for this city.

I wanted the chamber to be more political and take a stance on issues. There was reluctance from many members. We polled the membership in the spring to position us on an upcoming ballot on Liquor By The Drink.

The question for the membership was A. Support LBTD, B. Oppose LBTD, C. Stay out of endorsing either side. Wisely the position was to STAY OUT OF ENDORSING EITHER SIDE. LBTD did pass later that fall. We did become more political as time went on.

In 1985 my board of directors included Bruce Magill, president-elect, Ronnie Walker, immediate past president, John

Hays, treasurer. Board members were David Duncan, Joe Anna Hibler, Jane Karlin, Joe Martin, Jimmie McPhearson, Jack Sanders, Richard Soenen and David Williams. Also noted was Sheila Koch, on the Oil and Gas Golf Committee. She must have been about 6 years old then.

Lastly, in 1985 the Weatherford Chamber celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Weatherford chamber. That was the theme of the annual banquet.

### Proud of Weatherford

We have been very fortunate and I expect to be very fortunate in the future. It speaks well we had the right people in place to make the following events occur to make Weatherford successful in time.

1. Someone helped us acquire Southwestern State University.

2. The city voted to drilled water wells so Weatherford had soft water.

3. Someone was in the right place to make sure Interstate 40 came close to Weatherford.

4. Citizens, my mother and father Lee Ratcliffe included, raised money to start a Weatherford Hospital in the 1950s.

5. Someone was in the right place to get 3M plants to come to Weatherford.

• Please see **Ratcliffe**,  
Page 6

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## Ratcliffe

• Continued from Page 5

6. Someone was working to make Rader Park happen.

7. Someone was working to keep our downtown and community business vibrant.

8. Someone was working to keep our city government in excellent shape to provide city services at the top levels.

9. Someone was working to make the Interstate exits convenient for businesses like Fastlane, Cummins and Wal-Mart. It is impossible to mention all the items. There will be someone step up to see these type attributes come to Weatherford in the future.



*Provided*  
**The Chamber moved from City Hall to Towne Centre in partnership with SWOSU during Wes Magill's tenure as Chamber President.**

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# Past Presidents

## Brian Adler

### Commentary

We reached out to other communities in hoping to work on joint projects.

Clinton and Weatherford Area Chambers of Commerce hosted two luncheons that year for leaders in those cities. Sure appreciated the people who chaired 12 different committees.

We had a mayor's inauguration event to

finance Christmas lights around Weatherford.

I enjoyed the Civic Improvement Awards that were presented to businesses who made improvements to their business.

Also enjoyed the quarterly luncheons we hosted. One of those was with Burns Hargis, who now is president of Oklahoma State University. The Retail-Trades Committee gave away a car at

Christmas.

Weatherford is such a nice community. I have been fortunate to work at SWOSU, which is a huge part of Weatherford. Residents can take advantage of the many events which take place at SWOSU.

I like how Weatherford is progressive. I always have thought Weatherford is one of the best communities in Oklahoma.

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## Past Presidents *Phillip Reid*

WDN publisher Phillip Reid remembers his year, 1992, as chamber president was a year of progress and caring attitudes.

“It was remarkable how much volunteerism happened in Weatherford in a 12-month period. I would characterize the year as one of the most

progressive, growing years in Weatherford’s history. I felt like we were doing about four ribbon cuttings per week” Reid said.

Milan Davis chaired the arts festival and introduced the Charlie Brown workshop for kids. A reception honoring purchase

awards purchasers and artist was held at the T-Bone and was a lavish affair.

Other additions were a Mayfest, a Bluegrass Festival and an introduction to the World Championship Hog Calling Contest landing the winner on the Tonight Show.

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# Congratulations!

Weatherford Chamber  
for a successful 2019!



# Here's to 2020!



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WDN

Phillip Reid presents the Paragon Award to Linda Redinger.



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# Past Presidents

## *Wes Magill*

### Commentary

Two great memories which stand out for me from my year as chamber president:

The best banquet we've ever had.

Moving the chamber office from city hall to Towne Centre.

I brought in my brother and sister-in-law and their band from Tyler, Texas, and we had great entertainment from Matt and Megan Magill and their Johnny and June Carter Cash tribute show as we "Cashed in on Weatherford."

Moving the Chamber office from City Hall to Towne Centre was another excellent example of how this community and SWOSU work so well together. Rick Skinner and his crew did a great job finishing the inside of that facility and so many others from Ratcliffe's to Kay Tautfest helping furnish the inside of that location was just great community cooperation.

I'm most proud of Weatherford for the leadership of this community which

always has been forward thinking and progressive. We have a lot of great things in this community because someone had a "crazy" idea once upon a time and we passionate about seeing it completed.

There have been ideas that seemed "out of bounds" before but I'm so thankful for them now. As we look to the renewal of the Yes, Weatherford vote, I would encourage all to vote yes and keep that progressive momentum going in this great community.



Wes Magill



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# Past Presidents *Herschel Brewster*

## Commentary

A real effort was put forth to unite our community to a degree we offered some to participate in the chamber events who were not members.

My goal for doing this was if they could see or feel the positive effect the chamber could have they would be a member forever.

Of course this drew a lot of criticism from many however we forged ahead and several did join after seeing the benefits. This helped the chamber for many years to come as we gained several new active members.

We started the Past Presidents reception which is being hosted before the chamber banquet. This turned into quite a event and continues today.

This brought that group of people together to visit and more importantly it has been a foundation of leaders when we needed to get a project started or completed we begin with this group.

Many leaders in this group are pro-business and pro Weatherford. A group who is very important to keep active in our community.

Weatherford has always been very progressive and proactive for businesses.

We continue to have a very progressive city government which has looked to the future in the past and continues to do that today. We must continue to be the progressive city in Western Oklahoma.

By doing this we will continue to be the Hub of Western Oklahoma. I love having a business in

Weatherford. I don't know of another city on Interstate 40 I would rather be located in.



**SWOSU salutes the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce & is pleased to salute the many successes of the past presidents of the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce**

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