

  
**HONORING THE LEGACY**  
BUILDING THE FUTURE

a campaign for the National Western Center



Photo Credit Tommy Collier

## Personal Message from Pete

This past Friday, May 17, Pat Grant stepped down as chairman of the Western Stock Show Association. Doug Jones, who has served as vice chairman, has stepped up to fill Pat's sizable boots as chair; WSSA board member Barth Witham became vice chairman.



Looks like simple leadership transition among devoted and passionate supporters. To me, it's a little more personal.

You see, I've known Pat since we were kids. We often refer to each other as "brothers from a different mother." The first time I rode bareback was with him – at a place they called Grant Farm. It's where Pat spent his youth, working the hay fields and ranching. It's a Littleton subdivision now, but to me, its agricultural legacy.

Pat went on to earn an undergraduate degree in history from Colgate University, an MBA from the University of Denver, and a JD from Drake University. He became a successful attorney and Colorado state representative. Along the way, he joined the Stock Show's executive committee – later to evolve into the WSSA board – and in 1991 became the WSSA's chairman and CEO, a role he embraced with heart and soul for nearly two decades. He oversaw a vast expansion of the Stock Show events calendar, the creation of today's Events Center and Expo Hall, and with help from his mom, Mary Belle Grant, the launch of the Coors Western Art Exhibit & Sale starting in 2000.

By then, Pat had long since brought me into the National Western fold. It hadn't been a tough sell: beer is an agricultural product, and I had been coming to the National Western since before I was riding bareback with Pat. Plus we share a deep love for the West and its heritage.

Pat passed the CEO baton in 2010, but he stayed on as WSSA board chairman and has been a forceful proponent of expanding and reimagining the National Western Complex into what will be the new National Western Center. What has driven him to work so hard, for so long, for the National Western is simple: he wants to preserve and celebrate Western heritage in a world where most of us live in cities and suburbs, and in which few put much thought into where our sustenance comes from.

Pat has long focused on the National Western's educational mission in particular. As he once told a local magazine, "Young people come and learn how to connect with animals, and to begin to understand what it means to drink milk that is from a cow and not just something you buy in the grocery store."

Words can't express the gratitude I feel for Pat's incredible contributions. He'll always be a treasured friend. And, selfishly, I am pleased he will remain a vice chairman of our campaign!



Now, a few words about Doug Jones and Barth Witham, the two extraordinarily dedicated, talented men we're fortunate to have leading the WSSA board.

Doug is owner and president of the Jones Realty Group, a commercial real estate investment service firm, and he's a longtime business and civic leader in Colorado. The Texas native has volunteered for the National Western for nearly 30 years, starting as a Stock Show volunteer after Pat got him involved. He has been instrumental in the genesis of the National Western Center and to this capital campaign. As he recently put it, "This is a development that is second to none and transformational beyond comprehension. It's going to change Denver, the West, and the world."

It happens that Barth and Doug go way back, too, if not quite as far back as Pat and I: their daughters ran high school cross country and track together. Barth, who grew up on a Kansas ranch, is president and CEO of Enduring Resources. He's been coming to the Stock Show since the 1980s, though his commute has shortened since settling in Denver after graduating from the Colorado School of Mines with a degree in engineering and a master's in economics.

The board has benefitted immensely from Doug's and Barth's energy and expertise, and I know we're in good hands with their leadership in the years ahead.

As I reflect on these three, I can't help but to be in awe of the kind of time, talent, treasury, grit and heart they put into National Western. We are, indeed, a blessed organization.



This month we are pleased to highlight the Boswell Family from here in Denver. Bob and Rhonda Boswell, along with Amanda and Chase Boswell, have named a fire pit in the Legacy Building. The Boswells are longtime supporters of the National Western, and continue to be: Bob is a National Western member; Amanda co-chairs the Coors Western Art Exhibit and Sale and is on the WSSA's Development Committee; and Chase is a Citizen of the West Committee trustee and serves on the Development Committee, too.

"The code and culture of the West is something we were raised on," Amanda said. "It instilled great values centered around how to treat people and the lands that sustain us. We hope that the new National Western Center will serve as a bridge showing future generations how that culture has evolved and how important those values remain today."



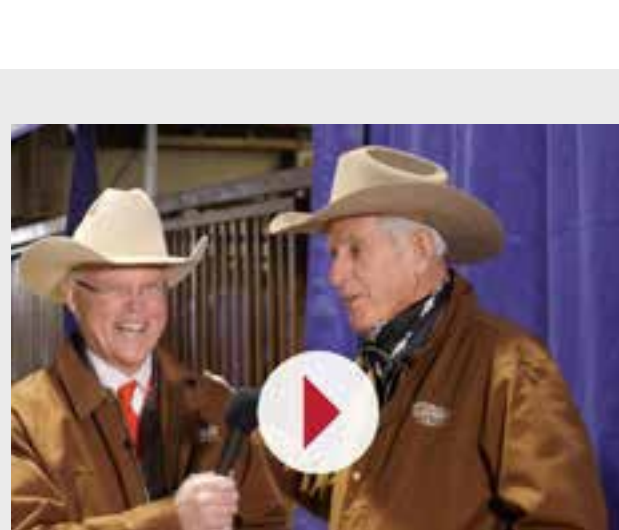
### Campaign Update and The NEXT 100

To date, we have gifts and pledges of more than \$50MM. As I mentioned last month, I have set a goal of getting to 200 donors by June 30, but I can only do that if all of you help! Please consider being a part of the "NEXT 100," as I am calling this group who will get us to that mark. You can go online and make your gift [here](#); you can send a check or credit card payment to the address found at the bottom of this newsletter; you can meet with me, any of the Vice Chairs, or Capital Campaign Committee members (you can find a complete list of members [here](#)); or you can call campaign director Angela Lieurance at 303-919-5214 and she will be happy to help you.

**A gift of any amount will get you invited to an end-of-summer happy hour I'll be hosting.**

### Stock Show 2019 Highlight Video

Hope you enjoyed last month's video interview with Aaron Ralston, a fine young horseman and all-around National Western fan we met during the 2019 Stock Show. If you missed it, you can always see it over on our [YouTube channel](#). This month, we've got not one, but two videos. The first is of Pat Grant and me [sharing some stories and laughs](#) while reflecting on old times together and the ambitious plans for the National Western Center. The second has two other old friends – Doug Jones and Barth Witham – [describing](#) their histories with the National Western and what has driven them to take on the leadership of the WSSA board. We are clearly in good hands.



### To be one of the NEXT 100, send your gift to:

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For news, updates and more on the Honoring the Legacy campaign for the National Western, visit

[honoringthelegacycampaign.com](http://honoringthelegacycampaign.com)