



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR® ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

OKLAHOMA CITY – “The Oklahoma State Fair Board of Directors has recently added three prominent Oklahoma business leaders to their ranks with the unanimous approval by its members of Willa Johnson, Peter B. Delaney, and J. Blake Wade” announced Board Chairman Clayton I. Bennett.

“The Oklahoma State Fair® has benefitted immensely from the strong leadership of its board of directors dating back to its inception in 1907,” Bennett commented. “It is a privilege for us to welcome, to the board, these outstanding individuals who are true leaders in the business community. It is an exciting time for us as we continue to move forward with our renovations and the transformation of State Fair Park into a 21st Century destination tourism attraction. We look forward, with great anticipation, to the involvement of Willa, Peter, and Blake in this process.”

Biographical Information

In 2007, Willa Johnson was selected Oklahoma County Commissioner: District One. Prior to her current position, Willa served as Oklahoma City Ward 7 Representative for the past thirteen years. During her tenure, Willa’s instrumental leadership was evidenced through several projects and economic development for the residents in Ward 7 and the greater Oklahoma City community. The revitalization project of NE 23rd, as well as other projects in the NE community, shows Willa’s ongoing commitment to the NE OKC community. Willa’s focus on economic development resulted in the location of several major businesses such as, CVS Pharmacy, Sonic Drive-In, Hollywood Video, and Tinsel Town Theater. Additionally, her economic development focus led to the redevelopment of the Jimmy Steward Golf Course and Driving Range, renovation of Douglas Community Center, and a new fishing lake at Edwards Park.

Willa has also been a significant community leader throughout Oklahoma City. Commissioner Johnson currently serves as a trustee, member, and board member on several committees. Willa’s trustee positions include OKC Zoo Trust, Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, and Oklahoma health Foundation. Her member duties include the Oklahoma Municipal League, National league of City, and NLC Advisory Council. As a board member, Willa acts as Vice-President for the ACOG, YMCA Achievers, and the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Commissioner Johnson is chairperson of the Neighborhood Conservation Committee and maintains an active role with Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS) today.

Pete Delaney currently serves as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Oklahoma City-based OGE Energy Corp., the parent company of OG&E, a regulated electric utility, and Enogex, a midstream natural gas pipeline business. Prior to joining OGE Energy, Pete completed a 15-year investment banking career on Wall

Street. Pete specialized in corporate finance and other advisory services to electric and natural gas utilities and other energy companies in the United States, Europe and South America.

Pete also actively contributes as a member of several community and industry boards throughout Oklahoma City. His member duties include Allied Arts, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, United Way of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation, Association of Edison Illuminating Companies and Edison Electric Institute. Additionally, Pete received his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in business administration from Tulane University.

J. Blake Wade began his duties as the first director of the Oklahoma Capitol Complex and Centennial Commemoration Commission August 1, 1999. In preparation for Oklahoma's 2007 centennial commemoration of statehood, Blake's duties included overseeing preparations, working with the 42 members of the Centennial Commission, and implementing a statewide master plan for last year's gala event.

Prior to serving as the first director of the Oklahoma Capitol Complex and Centennial Commemoration, Blake graduated with a B.A. in journalism from the University of Oklahoma. He then served 20 years in the U.S. Army, starting as a second lieutenant, specializing in communications between both the Army and Air Force and Army and Navy, and later retiring as a major. Upon leaving the army in 1984, Wade began a second career in service to the state of Oklahoma. His accomplishments included becoming president of the central Oklahoma Racing Association and Golden Valley Thoroughbred Corporation, the development of Remington Park Racetrack, and most recently director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Blake maintains an active role as a board member on several organizations.

The board also re-elected the following officers: Clayton I. Bennett, chairman of the Oklahoma State Fair Board of Directors; Ronald J. Norick, first vice chairman; G. Jeffrey Records Jr., treasurer and Tim O'Toole, president and general manager. Ms. Angela McKinzie was also asked to continue to serve as the corporate secretary. Luke R. Corbett, who has previously served as a regular board member, was named to the Honorary Board in recognition of his long service to the Oklahoma State Fair®.

The Oklahoma State Fair Board of Directors oversees Oklahoma State Fair, Inc., which is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation that serves the people of Oklahoma and is dedicated to continuing the organization's heritage of education, entertainment and economic development through the operation of State Fair Park and the annual Oklahoma State Fair®.