

# 2019 League May Newsletter



2019 Facility of the Year Winner – South Point Arena and Equestrian Center

*Welcome to the May issue of The League News!* The year is nearly halfway through, and it is already time to mark your calendars for the 2020 League Symposium and Footing Academy. Plan to join us in Asheville, North Carolina for the League Footing Academy (Jan. 17-18) at WNC Agricultural Center and the League Symposium (Jan. 19-22) at the Crowne Plaza Asheville.

Applications are now open for our [scholarship program](#) along with nominations for our [special awards](#)! The League **Scholarship Program** recognizes League members or potential members who are interested in expanding their education in the facility management industry, but whose facility may lack the resources to send an applicant to The League's Annual Symposium or The League Footing Academy. The deadline to apply for scholarships is September 15, 2019.

Meanwhile, the **Facility of the Year Award** is based on operational excellence as well as professional development, safety and security, and service to one's community and the **Hall of Fame Award** recognizes an individual who has rendered invaluable service to the equine facility management industry. The deadline to apply for awards is September 30, 2019.

We hope you enjoy reading the bi-monthly League e-Newsletter! Stay tuned for important updates, fun board member profiles, and informational reviews throughout the year. Read on for a feature article on the May Footing Academy, a profile on new board member Jay Brower, a highlight on our sponsor Chute Help, and much more.

---

## Welcome New Members

<https://langershows.sharepoint.com/sites/LangerGroup/Shared Documents/Company Files/LEG Up/League Ag Equest Ctrs/2019/League May.docx>

We are happy to welcome the following new member to The League. We hope you take full advantage of all your membership has to offer:

- McKenzie Conner, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami, OK
- Gary Heath, Ford Idaho Center, Nampa, ID
- Steven Canon, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

---

## Summer 2019 League Footing Academy



The [Dripping Springs Ranch Park and Event Center](#) hosted the Summer 2019 Footing Academy 101 on May 21-22 in Dripping Springs, TX and there were nearly 30 participants who attended.

“I had wanted to have a Footing Academy here in Texas because there are a lot of members in the area,” explained League Board Member Lynne Dickinson who runs the Dripping Springs Ranch Park. “We had attendees from Texas, Arizona, Missouri, and South Carolina.”

First-time Footing Academy attendees received a valuable education. “All of the students brought samples of footing from their facilities,” said Jeffery Storms, one of the instructors at the Footing Academy. “We gave them feedback on their footing and ideas on how they might best make changes to improve their footing. We covered the basic types of soil, moisture levels, and depths that are required based on specific disciplines.”

Students also had the opportunity to hear from various speakers about the importance of footing, including an equine veterinarian and a few horse show managers. “Our speakers added some great information,” Jeffery said. “The veterinarian explained how footing affects the soundness of a horse. The horse show managers spoke to the importance of good footing and how it can make or break your facility economically.”

It was a great experience overall with lots of learning. “The group was very interactive, and it felt like everyone learned from the experience,” Jeffery added. “I enjoyed sharing my knowledge and helping people learn about improving their footing.”



## New Board Member Profile: Jay Brower



*Meet Jay Brower!* Jay has been the Fairgrounds Manager of the Sublette County Fairgrounds for about nine years and has been a member of The League since 2012.

“I grew up on a ranch in Idaho and showed horses in AQHA,” Jay said. “I also did rodeos and rode saddle broncs. I was working as a journeyman electrician at the Sublette County Fairgrounds, and the manager was retiring. The manager found out about horse background, electrical license, and experience in the fair industry, and he suggested I apply for the job. I’ve been there ever since.”

When Jay first joined The League, he made instant connections and had a wonderful experience at The League Footing Academy 101. “We were looking to grow our events and improve our facility,” he

<https://langershows.sharepoint.com/sites/LangerGroup/Shared Documents/Company Files/LEG Up/League Ag Equest Ctrs/2019/League May.docx>

recounted. “I called the Wyoming State Fair and they encouraged us to join The League. As soon as we joined, I attended the Footing Academy 101 and it opened a whole new world for me.”

“I met someone who worked at The South Point Arena and Equestrian Center who was originally from Wyoming,” Jay shared. “We instantly connected through conversation. I ended up flying to Las Vegas to observe him doing changeovers in his arena from panels to dirt. It was a huge connection that I wouldn’t have been able to make without The League.”

Jay decided to run for the board this year to get more involved and help promote The League. “I love the direction The League is going, and I wanted to be more involved. I’m on the footing and biosecurity committees,” he said. “My goal is to encourage people to attend the events and create personal relationships with the members.”

“The value of what The League has to offer is huge—from dirt to biosecurity. I’ve also enjoyed visiting venues through The League Symposiums. Being a member of The League is well worth it for anyone interested in making valuable connections and learning.”

---

## The League Scholarship Program

### An Interview with Michelle White



Last year The League launched its inaugural scholarship program and Michelle White was grateful to be one of the first recipients. The League Scholarship Program recognizes members or potential members who are interested in expanding their education in the facility management industry through attending The League’s Annual Symposium or Footing Academy.

Michelle received a scholarship from The League, allowing her the opportunity her to travel to the 2019 League Symposium in Tulsa, OK. “Our facility is a tiny, privately owned equestrian center in a town of only 3,000 people,” explained Michelle of the Celebration Center and Bar K Arena in Lyons, KS. “We only

have three employees, so everyone pitches in. We are not government funded and without this scholarship our facility could not have afforded to send me to the Symposium nor send our facility manager to the Footing Academy.”

Michelle took away a wealth of knowledge from the experience of attending The 2019 League Symposium. “It was great being able to interact with other people who manage facilities. Regardless if you have 50 stalls or 5,000 stalls, as facility managers we all have similar issues and concerns,” she said. “I’ve received useful information and answers I could not get from anywhere else. It was inspiring to visit the large facilities as well. The entire Symposium was well-organized, and everyone was very welcoming.”

“I have so much appreciation for the scholarship and being able to attend The League Symposium,” Michelle added. “It was a huge learning experience and I made great connections.”

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship to attend the 2020 League Symposium or Footing Academy, click [here](#) for more information.

---

## Upcoming League Footing Academy and Symposium Dates

### Winter 2020 League Footing Academy

- Jan 17-18, 2020
- [WNC Agricultural Center](#)

### The 2020 League Symposium

- Jan 19-22, 2020
- [Crowne Plaza Hotel](#), 1 Resort Dr, Asheville, NC 28806

---

## Upcoming Forum Dates

- **June 5, 2019:** Facility Safety
- **August 7, 2019:** Emergency Preparedness
- **October 2, 2019:** Hay and Bedding
- **October 4, 2019:** Marketing and Social Media

The League Forum is a bi-monthly round table teleconference sponsored by The League. Every other month a topic will be announced. Interested participants are asked to sign up through The League office: [info@laec.info](mailto:info@laec.info) or 859-887-0033. A dial-in number and passcode will be sent the day prior to the call. It is not a toll-free call. Long distance charges will accrue depending on your telephone calling plan. Each call will be moderated by a board member or CMEC graduate. Experts may be included on the call to give their knowledge of the specific topic. Be sure to mark your calendars and contact The League office if you wish to be on a call.

**<button: Click here for a full list of upcoming events>**

## 2019 Symposium Review

Stay tuned throughout the year for useful re-caps and takeaways from our 2019 League Symposium.

*How to Write a Rock-Solid Contract*

*by Melissa Westfall of Hilborne & Weidman*



Attorney Melissa Westfall joined us at the 2019 League Symposium to lead a session on contract writing. Melissa offered a variety of tips to consider when renting out your facility:

- A contract traditionally consists of three key parts: 1) Offer 2) Acceptance 3) Consideration
- Don't use a one-size fit all contract.
- If you are leasing out an event space, consider how many people are they having and how many people are you allowed to have in your facility.
- Consider fire codes and potential property damage.
- Know the lessee's requirements and your own limitations.
- Remember to review insurance requirements.

<https://langershows.sharepoint.com/sites/LangerGroup/Shared Documents/Company Files/LEG Up/League Ag Equest Ctrs/2019/League May.docx>

- Have a plan in place for emergencies.
- Question everything in your contract!

## Sponsor Highlight: Chute Help

### *An Interview with Chad Dickey*



A new member of The League this year, Chute Help is an innovative company creating roping arena accessories to improve facility efficiency and operation.

“We have created a brand-new style of product for the roping industry,” explained Sales Representative Chad Dickey. “We designed a [fully automatic roping chute](#) that doesn’t require electricity nor compressed air. Instead, the system runs on a battery charged by solar power. It is self-loading and operated by a weight system. When the animal steps into the shoot, a weight system triggers the back-gate to close. When the roper is ready to go, someone pushes the button on the remote control.”

Aside from their automatic roping shoots, Chute Help also makes manual roping shoots and a plethora of other products. “We offer full area packages, including various types of automatic and manual roping shoots, gates, panels and cattle holding pens,” he said. “Our goal is to meet the needs of our customers and we are continuously working on expanding our product line.”

As a sponsor of The League, Chute Help attended The League 2019 Symposium in Tulsa, Oklahoma and had the opportunity to make valuable connections. “I was able to meet new people and new things,” Chad explained. “Through attending the Symposium, I met many people who run facilities across the United States, and it was a great opportunity. I’m looking forward to attending the League Symposium again next year!” To learn more about Chute Help and its products, click [here](#).

####