



The mission is to preserve the heritage of the Chuck Wagon.

American Chuck Wagon Association July 2023 President Message

July marks the end of the first months of the year and beginning of the last months of the year. July represents vacations, harvest, ball games, reunions, fairs, and all other kinds of summer activities. Typically, chuck wagon cooking slows down because of the hot temperatures which gives us a mid-year break to repair, refurbish, and re-group for upcoming fall activities. July for me means cutting hay, spraying weeds, fixing fences – and this year, hauling water for livestock. It is a busy, busy time of the year!

ACWA has a Board of Directors made up of 9 volunteers dedicated to taking care of everything necessary to run the association. ACWA also has several Standing Committees that work with the Board of Directors to enhance the association and activities. One of the Standing Committees is the Scholarship, Education and Youth Cook Off Committee. I would like to acknowledge the work of this Committee. The Committee was formed in 2008 and one of the tasks of the Committee is to solicitate scholarship applications from graduating seniors and current college students with family connections [through membership] to ACWA. The Committee reviews and verifies information for scholarship applications as they undergo the process of narrowing down the number of applications. The goal is to award 1 or 2 of the \$1,000 scholarships per year. Since 2008, ACWA has awarded 68 scholarships. It takes a great deal of time and dedication each year. Brian Frankum has been in charge of the Committee since 2014. Brian and the Committee work tirelessly to improve the scholarship application process and get as many youth and families involved as possible. If you get the opportunity, please tell the Committee members how much we appreciate their hard work.

One of the activities of the Scholarship Committee is raising money for scholarships. This activity involves all members of the ACWA as we strive to award scholarships each year. Memorial donations to the Scholarship Fund are always a great way to honor people. But the Scholarship Auction at the ACWA Annual Meeting in November is another great way to raise money. Items for the Scholarship Auction are donated by ACWA members for a silent auction in addition to a live auction. Let us be honest – the auction is more fun than should be allowed at any event. ACWA members “dig” through their treasures and donate cooking items, gently used clothing, original art items, antiques, and awesome vintage items. Items donated include cook books, lanterns, bean pots, wooden spoons & utensils, handmade quilts, wagon seats, blacksmith items, and much more. I encourage – actually, challenge – you to start thinking about the items you could donate to the Scholarship Fund auctions. Let us see what we can place on the auction block to not only raise money for the Scholarship Fund but for the enjoyment of everyone attending and bidding. There is a Dutch oven that I am tired of tripping over in the barn

John Conway
2023 ACWA President