



Dear Rudder Association Member,

The Spirit of Aggieland lives in each of us here at The Rudder Association, from old Ags to fish Jones. We were born as a grass roots effort to defend our university from false accusations and attacks by the woke campus movement and a complicit president and certain faculty. The statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross was targeted as a symbol of the heritage and character which the movement so despised.

As word traveled, the organization grew to over a thousand dues paying members and an avid following on The Rudder Association Facebook page. The impact TRA has had on this campus in such a short period of time could hardly be overstated. What a difference a year makes when we stand together!

But the price of freedom is eternal vigilance and we must continue to maintain an office and part time staff to support conservative organizations, serve our membership, and spread our message to the university community. The Rudder Association is approaching its one and a half year anniversary. There are over 500 members on the Facebook page, 1,000 paid members overall, and volunteers are lining up to help. Read more at www.TheRudderAssociation.org

As a gift to early members we stretched the initial year of dues past a year and fixed the renewal period as January 1 of each year. **We are asking that you go to the website listed above and renew your membership. Please consider expanding your membership from annual membership to a \$250 lifetime membership.**

In recent years, we have seen the "specialness" of Texas A&M chipped away, little by little. Now we know **WE** must preserve that special spirit all Texans recognize as Texas A&M.

Please ask yourself: "IF NOT US, THEN WHO? IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?"

The Rudder Association is completely separate from The Texas A&M University System. This structure allows us to be a truly independent watch-dog on your campus. Please join us as we stand and speak for you on the issues you care most about.

You may reach us at Admin@rudderassociation.org or 979-325-2411.

Gig em!

Joe Bourgeois

Joe Bourgeois '89

President

**"PUT THE 'AGGIE' BACK IN AGGIELAND"
TOGETHER, "We are The Aggies, the Aggies are We"**

SAVE THE DATE!! 3/5/2022 Annual Members Meeting!!

Email: Admin@rudderassociation.org

OFFICE: 979-325-2411



Website: therudderassociation.org

The Rudder Association End of Year 2021 Report

University Leadership

- We have a new president, Dr. Katherine Banks, who has forcefully stated her love for Texas A&M and its world class traditions. She has taken the helm and welcomed TRA to a place at the table where your voice will always be heard. The Rudder Association is in close contact and meets monthly with Dr. Banks. We are standing by as she begins making reforms to our school and its structure.
- TRA has already interacted with five of the nine members of the A&M System's Board of Regents and will be reaching out to the others to ensure that your concerns about the future of Texas A&M are expressed unequivocally and are being shared with decision makers at the highest levels.
- General Joe Ramirez '79 has been appointed as the interim Vice President for Student Affairs and has worked closely with TRA on several areas including reforms of fish camp and scholarship support for cadets.
- The Vice-President for Marketing and Communications has welcomed TRA's input to ensure that Texas A&M's branding accurately reflects and actively promotes our values.

Student Impact

- No Aggie tradition is more important than Fish Camp in molding the next generation of Aggies. But in recent years many Aggie parents and former students have lost faith in this institution. Working groups from TRA and The Sul Ross Group identified serious deficiencies in the Fish Camp agenda and leadership selection process and reported these to General Ramirez. New processes for selecting student leaders and a renewed focus on Aggie traditions and history will now be implemented.
- The Corps must grow if our core values, Aggie spirit, and vital traditions are to continue. TRA lobbied President Banks and Vice-President Ramirez to restore the in-state tuition waivers for cadets which had been rescinded under the last administration--and they restored the previous cuts! More information on this and the *Patriot Scholarships* to come.
- TRA has met with the Athletic Director to strongly express our concerns with some student athlete's divisive political activism under the guise of "unity". A Fish Camp type experience for athletes is being discussed to make sure student athletes are as well versed in Aggie traditions and values as the 12th Man.
- TRA met with the university's chief operating officer to share your concerns that Covid-19 tests and quarantines should not lead to draconian restrictions on student academic, social and leadership opportunities this past year.
- Scholarships to deserving students have been awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing traditional Aggie values in an effective way to their peers. These were individually donated by TRA members and did not come from the TRA treasury.
- TRA has defended the speech rights of students who have encountered resistance from some members of the university bureaucracy.
- TRA has sponsored like-minded student organizations such as the Aggie Rugby Team and Texas A&M's Young Americans for Freedom which planted 2,977 American flags on Simpson Drill Field in coordination with the Athletic Department's Red White and Blue 20-year commemoration.
- TRA saw to it that a recently implemented program involving racially segregated dorms was cancelled.

Education and Membership

- TRA publishes articles in support of conservative reforms to its members, Texas A&M administrators, and the larger Aggie community in traditional, electronic and social media formats such as our Facebook page: The Rudder Association Portal--<https://www.facebook.com/groups/401483437993685>
- Meetings with other local representatives and influential legislators are continuing.
- Updated by-laws and 501c3 application will ensure that TRA is the most respected and valued organization you could entrust with your resources and good name.
- Hired an accounting firm to create and file budgets as part of our 501c3 filing with the state.
- Selected a respected accountant to be our treasurer as part of our "two-deep" integrity.

All accomplished with thousands of hours of volunteer work from the like-minded Aggies on your TRA board and other selfless members. TRA has only **one part-time employee** and operates on a **shoestring budget**. While much has been accomplished, much work remains to be done. What we value most is your membership and engagement. Without that, the TRA would no longer have the moral authority to influence the critical issues facing Texas A&M and our larger culture.

12/13/21
Accrual Basis

The Rudder Association
Budget
January through December 2022

	<u>Jan - Dec 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Donations - Individuals	46,200.00
In-Kind Donations (non-cash)	27,000.00
Membership Dues	<u>45,000.00</u>
Total Income	<u>118,200.00</u>
Gross Profit	118,200.00
Expense	
Contract Services	46,420.00
Directors & Officers Liability	1,860.00
Marketing	16,000.00
Meetings & Conferences	3,000.00
Office Expenses	3,000.00
PayPal Fees	1,020.00
Postage	5,400.00
Printing & Copying	6,800.00
Rent	16,200.00
Repairs & Maintenance	3,600.00
Telecommunications	3,840.00
Travel Expense	<u>144.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>107,284.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>10,916.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>10,916.00</u></u>