

February 15, 2017 Contact: Cynthia Cates cynthia@servnetauctions.com 916.813.9650

ServNet's Board of Directors Makes Way for Next Generation

Take a look around the room at ServNet's next meeting of its Board of Directors, and you'll notice something striking: all but two of the seats are filled by next generation auction owners. While the Board

is led by first-generation owners Kevin Brown (Missouri Auto Auction) and Patty Stanley (Indiana and Carolina Auto Auctions), the remaining five seats are filled by owners who have followed their parents into the auction business and have developed into strong, capable, visionary leaders in their own right, as they continue the pattern set by their parents in building the family



businesses. The next generation owners serving on ServNet's Board of Directors are Eric Autenrieth (Carolina Auto Auction), Beth Barber (State Line Auto Auction), Steve DeLuca (Auto Auction of New England), Ashley Dietze (San Antonio Auto Auction), and Rob Thompson (Mid-State Auto Auction).

"If there is one theme that I can see in the independent auction community and certainly within the ServNet group of auctions, it is to maintain consistency through Transition," says Pierre Pons, ServNet's CEO. "ServNet benefits a great deal from the contributions that Eric Autenrieth, Beth Barber, Steve DeLuca, Ashley Dietze and Rob Thompson make as they serve on the board. Their participation helps ensure the vitality, longevity and strength of our organization."



Eric Autenrieth Carolina Auto Auction

Eric Autenrieth, currently ServNet's Vice President/Treasurer and set to take the reins as President in 2018, admits that he has learned from the best, and looks with awe at the many accomplishments of his parents, Patty and Henry Stanley, both members of the NAAA Hall of Fame and both having served in numerous industry leadership positions.

"My parents set the bar high, says Autenrieth. "They have built two great auctions, and have made tremendous contributions to the auction industry. I

grew up watching them work and serve, and have been inspired by all they do. What an opportunity and a privilege it is to follow them in this great industry and in a dynamic family business."

"It's often said that life is a race," says Autenrieth. "Some people are sprinters; some are in it for the long haul like marathon runners. But as one of the 'next generation', I look at life in this business as a relay, with traditions, experiences, and knowledge being passed from one generation to the next. That kind of process is important in any family-owned business, and is at the heart of the many multi-generational auctions that are part of ServNet."

Beth Barber. one of the newest members of ServNet's board of Directors, grew up at the auction, accompanying her father, Jeff Barber, to State Line Auto Auction in the summers during middle school and high school to learn the various aspects of auction operations. Today, in partnership with her father Jeff, brother Paul, and sister Emily, Beth focuses on auction administration, with responsibilities in payroll, accounting and employee training.



Beth Barber State Line Auto Auction

"I love the auction business, and am excited to participate on an industry level," says Barber. "State Line Auto Auction is a founding member of ServNet, and the Barber family is extremely proud of its success and impact on the remarketing industry."

Barber asserts that the 'next generation' brings fresh eyes and a slightly different perspective to ServNet's Board of Directors.

"We have witnessed first-hand the hard work and sacrifices our parents have made to build successful businesses. We are determined to carry on what they have started, to continue to prosper, to be innovative and to grow in a sustainable way."



Steve DeLuca Auto Auction of New England

Steve DeLuca is the general manager at Auto Auction of New England in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Although one of the younger general managers of a major auction facility, he had already gained a lifetime of experience in auction operations, having worked at the auction part time and summers since he was twelve years old. Named one of Auto Remarketing's '40 under 40' for 2015 in recognition of industry and community leadership, DeLuca also serves as president-elect of the Easter Chapter of the National Auto Auction Association.

"When I was named General Manager at AANE, I was mindful of what an honor it was to step into running a business with such a positive reputation in the industry, and that was built by my family on such a strong foundation. I've benefited from having the backing of my family, as well as from the support of long-time employees and customers with whom I've build relationships over the years."

"As I work to build on the legacy established by my family, I am privileged to collaborate with other auction owners on ServNet's Board of Directors," DeLuca went on. "It is an exciting opportunity to work in league with such a strong peer group on behalf of all the auctions in the ServNet group."



Ashley Dietze San Antonio Auto Auction

Ashley Dietze, daughter of Walker Auction Group founder Wade Walker, serves as Fleet/Lease Manager at San Antonio Auto Auction. She, too, began working in the family business at a young age, and she learned the ropes from her father at the Corpus Christi Auto Auction. She made her mark, however, when the Walker Auction Group opened a greenfield operation in San Antonio in 2010, which, thanks to her tireless energy and contribution, has experienced unrelenting growth since the day it opened its doors.

"Working in a family owned business is an absolute blessing," says Dietze. "I'm not only surrounded by my parents, but I get to work with my husband, my brother and my sister, along with countless employees that I consider family as well. While some might think working in a family business to be a walk in the park, I demand a lot from myself because it's so much more than just a job. I want to do my absolute best to build on my parents' legacy, to honor their ethics and values, and ensure the continued success of our auctions."

"There is so much to be learned from the other ServNet Auction owners, and I think that this collaboration is a huge advantage in today's business climate," said Dietze. "I consider it a privilege sit on ServNet's Board of Directors, and to continue the work started by those who have served in this capacity before me to build on ServNet's reputation for unmatched service and industry leadership."

Rob Thompson is a second-generation owner of Mid-State Auto Auction, which was founded in 1983 by his father, Robert E. Thompson. Rob joined his father in the business after graduating from college in 1986, and assumed responsibilities as sole owner two years ago when his father retired. Rob credits his father with extraordinary business acumen in building a thriving business in the small community of New York Mills, Minnesota, which today operates as an ultra-modern, four lane facility and has emerged as one of the region's leading auctions.



Rob Thompson Mid-State Auto Auction

"I'm one of the older members of ServNet's 'next generation', but am inspired to be part of a group that has such a strong stake in the auction industry and so much passion for the business. I admire the skills the younger members of the board bring to the table: their understanding of technology and social media which is becoming a bigger and bigger factor in the business world, their inventive ideas, and their determination to work together to accomplish great things."

"The active involvement of ServNet's owners is another indication of ServNet's strength and leadership," said Pons. "We are excited to see the standard set by the ServNet auction founders being passed on to succeeding generations, as they follow in their parents' footsteps in giving their time and energy on behalf of ServNet and the auction industry. The continued leadership of the ServNet auction owners will ensure the continued success of the independent auction community."