



Seed Trade Association of Arizona

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On behalf of the Seed Trade Association of Arizona, it is my distinct honor to extend a warm invitation to our 32nd Annual Convention, set against the backdrop of the stunning Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona, on May 2nd and 3rd, 2024.

Under the theme of "Cultivating Tomorrow: Young Leaders in Seeds," we are thrilled to welcome all facets of the seed industry from the desert southwest. This convention serves not only as a platform for our industry's collaboration but also as a testament to our commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders in agriculture.

Our bylaws mandate our dedication to developing robust seed programs, advocating for our members in legislative matters, and disseminating crucial industry information. Additionally, we take pride in our voluntary efforts to support scholarships for students pursuing careers in agriculture. These young minds represent the future of our industry and guiding them is paramount to ensuring our collective success well into the 22nd century.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our esteemed Board of Directors, Committee members, and Ex-Officio members for their tireless dedication in fulfilling our association's mandates. Special thanks also go to Kathy Startt, whose unwavering commitment ensures the relevance and impact of our association's work.

For those arriving on Wednesday, we invite you to join us for a relaxing social event, where cocktails and engaging conversations await. It's a perfect opportunity to reconnect with old friends and forge new connections before our busy agenda begins.

Our Thursday meeting program promises to be enlightening and informative, featuring esteemed speakers from various institutions including the Arizona Crop Improvement Association, University of Arizona, American Seed Trade Association, and the Arizona Department of Agriculture. Our featured speaker, Dr. Shane Burgess, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences, promises to inspire and educate.

Thursday evening, we will gather for our hosted reception and convention dinner, where we will celebrate our Honorary member and engage in our annual raffle & silent auction, a cornerstone event that significantly contributes to our scholarship fund. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Jason Howe for his efforts in organizing the auction and to all the generous companies that contribute items.

On Friday, following our meeting, we have planned events for all members. For those seeking leisure, my wife Kathy will be hosting a delightful Paint and Sip on the resort patio. And for our golf enthusiasts, the 13th Annual Al Simons Scramble Golf Tournament awaits at one of the resort's renowned championship golf courses.

The STAA Board and I eagerly anticipate welcoming you to the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson. Together, let us cultivate a brighter future for the seed industry.

Warm regards,

Dwayne T. Alford

President of Seed Trade Association of Arizona 2023-2024