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Plant City, FL

# News Release

## For Immediate Release

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### **Florida Strawberry Festival elects new chair, director and associate members**

PLANT CITY, Fla. (April 10, 2019) – The Florida Strawberry Festival board of directors voted Tuesday evening to approve a new executive board, a new director and two new associate directors. W.D. “Dub” McGinnes was elected chairman of the board. Andy Knotts was selected as director and Brian West and Lori Yarbrough were chosen from a field of several candidates as associate directors.

“Arguably, this past year, the Festival experienced one of its most successful years to date due to the leadership of Chairman Systma, the board of directors and associate directors, staff and the hundreds of volunteers who make this event possible,” Festival Chairman Dub McGinnes said. “I am looking forward to the challenge it will be to continue this effort; to improve this tradition going forward. I am truly honored and grateful for this opportunity.”

The Florida Strawberry Festival’s board of directors is the governing body of the 11-day event and is made up of 30 individuals – 16 board members and 14 associate board members. Each year, four board members are elected to serve on the executive board made up of a chairman of the board, vice chair, secretary and treasurer.

McGinnes has served as a board member for over 20 years and retired from the lumber business in 2008. He succeeds Sandee Parke Sytsma who served in the position for the past two years. Phil Waldron was elected vice chair, Danny Coton was elected secretary and Pam Warnock was elected treasurer.

Knotts has served as an associate director for 17 years and is a Territory Manager with Chadwell Supply. Andy has volunteered for the Festival for over 30 years and served on many festival committees including Stadium Operations, Long Range Planning and Entertainment.

West is the Marketing and Community Relations Manager for Publix Super Markets Incorporated. Brian has volunteered and served the community for more than 20 years as a member of the United Food Bank of Plant City, Past Chair of the Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce and Past President for the Plant City Lions Club.

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Yarbrough is the Co-Owner of Intrac Corporation. Lori has been a longtime volunteer of the Festival and has served as an information booth captain for more than 13 years and a tram operations supervisor since 2017.

“Andy, Brian and Lori are leaders within our community who are devoted to the Festival and the citizens to which we serve,” said Festival President Paul Davis. “We look forward to working with them in the future.”

### **About the Florida Strawberry Festival**

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community event celebrating the strawberry harvest of Eastern Hillsborough County. Each year, nearly 500,000 visitors enjoy the festival’s headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its strawberry shortcake. The 2020 Florida Strawberry Festival will take place February 27 through March 8 in Plant City, Fla. For more information, visit [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (#berryfest20).

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