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Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton speaks of Texans' Opportunity to Lead

Without the aid of PowerPoint or notes of any kind, not even a few words scribbled on his hands, Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton delivered a dynamic, passionate speech to members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership during its General Membership Meeting held April 24, 2019, at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake.

He spoke about *The Opportunity to Lead*, but his speech was about much more than leadership. First, however, it would be good to know a little of Sitton's background. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. Elected to the Texas Railroad Commission on Nov. 4, 2014, to a six-year term, Sitton is the first engineer to serve as a Railroad Commissioner in more than 50 years. In 2015, he was recognized as one of the 40 most influential leaders under the age of 40 in the Houston area. With nearly 20 years of experience in the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, Sitton is considered a leader in his field. He, no doubt, knows a little something about leadership.

lesson that if you want to be successful in this world, you've got to make it about people other than yourself? What is it about your life that will echo beyond yourself?"

Sitton then spoke specifically about Texas prefacing his comments with the statement, "When I talk about the opportunity to lead, it always starts with the opportunity to serve." He explained that this is an historical point in time for Texas saying, "This state produces nearly 5 million barrels of crude oil per day, which is 5 percent of the world's crude. Texas produces about 24 or 25 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas. That's close to 5 percent of the world's natural gas. We refine along the Gulf Coast a little over 6 million barrels per day of crude oil. That's 6 percent of the world's refining capacity. Out of the Port of Corpus Christi, we export more crude oil than all of the other U.S. ports combined. We have over 30,000 miles of pipeline in the state. In the last five years, Texas has gone from a strong energy player to arguably the most dominant force on the planet. Energy



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requires massive industries to produce it effectively, and the State of Texas does it better than any other place on Earth."

Opportunities come in different ways

Sitton went on to ask,

"Now, what do we do with that? We talk about the opportunity to lead, and opportunities come in a lot of different ways. We in Texas have the opportunity to leverage this position in energy like we haven't done in a generation. We are

changing the landscape in the world. The question is what do we do with that? How do we capitalize on that opportunity?"

He said that the world is hungry for affordable, reliable energy that is produced safely, and Texas can provide that better than anyone else. Sitton spoke again about service saying, "When I go give speeches to oil and gas companies and I talk about our opportunity to lead, I actually don't talk that much about oil and gas. I talk about who it is we serve. To everyone out there to whom the price of energy is felt every day — that's who we serve. We're serving those for whom energy is a sensitive part of their life. That's a really profound impact we can have on the world."

The commissioner also noted that Texas is well poised in terms of opportunity, but it also has its fair share of challenges. He said that right now Texas is the fastest growing state, population wise, in the nation. Sitton spoke of the need for more roads, water, schools, and hospitals, as well as a port which needs to be widened and deepened. Up and down the spectrum, skilled

labor is also in short supply.

In concluding his speech, Sitton said, "It is going to take bold steps to move forward together. When we think about the things we are doing today, fast forward 10-15-20 years. Think about whose lives we will have impacted by what we do today. Think about the opportunities in energy, the opportunities in our economy, and what the next generation of Texans will experience. Will they look back on those of us in this room and say, 'Those guys were cool,' or will they say, 'Man, they laid the groundwork so that now Texas is the most dominant economy on the planet.' If it's the latter, that is something that every single one of us should be very, very proud of."

(Editor's Note: The Railroad Commission of Texas is the oldest regulatory agency in the state and one of the oldest in the country. It was established in 1891 to regulate the rail industry of the 1800s. Since that time, the Commission has been given the responsibility for overseeing the activities of many different industries.)

Believe in something more important than yourself

The Commissioner began by speaking of the tradition of the Aggie Muster, which he had attended the previous evening in the very same room. He said that Aggies learn from the first day on campus about the importance of believing in something more important than themselves. "The thing that makes Aggie Muster such a special tradition for us is that it is one of those examples that show how we as a society recognize service," Sitton said. He later spoke of his own three children who are 10, 13 and 15 years old. He asked, "In the world that we live in today, at what point in our kids' lives do they begin to learn the

BAHEP welcomes three diverse members

Star Service, Inc.

Texans say, "If you don't like the weather in Texas, just wait five minutes, and it'll change." Anyone who lives in the deep South knows that a good HVAC system, and an even better HVAC maintenance company, is practically priceless. Star Service, Inc., is a full-service HVAC maintenance



Star Service, Inc

company and recognized leader in the engineering, design, maintenance, and management of commercial / industrial air conditioning, heating, ventilation, automation, energy management, and control systems. It is one of the newest members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell said, "Star Service Inc., was founded in 1952 and has the expertise required to meet the HVAC demands of industry. The company is a welcome addition to our membership."

Dennis King, executive vice president / general manager of Star Service, Inc., represents the company within BAHEP. He said, "We take a lot of pride in the work that we do, and we ensure that our team stays current with new technologies and industry standards through ongoing training. Due to its success over many decades, I know that BAHEP takes a lot of pride in its work, too. I look forward to becoming involved in the organization." Star Service, Inc., services all brands and feels no job is too small or too large. It has strong engineering ca-

pabilities with full-time, registered mechanical engineers on staff able to provide full-service, Design-Build projects. Its customers range in size from single office spaces and schools to nuclear plants, chemical refineries, and manufacturers.

With more than 60 years of steady growth, Star Service has locations throughout the Gulf Coast region including Houston, TX, Baton Rouge, LA, New Orleans, LA, Lafayette, LA, Lake Charles, LA, Jackson, MS, and Mobile, AL. Visit www.starservice.com to learn more or call 281.481.0700. Star Service, Inc., is located at 7425 Major Street in Houston.

PBK

Founded in 1981, PBK has served as an award-winning pioneer for architectural and engineering design solutions for clients in education, healthcare, sports, and corporate business. With more than 400 design professionals in 14 offices, the firm embraces a unique business culture that prioritizes customer service and approaches each project without preconceived notions in order to deliver custom solutions that effectively address the unique needs of each client.

PBK joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership in the first quarter of 2019. BAHEP President Bob Mitchell welcomed PBK saying, "PBK has almost four decades of experience and has earned its clients more than 80 awards for value. It is one of the nation's largest multi-disciplined planning and design firms, and we look forward to PBK's participation in BAHEP's activities."

Roy Montalbano, PBK President, and Julia Elmore, Business Development Coordinator, will represent PBK within BAHEP. Montalbano said, "BAHEP's work positively impacts this region in so many ways. It definitely makes good business sense to become a member and participate in the organization's economic development initiatives."

PBK's clients include educational institutions and healthcare facilities, as well as corporate, commercial, hospitality, and international clientele. The industry-leading talent of PBK's teammates, coupled with the firm's signature service mentality, enables the firm to provide best-in-class programmers, planners, architects, engineers, and consultants who always put the client's wishes first. Clients in Bay Area Houston include Clear Creek Independent School District, Dickinson Independent School District, Galveston Independent School District, College of the Mainland, University of Houston Clear Lake and



Marathon Petroleum Company.

PBK's corporate office is located in Houston at 11 Greenway Plaza, 22nd Floor. Its other offices are located in (Texas) Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, McAllen, San Antonio and The Woodlands, and in (California) Fresno, Ontario, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Ventura County.

For additional information, call 713.965.0608 or visit www.pbk.com.

Elizabeth Quigley Insurance

Insurance is a means to protect yourself from financial loss. There are many, many types of insurance, and they can often save an individual, a family, or a business from financial disaster.

Elizabeth A. Quigley, owner/agent for Elizabeth Quigley Insurance, has years of insurance experience helping her clients prepare for the unknown. She has recently joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.



Elizabeth Quigley Insurance

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell said, "When Elizabeth joined BAHEP, she and I had a long discussion about health insurance. I was impressed by her in-depth knowledge and ability to translate complicated health and life insurance options into language that we could all understand. Her enthusiasm for her work and for the region will be an asset to the organization."

Quigley noted, "I really appreciate the time that I spent with Bob and Harriet Pilgrim, membership director, learning about BAHEP's work in the region. Time is a most precious commodity, but I always take the time to build a relationship with my clients in order to understand their needs. It seems that BAHEP and I have this in common, and I look forward to getting involved in BAHEP's efforts to grow and assist the businesses and industry in Bay Area Houston and beyond."

Quigley is an independent agent writing for over 30 companies giving her the

ability to search the market place to find the products that meet her clients' needs. These products include: Life Insurance, Annuities, Long Term Care, Hybrid Long Term Care, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplements, Medicare Part D, Health Insurance, Dental and Vision, Disability, and Travel Insurance.

Her clients range from people who are transitioning into retirement to companies that need benefit plans to key managers of companies who need life

policies for business loans.

Quigley noted, "I have been helping people prepare for life's unexpected for many years. I understand the needs of people as they age. By having the correct products in place, everyone can grow old with dignity and grace. By analyzing my clients' insurance needs, I can get them covered quickly at the right price."

She also believes in giving back to her community and is a member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Space Center Rotary, Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and League City Regional Chamber of Commerce in addition to BAHEP. Quigley serves on the boards of Family Promise and Get Together Bay Area, as well.

Elizabeth Quigley Insurance is located at 1110 NASA Parkway, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77058. Call 281.549.4266 (office) or 832.551.9740 (cell) or visit her website at www.elizabethquigley-insurance.com to sign up for a free assessment.

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with THE DAILY NEWS. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeastern Texas. Its members include more than 265 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston. For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Pilgrim at 832.536.3250.

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