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2018 Champion – Toya McLeod toyamcleod@gmail.com

ANNOUNCING WINNERS OF THE OPEN AUCTIONEER CONTEST EVENT AT THE RED STEAGALL'S COWBOY GATHERING !

The Texas Lone Star Open held their 3rd contest and PR event at the 2018 Red Steagall's Cowboy Gathering on October 26 in the Ft Worth Stockyards. The Texas Auctioneers Association hosted the open bid calling competition and auction education in the Stockmans Club in the Stockyards Station 3pm-6pm. The event is held in partnership with the Red Steagall Gathering. Ranch Radio provided a live remote. America's Auction Academy provided information about auction school requirements.

Contestants included 18 contestants from Texas and other states including past state champions, Auto & World Champions. They competed for cash prize of \$5000 for 1st place and a custom silver buckle created by HYO Silver. The audience bid on great items, as well as cheered on their favorite contestant. Finals Items included 5 carat custom Texas Star cut topaz from Woolard's Jewelers in Burleson, Tx, custom knives, custom jewelry and leather bags. The contest was live streamed by Superior Livestock Auctions and the program link is available at www.texaslonestaropen.com until January 1.

After fierce competition that was judged by 5 professionals in the auction industry, the winners were announced to the crowd. **The 2018 Winners Are:**

Champion 1st Place – Toya McLeod, Amarillo, Tx (Also 2018 Texas State Auctioneer Champion)

Meet your Champion: Toya is a native Texan growing up in the ranching business and working around the auction business since 1996. In 1996, he, graduated from the Missouri Auction School, following attending West Texas A&M University to study finance. In 2001, Toya was awarded the TAA Rookie State Championship. In 2002, he seized the opportunity to work contract auto auctions at Manheim New Mexico. Toya then expanded his contract auction business on an International scale when he began working heavy equipment auctions for World Wide Auctioneers, headquartered in Dubai, UAE. While still maintaining a domestic auto auction schedule, he traveled the globe monthly to conduct heavy equipment auctions in Dubai, Lebanon, India, and the Philippines. Currently, Toya works four auto auctions per week in Texas, Arizona, California, and Nevada. He resides in Amarillo with his wife, Allison and their two daughters, Claire and Meredith. Contact him at toyamcleod@gmail.com.

Reserve Champion 2nd Place – David Whittaker, Ames, Iowa (The Iowa “ Land Guy” – Broker & Auctioneer.
Past Minnesota, Nebraska & Missouri State Champion; 2012 International Rookie Champion)
3rd Place– Kyle Dykes, Killeen, Tx (2017 Texas State Auctioneer Champion & Past Texas Rookie Champion)
4th Place – Angie Meier, Ennis, Tx (2011 Texas State Auctioneer Champion, 2007 World Auto Team Champion)
Top Scoring Rookie Auctioneer – Jacob Long , Terrell, Tx (2018 Texas Rookie Auctioneer Champion)
Top Scoring Female Auctioneer – Angie Meier , Ennis, Tx (* see above)

The Texas Auctioneers Association also provided resource information on hiring auctioneers, holding auctions and becoming a licensed auctioneer in the state of Texas. They answered questions from the public on estate sales, auto sales, real estate auction method, benefit and estate auctions A percent of the proceeds benefit Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for children and Steaks For The Troops. Congratulations & Thank You to all who supported the 2019 event.