

**ROGER WALTERS**  
**NIRA Commissioner**

Roger Walters, from Huntsville, Texas, was selected to lead the NIRA as the new commissioner on December 12th during the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's 2008 Winter Board Meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the South Point Hotel and Casino.

Mr. Walters officially started on January 1st when, then commissioner, John J. Smith retired.

"It is an honor to be selected for this position. I am following in some very large footsteps. Mr. John Smith created a great foundation for the NIRA, and I hope to carry on his legacy," said Roger Walters. Walters added, "College rodeo is near and dear to my heart. I love working with students and education. I love that a sport that means so much to all of us, can lead young people to a college degree and a bright future."

John Smith said, "I leave the NIRA with a world of mixed emotions, but feel that I leave it in very capable hands. I have known Roger for a long time and know him to be a very capable and knowledgeable individual."

Walters brings a wealth of rodeo knowledge to the commissioner position. He has worked in rodeo production, promotion, competition, coaching, livestock management and fundraising. Walters was rodeo coach at Sam Houston State University from 1999 to 2002. He also served as an instructor, agriculture center coordinator, and farm manager for Sam Houston. He was on the NIRA board of directors from 2001-2003. During his time as rodeo coach, Walters earned the regional rodeo coach of the year honor, as well as the NIRA national rodeo coach of the year honor in 2001.

Most recently, Walters served as the CNFR Production Manager/Arena Director. He has worked closely with the CNFR Casper Committee to help promote and facilitate the annual CNFR for the past five years.

"It is my goal to continue to work with the Casper Committee to produce a high quality production of the College National Finals Rodeo," said Walters.

NIRA's Faculty President, Dennis Montgomery said, "I met Roger at the CNFR three years ago. I was impressed with his detail in the production of the rodeo. As the Arena Director he made decisions that were not popular, but they were right and fair. I applaud his passion for the education of our student athletes. He promotes rodeo as a tool for them to receive a quality education. Roger's enthusiasm and personality make the CNFR a better production; and I enjoy working in the arena with him." Montgomery said.

Currently, Walters owns and operates a pest control company in Huntsville. He plans to turn the reins of that business over to his wife, Martha Lynn, while serving as commissioner.

"The future of college rodeo will depend on all of us. As the economic times become more challenged, it will take all of us to support our sponsors, spread the word of college rodeo, and promote rodeo and education," Walters said.

Walters and his wife, Martha Lynn, have two adult sons, Britt and Clint. They both were members of the NIRA.