



**Chair of The Board
1991 - 2021
By Ron Jarman, PH.D
Board Member 1991**

It is a proven fact that credit for success of any organization must be shared by all its members, but an extra portion of that credit must be attributed to its leaders. EFO does not have owners as most companies do. The leadership of our non-profit organization is shared by the Board of Directors as directed by the membership elected officers in an annual vote. The most important of those officers is the Chairperson, who leads the organization, sets priorities, educates new Board members, maintains control of Board members and signs all the official documents.

Through the 32-year history of the EFO, we have only had six Chairpersons. Memory may cloud the perception of the personalities, traits and idiosyncrasies of each, but all have served, or are serving, with honor and diligence in achieving the goals and aspirations of our organization.

The patriarch of EFO was Dr. Mike Hughes, who served EFO as Chairman from the summer of 1991 until October 1994. As the Manager, Environmental Affairs at the founding Member OG&E, Mike offered gentle and measured guidance to the Board members on the approach to establishing accountability, fiscal control, partnerships, and credibility for the purpose of achieving the goals of EFO. Unfortunately, OG&E suffered through some major management issues and organizational changes which resulted in Mike transferring to Oklahoma State University's Center for Local Government Technology. Although, giving up his Chairmanship, Mike has continued to serve and participate in EFO to the present day as an *ad hoc* member.

Following up on Mike's gentle guidance, Gill Luton of the Fort Howard Paper Company accepted the Board Chairmanship in October 1994 and served in that role until March of 2000. Gill was "Mr. Energy" for EFO from its inception through his time of service on the Board well after his term of Chairmanship. Good things happened under Gill's guidance. With his many years of service to Fort Howard paper, his environmental management skills were well developed as well as his understanding of Oklahoma politics having grown up as the son of an Oklahoma legislator. He also possessed the

special skill of promoting and participating in all things golf! Gill stepped down from the Chairmanship as a result of corporate changes culminating in mergers and acquisitions by his employer, although he stayed active in the Board for several more years until retirement.

The third Chairman of the EFO Board, Mike Wood, came to us from Weyerhaeuser. This Mississippi State Bulldog product was serving Weyerhaeuser as the Regional Manager - Environmental during his Chairmanship. He is a soft-spoken gentleman who would dig deep into any issue facing the EFO and work closely with Board members to achieve a goal and/or solve a problem. Without missing more than a couple of Board meetings, he served as Chairman from March of 2000 until October of 2007. Mike was instrumental in adopting the form and format for the annual Frank Condon Award for Environmental Excellence and was Chairman at the time of the first Award to Phillips Petroleum Company.

At the EFO Annual Meeting in October 2007, the membership voted Dr. Jim Haught as Chairman of the EFO Board. Jim was also serving as the Director – Environment for ONEOK, Inc. concurrent with his Chairmanship. He is a trained and experienced Veterinarian which provided many wild stories about people and their pets. Jim also received a Masters degree in Public Health focused on environmental management which served him well to guide EFO through a major growth period and also become involved with *amicus curiae* filings (Friend of the Court) as a method to impact major court cases impacting environmental management in Oklahoma. Jim's service to the EFO was a wonderful blend of managing important environmental decisions, impacting regulatory programs to support EFO goals, being an occasional court jester to keep things lively and encouraging the growth and importance of EFO in managing Oklahoma's environment. Jim's Chairmanship ended in October 2014, a full seven years of service.

Kathryn Crenwelge became EFO's first Chairwoman in October 2014 by member vote at the annual meeting. Kathryn was the Environmental Health & Safety Manager for the International Paper Mill in Valliant, OK concurrent with her role as Chair. She served a full seven-year term until surrendering her seat to our current Chairman Darrell Townsend in October 2021. With Kathryn as Chairwoman EFO celebrated both the 25th and 30th anniversaries of EFO as an organization. These were important events in EFO's history and with Kathryn's leadership, EFO is stronger than ever.