



Gaye Hammond
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Dear Friends,

It is not often that someone comes along who consistently does great things, who possesses the natural talent for leadership and, through his actions leads organizations and teams to accomplish great things. Chris Van Cleave is one of those rare individuals. Chris is a candidate for Vice President of the American Rose Society and has my total, unwavering support.

I have known Chris and his wife Tina for a long time and have had an opportunity to work with him on several projects. He is a master at public as well as “people-relations” with a social media audience that numbers in the tens of thousands. His enthusiasm for connecting people to roses is infectious and genuine. Chris’ work to educate others about roses and the American Rose Society through Rose Chat Podcast (www.RoseChatPodcast.com), articles published through rose societies and well-respected media outlets and educational programs presented is unrivaled.

Chris is also the driving force that has grown the American Rose Society’s membership through innovative educational services, such as the free E-newsletter, *The Fragrant Rose*, published by the ARS and edited by Chris. A national leader, in many respects, Chris believes that there is a place for everyone within the American Rose Society without regard to (1) how long a person has been growing roses, (2) how many roses a person may grow or (3) the cultural practices that they employ to do so.

In the words of Steve Hutton, former President of Star® Roses and Plants, “Chris is well-known and well respected in the rose industry and will continue the efforts currently underway to bring the ARS and the rose industry closer together – something both groups need.” In fact, Chris has been endorsed by two of the main rose nurseries in the United States.

The American Rose Society is growing for the first time in a number of years (see *American Rose*, January/February 2018 issue). To continue this forward momentum the Society must have a leader who is a master communicator with a demonstrated track record of getting things done, ...and that person is Chris Van Cleave. One of Chris’ favorite quotes is, “**You are what you do....not what you say you’ll do.**” A small sampling of some of Chris’ leadership accomplishments are attached.

I urge you to cast your vote for my friend, Chris Van Cleave. He is what the American Rose Society needs to continue to grow our Society.

Sincerely,


Gaye Hammond



ELECT
CHRIS
VANCLEAVE

VICE PRESIDENT
AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY



Chris Van Cleave (The Redneck Rosarian)

www.redneckrosarian.com

Chris...The Civic Leader

Chair, Helena Beautification Board, City of Helena, Alabama

Co-Chair, Earth-Kind Rose Trial, Helena, Alabama

Organizer, "Bloomingham", horticulture society outreach of Birmingham Home & Garden Show

Organizer, "50 Years Forward" a rose dedication ceremony in memory of Coretta Scott King

Chris, The Rose Society Leader

Editor, *The Fragrant Rose*, publication of the American Rose Society

District Membership Chair, Deep South District, American Rose Society

Chair, Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting (2017)

Membership Chair, Birmingham Rose Society

Prior positions held in Birmingham Rose Society (Director, President)

Rose Show Chair / Co-Chair, Birmingham Rose Society (2013, 2015-2017)

Instructor, Growing Rose Societies through Social Media

Consulting Rosarian (2014 – present)

Chris, The Rose Advocate

Curator/Host, Rose Chat Podcast

Contributor, Southern Living Garden Book (2015)

Featured, P. Allen Smith's Garden Home Television Show

Featured, Southern Living Magazine (2015)

Author, numerous articles published on About.com

Author, how-to publications by Home Depot.com

Judge, Biltmore International Rose Trials (2014-2017)

Presenter, Chicago Flower Show (2017)

Chris, The Business Leader

Banker with 25 years of experience in process innovation at one of the nations top financial institutions

For more information about Chris: <http://www.igrowroses.org/uniquelyqualified.html>