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Eight Founding Member Distilleries Unite to Launch the Texas Whiskey Association

The association will serve as the standard bearers for the definition of "Texas Whiskey"

[Austin, Texas - September, 20 2018] Today, The Texas Whiskey Association is proud to announce its official formation by eight trailblazing member companies who are united in the common purpose of protecting the definition of Texas Whiskey. These member distilleries craft their whiskies with true Texas pride. They feature products that start with grain and Texas water — then they mash, ferment, distill, mature and bottle their Texas Whiskies all within the State of Texas. More importantly, they respect the passion and intelligence of their consumers enough to tell the truth about all of their products.

The Founding Members are:

- Andalusia Whiskey Co.
- Balcones Distilling
- Crowded Barrel Whiskey Co.
- Garrison Brothers Distillery
- Iron Root Republic
- Ranger Creek Brewing & Distilling
- Still Austin Whiskey Co.
- Treaty Oak Distilling

The organization's first Board of Directors are:

- President: Jared Himstedt— Balcones Distilling
- Secretary: Robert Likarish — Iron Root Republic
- Treasurer: Ty Phelps — Andalusia Whiskey Co.
- Director: Daniel Whittington — Crowded Barrel Whiskey Co.
- Director: Dennis Rylander — Ranger Creek Brewing & Distilling
- Executive Director (Ex-Officio): Spencer Whelan

Jared Himstedt, the first President of TXWA said, *"For over a decade, these 'makers' have been helping define what Texas Whiskey is and have elevated the category onto the global stage. It's now time for us to keep leading by uniting around common principles of quality and transparency."* Daniel Whittington, Board member, Founder of Crowded Barrel Whiskey Co. and creator of the most popular whiskey youtube channel in the world (The Whiskey Vault) added, *"Texas Whiskey Makers are group of trail blazers and artists. Crowded Barrel Whiskey Co is excited to partner with TXWA to establish Texas as one of the foremost whiskey regions in the US and the world."*

"One of the things we find particularly exciting about the Texas Whiskey Association is their commitment to the adoption of standards of quality and transparency", states Chris Seals, Still Austin Co-Founder and CEO. "At Still Austin Whiskey, these are the very same values we've held since opening our doors, so we're really proud to be part of an organization of like-minded Texas distilleries."

The TXWA staff currently consists of Spencer Whelan as The Executive Director and Wade Woodard will serve as the organization's Acting Compliance Officer .TXWA will be announcing additional members and the launch of new consumer education and awareness campaigns in the coming months.

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The Texas Whiskey Association will kick off its public awareness activities at the Whiskies of the World Austin event at Fair Market (1100 E. 5th ST. Austin TX 78702). If you would like more information about covering this event or this topic, please contact Spencer Whelan at 512-850-5708, or send an email to Spencer@TexasWhiskey.org.