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Media Contacts:

Jessica Scallan, EMA Executive Committee- Media Relations

[jscallan@tulsazoo.org](mailto:jscallan@tulsazoo.org)

Daryl Hoffman, EMA Executive Director

[emaboard@elephantmanagers.com](mailto:emaboard@elephantmanagers.com)



**The Elephant Managers Association**  
1513 Cambridge Street  
Houston TX 77030

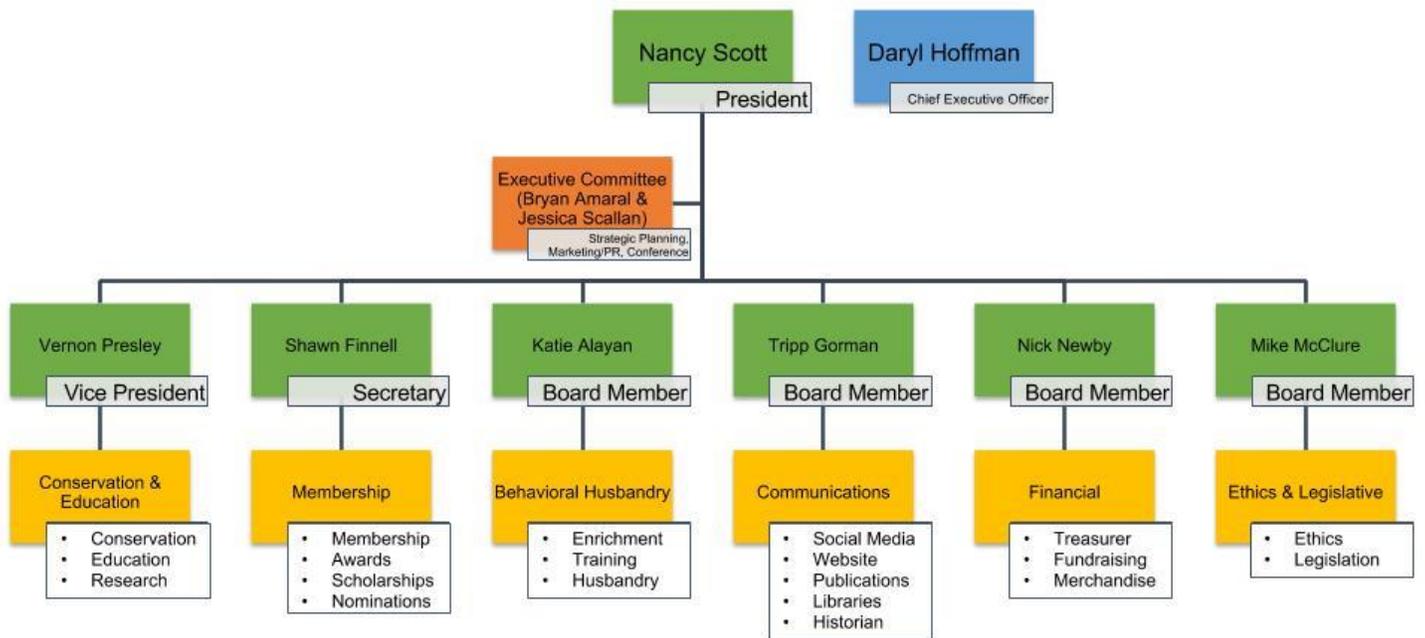
## **ELEPHANT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES**

Houston, Texas (November 2, 2017) – The Elephant Managers Association (EMA) announced the new EMA Board of Directors at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, during the 2017 EMA Open Board Meeting. Each year, EMA members nominate individuals within our membership that demonstrate leadership skills throughout our organization. The nominees' names and biographies were placed on our election ballot and were voted on by our Professional and Contributing Professional Members. Our newly elected Board of Directors are: Shawn Finnell, Nick Newby, Katie Alayan and Tripp Gorman. They join our current Board of Directors: Nancy Scott, Vernon Presley and Mike McClure for the 2017-2018 term.

During our annual Board of Director's Meeting, all current, new, and departing Board of Director members discuss the various aspects of our organization. Each committee is reviewed to identify new goals and objectives that uphold our mission, *Dedicated to the welfare and survival of the world's elephants through improving communication, husbandry, research, education and conservation.* During our discussion we identified the need to group similar committees to increase production and give committee chairs others they can share ideas and workloads with. We also identified the need for an Executive Committee. As EMA Board of Directors change throughout the years this committee will help keep continuity, sharing valuable historic knowledge to contribute directly to the EMA President. The Executive Committee members are appointed by the current Board of Directors as needed. Along with the addition of this committee we voted for our 2017-2018 Officers. We are happy to announce that our new officers are: President - Nancy Scott, Vice-President - Vernon Presley, and Secretary - Shawn Finnell. We are excited to see where our new leadership takes the organization this year.

All these adjustments and additions made by your Board of Directors can be viewed within our organizational chart below.

## Your 2017-18 EMA Board of Directors



EMA President Nancy Scott stated, “I look forward to a productive year as we continue to grow and share resources among our unified membership”.

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### **About the Elephant Managers Association:**

*The Elephant Managers Association (EMA) is an international, nonprofit organization of professional elephant keepers, administrators, veterinarians and researchers. The Association is dedicated to the welfare and survival of the world’s elephants through improving communication, husbandry, research, education and conservation. Officially formed in 1988, the EMA grew from annual elephant workshops to an organization representing more than 350 individual members and 30 institutional members. For more information about the EMA, visit: <http://elephantmanagers.com>, email [emaboard@elephantmanagers.com](mailto:emaboard@elephantmanagers.com).*