

Shane M. Saunders, MBA, CPL is the first person that comes to mind from TAPL's organization when it comes to Community Service. Shane has been involved with Iron Gate for almost a decade and has served as Director and Board Chairman. Iron Gate's mission is simple—they feed the hungry of Tulsa, every day, through a soup kitchen, grocery pantry, and kid's pantry. Anyone served by Iron Gate is considered a "guest" because they are invited to eat. Their philosophy is: "We are all guests on this earth and guests treat one another with courtesy, kindness and respect." Shane led this organization through a long battle with downtown property owners to find a new and better location in order to serve more "guests". After 12 months in the new facility, and during the difficult and restrictive times of COVID, Iron Gate has served 22% more meals and provided 30% more groceries to those in need. Shane is at the heart of this organization. While serving as External Affairs Director for the TAPL, he has encouraged TAPL members to serve as volunteers through Spring Service days, as well as individually.

As a land professional, Shane has extensive background as an executive and as a land manager in acquisitions and divestitures in the oil and gas industry. He also has a great track record in government affairs and policy. His skills include partnering with investors, media, government, and regulatory agencies. One of his greater strengths is the ability to guide assignments from initial planning to final delivery while maintaining budgets and schedules.

As the current President of Trident Energy, Inc., Mr. Saunders manages the operations of an independent exploration and production company with producing assets in 8 states and non-operated interests in over 200 oil and natural gas wells. He guides lease acquisitions and analyzes traditional and emerging oil and gas trends to grow revenues; he forms relationships with industry partners to initiate successful oil and gas wells. During his time at Trident, they have bought 4 competitors during favorable pricing environments, worked on a large Central Oklahoma water-flood project and various CO2-flood projects in Western Michigan, bringing formerly unrecoverable oil to market.

After receiving his BA from Washington and Lee University, Mr. Saunders worked in Washington D.C. for over 3 years as the Legislative Assistant and, later, Press Secretary for Congressman John Sullivan. There, he learned valuable skills that served him well, not only in the oil and gas industry, but in his ongoing humanitarian efforts to meet to the goal of poverty alleviation for those in need of food and nourishment.

For Shane Saunders to be recognized nationally by AAPL for serving Tulsa's Community in such a significant way would highlight his leadership in a way for others to follow.

