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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

MINUTES**SPRING MEETING**

April 13, 2017 – 10AM

CENTRE HALL, PA

David Hallstrom called the meeting to order. Kevin Bieber led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jim Davis offered prayer. Roll Call - present were C Sherman Allen, John Berne, John Blaney Jr., Kevin Bieber, James Davis, Roger Dirlam, Karen Dobson, Martha Ebersole, Tony Frazier, Susan Hahn, Seth Kensinger, David Hallstrom, Judy Kmetz, Dale LeVan, John McMullen, Jeanne Miller, Sally Nolt, David Reese, Harry Reffner, Jeff Romesberg, Bryan Utegg, George Witherite, and Samuel Zaffuto. Absent Craig Lash, Debbie Stephenson. Honorary members Luke Bruckhart, Bev Gruber, Bruce Koppenhaver, Ron Miller, and Jack Snyder. Members at Large – Zach Gihorski, Andy Goodman, Gala Higinbotham. Guest from PSSA Randy Carper. Guest from Bureau of Market Development Laura England.

MINUTES OF FALL & CONVENTION MEETINGS – Harry Reffner

Minutes of all 3 meetings were posted on the website. The minutes of the Post Convention meeting had the date corrected to January 22, 2017, and the attendance of Susan Hahn. John Blaney made the motion to accept all Minutes from the Fall Meeting Pre & Post Convention, 2nd by Roger Dirlam, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Harry Reffner

The balance sheet is showing \$22,000 more than last year, this is due to the invoices to the fairs have been mailed.

Scholarship due to the Spouse's programs will enable the 6 scholarship to be funded this year. Grateful to other supporters as shown on the scholarship register.

Convention – Monies still due from Convention.

John Blaney made the motion to accept the treasure's report 2nd by Jeff Romesburg, carried.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- Courtesy passes to directors
Karen made the motion to send courtesy cards to State Fair Queen and the Alternate on a yearly basis, 2nd by George, carried.
- Fair Invoices have been mailed
- Survey PA Farm Show emailed to Fairs
- Bank Withdrawals twice
- Cornucopia donation of \$100, April 18th
- NSF Checks from Convention
Dick and Harry to work with the vendors regarding the 3 NSF checks.
- Ag Progress Days August 15-17
- Banquet attendance no registration:
Thursday night 52
Saturday night 231

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you from state Fair Queen Contestants: Lebanon –Kaitlin Dolan, Mason Dixon– Sadie Wurabach, Elk County Fair – Nicole Holland
- Secretary Redding support of PA Preferred Reception
- Hershey Thank You for holding Convention
- IAFE Zone 1 Conference, Thank you for Jessica Underberg
-

REPORT FROM THE PA SHOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION – Randy Carper

Appreciate the invitation to attend the meeting. Watching the budget process, as fair funding affects the showmen. Completing 50th year/celebration. No luau this year. Thank us for the sponsorship, which will be used for a prize drawing. Jack Snyder thanked Sam & Bruce for the showmen's slide presentation. Judy Kmetz a thank you to PSSA for the donation to the Queen Program.

REPORT FROM ASSOCIATES REPRESENTATIVE. – Galla Higinbotham

Looking forward to the 2017 Fair Season. Encourage fairs to use the services of our associates.

REPORT FROM THE PA DEPT. OF AG. – Zachary Gilhorski, Laura England

2015 Capital improvements next 30 days. 2016 Capital improvements were approved. Bleachers cannot be moveable, must be permanent. Problem with the online reimbursement with regards to premiums is to be fixed before this fair season. Friends of Fair by July 1st. Secretary to visit 25 fairs. Know Your Farmer same as last year for the poster contest. Poultry shows still on but monitoring, may issue a ban if necessary. New fair Kempton, same week as Mountain Spring. Fair guides ready for zone meetings. No display this year at Farm Show. Laura- visited a few fairs, collaborating with Zach. Preserve agricultural.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS. – Andy Goodman

See report on website. _____

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET – Ron Miller

Meeting with Hershey June 13th, at 10am budget committee will meet to prepare new budget.

BAKING CONTESTS – Karen Dobson – Kevin Beiber

Packets to zone meetings. 2 changes PAPreferred, cleared up rules for PAPreferred. PSACF to sponsor Chocolate Cake no rules. Farm show eliminated 2nd stage. No Ribbons supplied for contests. Kevin Apple Marketing disbanded, PSACF to sponsor Farm Show premiums.

FAIR PERSON – Bruce Koppenhaver

Bruce will update application for additional information.

JUNIOR FAIR PERSON – C. Sherman Allen

Thanked the committee.

PROMOTION & MARKETING – Judy Kmetz

Starbright Media had coverage of our opening ceremonies. Lots of nice comments, ability to watch on FaceBook. Bruce selected to maintain FaceBook.

CONVENTION:

SPOUSE PROGRAMS – John Blaney

Looking for programs.

COMMUNICATIONS – Martha Ebersole

Promote at zone meetings. Asking each fair to send a 2017 1st place blue ribbon, a display will be constructed. Either mail to Martha or bring to Fall Zone meetings.

SHOWCASE – Sam Zaffuto

Electronic application before mailing out this Fall. Last couple of years around 45 applications, used to be 20. Few more acts in January. Should we require a trade Show booth. Discussion, no action taken.

SEMINARS – Kevin Bieber

Meeting held with the Seminar and Table Topic committee held during lunch break. Trying to schedule seminars/table topics as many as possible, to allow a 2 hours open for the trade show. Keynote speakers have 2 possible, one from IAFE with a rate of \$4,000 plus lodging. Bev has mentioned a gentleman from Texas. Bringing in speakers for Saturday and there is low attendance. Suggestion of giving ticket for 3 \$250 credit cards for the 3 seminars. Jim Davis motioned to give 3 \$100 credit cards for the seminars, 2nd by Roger, carried.

ROOMS – Dr. Sally Nolt

Room block is opened, possible problem Sally to check with Hershey.

COUNCIL OF FARM ORGANIZATION – John Blaney

Meeting next Tuesday.

PENN STATE AG COUNCIL – Jim Davis

Meeting next Thursday. Changing structure. Better relations and communications with a PR person. Extension will not be as it is today.

FARM SHOW – John Blaney

Same problem as Fairs, moving livestock within crowds. Sponsors New Holland \$100,000, Friends of the Farm Show \$200,000. Paid \$208,000 in premiums. IAFE Recognition.

JUDGING SCHOOL – Bev Gruber

See separate report.

SCHOLARSHIP – Jim Davis

Information not getting to Fairs. Had 19 candidates should have been 24. Send Scholarship information to school guidance counselors, Ag teachers and local papers.

MEMORIAL DISPLAY – John Berne

Reminder at zone meetings.

FAIR REIMBURSEMENT – Sam Zaffuto

80% of our Fairs participate. Thank you for your cooperation.

QUEEN – John Berne

See separate report. Several suggestions and recommendations were discussed. Suggestion to increase the 2 prime tables to 10. Recommendation to increase banquet ticket by \$5.00. Suggestions and recommendation to be discussed by the Queen committee.

FAIR FUND PROPOSED CHANGES – Secretary Russell Redding

Letter from every Fair Thanking the Governor, Senator, & house for the \$4M for the Fair Fund. Let them know how your fair is impacting your community. And what you are doing with the funds.

Make sure agricultural is front and center in your Fair.

Collaboration between the Department of Ag and PSACF.

Deputy Secretaries will be at your zone meetings.

Discussions followed with the Secretary.

SPONSORSHIPS – Harry Reffner

Continue finding additional sponsorships. \$2,000 for keynote speaker last convention.

KALAHARI – Harry Reffner

See committee's recommendation as a separate report.

2017 IAFE ZONE 1 CONFERENCE – Kevin Bieber

167 registered, \$2845 raised in the auction for the Jim Tucker Scholarship Fund. Went perfect, good food, good rates. Kevin would like a letter of appreciation sent to Crowne Plaza. Glen Falls conference first week in May. Bev thanked those Fairs and individuals that gave \$100 sponsorships.

OLD BUSINESS –

Nothing to report on the two ligations received by the Association last Fall.

NEW BUSINESS --

October board meeting will be at new location on the Fair Grounds.
Sherman reported on the Zone 1 round tables as conducted by Shirley McIntire.
At Zone meetings ask for Table Topics to be given to Sherman.

October 19th, next board meeting.

Adjournment at 3:40.

Respectfully submitted



Harry Reffner
Exec Secretary/Treasurer