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## PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

**MINUTES****SPRING MEETING**

APRIL 3, 2014 – 11AM

CENTRE HALL, PA

John Blaney 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, Luke Bruckhart, James Davis, Roger Dirlam, Karen Dobson, Martha Ebersole, Susan Hahn, David Hallstrom, Boots Hetherington, Judy Kmetz, Craig Lash, John McMullen, Jeanne Miller, Sally Nolt, Rodman Ralston, David Reese, Harry Reffner, William Ritzman, George Witherite, and Samuel Zaffuto. Gala Higinbotham, Ron Miller and Debbie Stephenson were excused. Also in attendance – Byron Glessner, Bruce Koppenhaver, Andrew Goodman, Lydia Messner, Judd Good and Bitsey Kopfinger, Secretary George Greig.

MINUTES OF FALL & CONVENTION MEETINGS – were posted on the website. Roger Dirlam made the motion to accept the Fall Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Horstman, carried. Roger Dirlam made the motion to accept the Pre-Convention minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martha Ebersole, carried. George Witherite made the motion to accept the Post-Convention minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John McMullen, carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Harry Reffner**

The balance sheet is showing \$4,000 more at this time compared to last year, approximately \$10,000 of dues are to come in.

General Account Income & Expenses does not have the Apple Market or Egg producers check deposit, invoices have been sent out.

Convention profit was \$43,000 compared to \$45,650 last year. The rigging charge from Hershey of \$5,000 reflected the decrease in profit.

Bill Ritzman made the motion to accept the treasure's report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Luke Bruckhart, carried.

**ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

- Courtesy passes to directors
- Fair Invoices mailed in March amounting to \$47,650, last year dues amounted to \$39,500
- \$1,000 sponsorship sent to IAFE zone meeting
- Fair visitations, must be attached to your expense claim, if not filling an expense claim, bring to your Fall zone meeting and give to Harry.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Thank you Wayne Readinger's memorial fund.
- Thank you Dr. Sally Nolt, for flowers sent to her.
- Note from James "Ken" Adams, thanking the association for the courtesy pass.
- Thank you from Hershey Lodge for the privilege of hosting the Convention.
- 2 letters requesting Legislative support of the \$3 million line item for county fairs.

**REPORT FROM THE PA SHOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION – Judd Good**

Watching a bill for food license fees. Working on another attraction at the Farm Show. Patty Swank to conduct a round table at 2015 Convention. June 20<sup>th</sup> PSSA scholarships. Banner for Convention John Blaney to work with PSSA. Tickets purchased from the PSACF will not resemble the actual PSSA banquet ticket.

**LOBBYIST REPORT – see report from Milliron**

**REPORT FROM THE PA DEPT OF AGRICULTURE – BOOTS HETHERINGTON**

PEDv guidelines as issued by the Bureau of Animal Health

All Fairs have been processed for Fair Funding, 2 are on hold.

\$255,000 surplus in Fair Funding, to be used for Capital improvements.

New Fair Guides to be printed and will be handed out at Zone Meetings.

PA Preferred displays again this year at Convention.

Safety Poster contest theme will be "Hand Washing".

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BUDGET –**

Budget meeting in Hershey, will also create a budget for Convention.

**LEGISLATIVE – John Blaney**

Cornucopia good group of legislators, they expressed support of the \$3 million line item.

Keep working with legislators.

**BY-LAWS – Roger Dirlam**

Copy of Policy Manual and By-Laws given to all directors. President John Blaney wants a review of the Policy Manual by the committee.

**AUDITING – Rod Ralston**

An audit will take place immediately after this board meeting.

**ANIMAL HEALTH – David Reese**

Client-Patient no longer needed. PEDv as discussed by Boots.

**SPECIAL BAKING – Karen Dobson, Kevin Bieber – attached**

Kevin wants the Fairs reminded that banners should be stored so that they are readily accessible for the next year's Fair. Banner printing is costly.

**QUEEN – Karen Dobson, attached.**

Kevin made the motion to retain the Queen's registration for Convention at \$15, and to retain the \$2,000 paid by the association for the Queen's travel to Fairs, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger, carried.

**FAIR PERSON – Bruce Koppenhaver**

Harry to check at Springfield for applications for the Fair Person. Use existing application.

**JR. FAIR PERSON – Sherman Allen**

Thanked his committee and the Queen program for allowing the award to be presented at the Queen Banquet.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT – John Blaney**

Copies are still available, contact Harry if you need additional copies.

**WEBSITE – Harry Reffner**

Harry presented the committee's findings. Reviewing their process, the costs from two companies, Beyond Dots and Spots from Pittsburgh, and Saffire from Texas. The committee's recommendation was to select Saffire for the designer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Davis, carried.

**CONVENTION –**

**SPOUSE PROGRAM – Dr. David Reese**

Getting started with the Basket/bag program, something planned for each day of convention.

**COMMUNICATIONS – Martha Ebersole**

Thanks for all the help during convention. A thank you to the Fairs for their participation.

Videos were down.

**SPONSORSHIPS – Harry Reffner**

Debbie Stephenson was able to obtain a \$1,000 sponsorship for Convention. With possible increase in key note speaker fees, committee needs to look for additional.

**TRADE SHOW – Dick Horstman**

Full show, but can always make room for more.

**ROOMS – Dr. Sally Nolt**

Increased the number of rooms blocked by 20. Reservations will open Sept 1<sup>st</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>. Stress as zone meetings reservations can be canceled, but rooms are booked reservations are difficult. Showmen will have 3 phone numbers to call in, replacing the current switch board.

**SEMINARS – Kevin Bieber**

Met before this meeting. 2 keynote speakers to review. Judging school and CPW will be returning. By next FairTalk seminars will be lined up.

**TABLE TOPICS – John Blaney**

Near maximum or maximum have been chosen for next year.

**SHOWCASE – Sam Zaffuto**

40 applications were reviewed.

**SOUND AND LIGHT – Sam Zaffuto**

No meeting has been held. Sam has spoken with Larry Starcher and Hershey.

**MSGR. SCHOLARSHIP – Jim Davis**

Funding for 6 scholarships is \$1,400 short. Donations need to be encouraged.

**JUDGING SCHOOL –**

To be held at Convention.

**MEMORIAL DISPLAY AT CONVENTION – John Berne**

Increased memorials this year. Encourage at zone meetings.

**COUNCIL OF FARM ORGS – John Blaney**

Attend the meeting held prior to Cornucopia. Organizations have funding problems also.

**PA STATE AG COUNCIL – Jim Davis**

Meeting next Wednesday. Sustainable agricultural. New dean of Ag Science, 2 candidates have been passed over.

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ZONE 4 EMAIL REGARDING PRAYER BEFORE MEALS**

Karen had been approached by a member Fair's Vice President with his thoughts that a opening prayer was inappropriate. Last week she received an email again stating his thoughts the prayer was inappropriate. His email stated "who has chosen to get involved with a state sanctioned public local agricultural fair should have to subject themselves to this kind of behavior". After discussion and with Boots and Secretary Greig's comment that the PSACF is not state sanctioned or funded, the Association should continue with the prayers, the opinion of board also. Karen will respond to the email from the Vice President.

**HERSHEY PLANNING SESSION**

Harry obtained some dates to meet with Hershey. It was decided on June 12<sup>th</sup>. 9:30 we will start the budget planning, followed about approximately 11:00 the planning session with Hershey

**JUDGES**

Question was asked if judges had to be college graduates, judges only need to be qualified in their department they are judging.

Dick Horstman moved for adjournment at 2:43.

Respectfully submitted

Harry Reffner  
Exec Secretary/Treasurer