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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

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MINUTES

SPRING MEETING

April 15, 2015 – 11AM

CENTRE HALL, PA

David Reese 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, Judy Kmetz, Craig Lash, Dale LeVan, John McMullen, Jeanne Miller, Tom Murray, Sally Nolt, Rodman Ralston, David Reese, Harry Reffner, Jeff Romesberg, George Witherite, and Samuel Zaffuto. Debbie Stephenson was excused. Also in attendance – Gala Higinbotham, Bruce Koppenhaver, Lydia Messner, Catharine Connor, Lisa Bartlebaugh, Zach Gilhorski and Bitsey Kopfinger.

MINUTES OF FALL & CONVENTION MEETINGS – were posted on the website. Roger Dirlam made the motion to accept all of the minutes (Fall, Pre-Convention, Post-Convention), 2nd by Jeff Romesberg, carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Harry Reffner

Invoices from the Queen Program amounting to \$6,287.42 and PSSA amounting to \$4,363.66 have not been received from Convention. With those 2 amounts our Balance Sheet would show \$301,609 an increase of \$20,899 from last year at this time.

Scholarship Fund received \$4,700 from the spouse’s program during Convention. I received a check today plus a donation to come will put us over the \$6,000 necessary for the 6 scholarships.

General Account Income & Expenses does not have the PA PA Preferred check of \$17,000.

Convention profit is down \$4,099 from last year, sponsorships were down, increased meal prices. The Saturday breakfast buffet was the largest lost.

Roger Dirlam made the motion to accept the treasurer’s Report, 2nd by John Blaney, carried.

In response to a question from last Fall meeting, Harry reported that 219 people attended the Queen banquet but did not pay a registration fee. They came to Convention only for the Queen banquet.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- Courtesy passes to directors
- Fair Invoices mailed in February, dues are unpaid for 8 Fairs.
- \$1,000 sponsorship sent to IAFE Zone 1 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.
- Fair Caucus May 12th at Milliron & Goodman
- 2015 Judges list on web.
- IAFE Zone 1 trip to Carolina State Fairs Oct 15-18

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you from state Fair Queen Contestants: Middletown Grange Fair – Danielle Sherman, Fulton County Fair – Caitlin Lynch, Clinton County Fair – Mallory Fisher, Tioga Country Fair – Anna Copp, Dayton Fair – Abigail Biesinger, York Fair/State Fair Queen – Alana Eisenhour, Lawrence County Fair – Rebecca Jones, Indiana County Fair – Amber Stewart, Albion Area Fair – Samantha Gollmer.

Thank you from Dorothy Martin for the sponsorship of PA Preferred Chocolate Cake.

Thank you from Debra Berkoski for the sponsorship of the Angel Food contest.

Judges School Report from Bev Gruber and a check for \$136.69.

A note from Donald G. Clark, President Juniata County Agricultural Society, stating they chose not to send a replacement for Mr. William Ritzman to the State Fair Board.

A Thank you from Sec. George Geig for our support of the PA Preferred VIP Reception.

REPORT FROM THE PA SHOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION – Lisa Bartlebaugh

Lisa commented on the Seminars, looking forward to Convention.

REPORT FROM THE PA DEPT. OF AG. – Zachary Gilhorsi

Zach announced his promotion to Fair Fund Coordinator. Official announcement to come next week. He reviewed his background in agricultural and his respect for what we are doing. The PA Preferred chocolate contests will continue, some additional information needed to be collected. The PA Preferred display contest will also continue. Capital improvements forms came very quick due to getting them to the Comptroller for payment. Farm show will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. “All Roads Lead to the 100th Farm Show” will be the theme. Various ideas on how Fairs will be involved. Fairs should invited Zach and Acting Secretary Russell Redding to their fairs. Fair guides will be available at the zone meetings. Fair ambassadors will continue.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS. – Lydia Messner and Catharine Connor

See Legislative report under web Spring Board Meeting. Milliron & Goodman to keep us informed to updates to ACT153. If fair is on school grounds check with your solictors.

REPORT FROM ASSOCIATES REPRESENTATIVE. – Galla Higinbotham

Looking forward to the new fair season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

QUEEN – John Berne

62 letters of intent for 2016. Applications will be available at zone meetings. Make banquet reservations as early as possible. Request Alana to your fair, currently she has 9 requests. Again a guitar will be auctioned. Game of chance license, no longer at fireplace. Check to PSACF due to USPS moving a mail distribution center to New York, the new distribution center is back logged. Thank you to PSACF for their monetary contributions to the Queen Program.

Discussion of 21 refunds to individuals, not policy regarding refunds to non-associates members. Discussion followed, John Blaney made the motion that no refunds will be made after January 5th, 2nd by Jeff Romesberg. Carried. Registration forms will reflect this new policy.

SHOWCASE – Sam Zaffuto

Stage same as last year. PSACF has negotiated with PSAV and prices will not increase. Contracts have been signed through 2019.

BUDGET – Ron Miller

Budget meeting June 9th at Hershey.

AUDIT – Rod Ralston

Copy of audit from Clyde, Ferraro available.

ANIMAL HEALTH – Ron Miller
Discussion of the flu in western states.

BAKING CONTEST – Karen Dobson
PA Preferred renewed sponsorship, baking contests form will change, new requirements. Baking packets will be distributed by zones. Harry will not carry the packets to the zone meetings, instead a member of the board will take the packets to their zone meetings. Harry will supply a list of fairs for their zones. Packets not picked up will be given to Harry to mail.

FAIR PERSON – Bruce Koppenhaver
2015 form will be on website.

JUNIOR FAIR PERSON - C. Sherman Allen
Set for 2015

SPONSORSHIPS – Harry Reffner
This year we saw a decrease in Sponsorships, committee needs to look for new sponsors.

ROOMS – Dr. Sally Nolt
Ready for next year. Reminder check in time is not guarantee until 4:00 pm. Will have the room block opened in July.

SEMINARS – Kevin Bieber
Meeting held with the Seminar and Table Topic committee prior to our board meeting. Opening ceremonies speaker discussed, other topics to be reviewed. More updates later. No judging school on Wednesday, will use the day as a youth agricultural event.

COUNCIL OF FARM ORGANIZATION – John Blaney
Russell Redding in attendance. Office staff from the legislators was available for updates.

PENN STATE AG COUNCIL – Jim Davis
2 handouts regarding Food Safety, particularly for producers of food. Proactive, informing Washington.

FARM SHOW – Ron Miller
Creative ideas to promote the anniversary.

SCHOLARSHIPS – Jim Davis
Keep donations up to preserve the scholarship fund.

SOUND – Sam Zaffuto
PSAV has contracted through 2015 to a fixed price for the sound.

SMALL GAME OF CHANCE – John Blaney
Gaming license from Dauphin, Queen activities are legal.

OLD BUSINESS –
REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE FOR QUEEN CONTESTANTS
Harry reported that 23 yes emails were received to reduce the registration fee, 2 directors did not respond. Discussion that the request should have been made earlier.

NEW BUSINESS --

Discussion with regards to the 219 people who did not pay any Registrations, Jim made the motion that everyone pays registration, 2nd by John Blaney, discussion followed. John withdrew the 2nd.

John Blaney discussion of money from PSACF to the Queen Committee reduced registration, \$2,000 for scholarship, \$2,000 for Queen mileage, question why Queen Committee should not pay ¼ of the sound bill. Could Hershey not bill the Queen Committee directly for the expenses during convention, similar to how PSSA is billed. Will be followed up in June when we meet with Hershey.

Motion was made to eliminate Saturday buffet breakfast by John Blaney, 2nd by Jeff, carried.

Roger Dirlam made motion to increase all meal prices by \$2.00 above Hershey Price, 2nd by John Blaney, carried.

Query to move Board Meetings to Saturday, Roger moved to leave at Thursday, 2nd by Martha, carried.

Grange Fair cancelled their selling of baked items.

Grange Fair had an inspection of manure management, Grange had a plan in place.

Judy Kmetz moved to adjourn, 2nd by Susan Hahn, carried.

Adjournment at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted



Harry Reffner
Exec Secretary/Treasurer

