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# PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

## MINUTES

FALL MEETING October 19, 2017 11AM  
CENTRE HALL, PA

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

## MINUTES OF SPRING MEETINGS – Harry Reffner

Minutes of the meeting was posted on the website. John Blaney motioned to accept the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Dirlam, carried.

## TREASURER’S REPORT – Harry Reffner

The balance sheet is showing that the Association is in a good financial condition.

Scholarship do 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.

Roger Dirlam motioned to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Stephenson, carried.

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- Jack Snyder continuing his recover, we do not expect him at Convention. Dick Horstman accident with a tractor rolling on him broken bones, expected to be a Convention. Judy Kmetz fell broken bone. Craig Lash’s wife fell in wheelchair. Jim Davis had a pacemaker this week. Kevin & Sam could not attend do to work related issues.
- Convention packets ready for Zone meetings.
- President Hallstrom announced the 2018 Fair Theme –Farms, Families, Fairs, Fun
- Zone Meeting Dates:
  - April 12, 2018  
State Board Meeting Centre Hall
  - April 25, 26, 27, 28  
Zone Meetings
  - October 18, 2018  
State Board Meeting Centre Hall
  - October 23, 24, 26, 27  
Zone Meetings – Zone 3 will have a Tuesday Meeting, no meeting on Thursday

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show are requesting our participation in Mike Waugh Celebrity Draft Horse
- Penn Ag is reducing their Sponsorship for the Angel Food Contest to \$5,000 from \$7,000
- Dawson Grange letter to the Secretary with regards to his visit at their Fair this season. Included a petition regarding the importance of their Fair. Was reported after the visit the ladies were quite upset, Jeff Romesburg made the zone visit and verified the situation.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS. – Andy Goodman  
See report on website.

REPORT FROM THE PA SHOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION – Randy Carper  
Weather rain to heat. 4" rain in Huntingdon, and 90 degree weather for Bloomsburg. Preparing for Convention one winner will have a \$10,000 Kubota, must attend the banquet to win. PSSA completing 50 years and dress will be what you wore in the last 5 decades. Committee working today for famr show, volunteers are appreciated. 20 applicants for the scholarship fund. Discussion of tragedy in Ohio.

REPORT FROM ASSOCIATES REPRESENTATIVE. – Galla Higinbotham  
Rain and heat. Will be at convention, looking forward to it.

REPORT FROM THE PA DEPT. OF AG. –Laura England  
No replacement currently for Zach, 1<sup>st</sup> round of interviews, heading into the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Laura is pleased with selections. Spoke with Zach, he misses the Fairs. Secretary Redding and Deputies attended 89 Fairs, gave 30 Friends of the Fair award. Laura attended 10. Visiting Fairs she realizes we put our hearts and souls into the Fairs. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for Know Your Farmer, she will accept at the Zone meetings if they are not rolled and protected, can also be mailed. Nov. 15 deadline for reimbursements. She will be attending the Zone meetings along with Cheryl. Fair Act changes appreciated feedback, concerns from Fairs. Fairs must be sustainable thought he years. The Department will be stepping up assistance to the Fairs. Changes will be a process will not take place quickly. Petition at Dawson, was not at Fair and cannot speak to what the Secretary said. Discussion followed and Laura took notes to review with the team. November 8 next Fair Fund Advisory meeting, 1pm – 3pm will send out emails.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### BUDGET – Ron Miller

Ron presented the General Budget as proposed by the Committee. 3 line items were changed – 1) Due to reduction of sponsorship of the egg producers the Angel Food Cake Contest income and expense were reduced to \$5,000. 2) PAPreferred contest has not been reviewed by the Dept. of Ag and Karen suggested a reduction income and expense to \$10,000. 3) Harry reported that the IAFE Secretary Training will be in 2018 \$1,000 was added to that expense. John Blaney motioned to accept the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Stephenson, carried.

Ron then presented the Convention Budget, John Blaney moved to accept the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale LeVan, carried.

### MEMORIAL DISPLAY – John Berne

John asked that our Zone Meetings we ask for memorials to be brought to the Convention. Visitor comment the display and will be taking back to their Convention.

### QUEEN CONTEST – Karen Dobson

See report as given.

**BAKING CONTESTS – Karen Dobson**

Banners from PA Preferred are to be disposed of, do not display at Fair. Baking check premiums are causing duplicate work, and Karen asked that we do not issue those checks until after November 15<sup>th</sup>. This gives her time to reconcile from the baking reports given to her. John moved to hold checks until the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Nolt, carried.

**FAIR PERSON – Bruce Koppenhaver**

Bruce has received only two, promote at Zone Meetings.

**JUNIOR FAIR PERSON – C. Sherman Allen**

Gathering information for review by the committee.

**CONVENTION:**

**SPOUSE PROGRAMS – John Blaney**

Ticket auction baskets, Thursday Vera Bradley Bingo, Friday wreath making, Saturday To Be Announced.

**COMMUNICATIONS – Martha Ebersole**

Asking each fair to send a 2017 1<sup>st</sup> place blue ribbon, a display will be constructed. 4 entries for communications received.

**ROOMS – Dr. Sally Nolt**

Rooms are 75% booked

**SHOWCASE – Sam Zaffuto**

We have received approximately 30 applications for showcase. (Last year we received 40 applications.) The deadline was October 15. Our committee (Sam Zaffuto, John McMullen, Gala Higgenbotham, and Susan Hahn) will meet to review the applications something in the next few weeks. You may remember that last year we had so many quality acts that we set the time for showcase at 12 minutes, instead of 15, so that we could accommodate more acts. Once our committee meets, we determine the length of time for each act and the number of acts that will showcase. We will notify all acts that submitted applications whether they are chosen or not.

**COUNCIL OF FARM ORGANIZATION – John Blaney**

No emails recently, opposing Farm Show Sale.

**PENN STATE AG COUNCIL – submitted by Jim Davis**

**FARM SHOW – John Blaney**

Next Thursday meeting.

**JUDGING SCHOOL – Bev Gruber**

6 areas being presented, see tentative schedule.

**SCHOLARSHIP – Jim Davis**

Darby Kasper from Tioga County Fair.

Rachael Denae Barszczowski from Huntingdon County Fair.

LuAnne Antisdell from the Troy Fair.

Jeremy Newswanger is from the Elizabethtown Fair.

Garrett Jenkins also from the Elizabethtown Fair.

Heather Wasson is from the Centre Grange Fair.

**SPONSORSHIPS – Harry Reffner**

Tony Frazier presented a possible proposal from Diane Considine to obtain sponsorships for Convention. She is paid 15% of sponsorships she obtains. Bloomsburg has used her quite successfully. Roger made the motion to pursue sponsorships, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Blaney, carried. Will meet with committee and have contract for next year. Meeting to be held will full board at Convention.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS --

Bev suggested that we invite the CEO of Hershey Entertainment and a table of 10.  
With Jack Snyder not being able to attend the Convention, Harry had asked Bruce if  
he could assist, he agreed but asked for additional help, George volunteered.

Shirley McIntire zone meeting being held.

Concerts must provide sign language.

PCN, Starbright. Starbright to provide opening ceremony, working with the Queen  
program.

Bus to New York for Zone Meeting May 3, 4, 5. Bev mentioned that buses do not work.

October 18<sup>th</sup>, next board meeting.

Roger moved to adjourn at 2:37.

Respectfully submitted



Harry Reffner  
Exec Secretary/Treasurer