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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

MINUTES**FALL MEETING**

OCTOBER 15, 2020 – 6PM

ZOOM MEETING

Sally Nolt called the meeting to order. Kevin Bieber led the Pledge of Allegiance and Karen Dobson offered prayer.

Roll Call - present were C Sherman Allen, John Berne, Kevin Bieber, John Blaney Jr., Roger Dirlam, Karen Dobson, Martha Ebersole, Tony Frazier, Ben Haagen, Susan Hahn, David Hallstrom, Judy Kmetz, Craig Lash, Jana Malot, John McMullen, Jeanne Miller, Sally Nolt, Jim Reed, David Reese, Harry Reffner, Glenn Stotlfus, and Samuel Zaffuto. Honorary members Bev Gruber, John Lyon, Bruce Koppenhaver, Tom Murray. Members at Large – Tracy Barone, Gala Higinbotham. Guest from PSSA Jeff Good. From Department of Ag: Laura England, Mark Critz-Western Regional Director, Joshua Scheinberg-Eastern Regional Director, Sara Gligora-Central Regional Director. Excused Lyn Klingerman, Debbie Stephenson.

MINUTES OF SPRING & SEPTEMBER 23RD MEETINGS – Harry Reffner I had asked that minutes from our Spring and September 23rd Convention meeting be printed down. Kevin Bieber moved to suspend the reading of the minutes, 2nd by Martha Ebersole, carried. Motion by David Hallstrom to accept the minutes, 2nd by Roger Dirlam, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Harry Reffner**Balance Sheet:**

Last year at this time our Balance sheet had a balance of \$308,550.94, compared to the current balance we have an increase of approximately \$6,000.

Scholarship Register:

A healthy balance, we can currently can awards for 2020 and 2021. With the canceling of Convention, there will be approximately \$6,000 loss from the spouse program. With the Zoom meetings there has been over \$1,000 loss from the Zone 1 donations.

Savings Register:

1) The savings account is approximately \$1,000 more than compared to last year at this time.

Due to no income from Convention, the savings will be drawn on more than they have been in the past.

Convention Income/Expense

1) \$57,000 was transferred to either the general account or to savings.

General Income/Expense

With COVID our income was impacted, but also our expenses were lower.

- 1) Income was under budget approximately \$28,000.
 - a) Baking contest income \$15,000
 - b) Transfer in of \$11,000 was not needed in the fiscal year.
- 2) Expenses were under budget approximately \$35,000
 - a) Baking contest of \$5,000 was not paid
 - b) Officer travel was under \$4,000
 - c) Fair Visitations was under \$4,800
 - d) IAFEE expenses were under \$13,400
 - e) Queen Mileage under \$1,500
 - f) Postage under \$750
 - h) Board Meeting Mileage under \$1,900

Roger Dirlam moved to accept the reports, 2nd by Kevin Bieber, carried.

Association Update – Harry Reffner

1) Associate due notices were sent out earlier this month, expecting a possible drop in associates due to the COVID year. K&K Insurance has notified me that they will not be joining the Association in 2021.

2) Letters will be sent out shortly to Fairs for their 2021 dates and personnel changes. Had a number of personnel changes this year but I was not notified till much later. Will place a note asking that when changes occur to please contact me to update the data base file.

3) Modified 2021 Convention. I had directors inquiring as to what the convention will be for the Association. After Karen presents her Queen report, I will give an update as to what we see occurring in January.

Correspondence – Harry Reffner

Lee Robinson passing, memorial thank you from the Fire Company and the Family.

Report from the PA Showmen's Association – Jeff Good

Harry joined us at the Directors meeting on October 6th. Unanimous vote to keep all officers for 2021. Not a lot going on. Kerry expects after election, will be scheduling more days. PSSA is cautiously optimist.

Associates Representative – Galla Higinbotham

Standing by to see what the modified Convention will look like. Missed you all.

Report from the PA Dept. of Ag – Tracy Barone

Farm Show will be virtual, Jan 9th – 16th. Hoping we are participating. 108 Fairs 95 canceled, 8 ran modified, 5 did run their fairs. Friend of the Fair award did send some out. Fair Poster contest if you still held mail to the office in the Ag building by November 1st, trying something virtual. 2019 Capital Improvements working on the grants and their payments, received by late November. Issued automatic extensions through December. 2021 Fair reimbursements if your Fair was canceled or modified everything is on hold we have to wait until bill 1182 passes and is signed. The 5 fairs that did hold their fairs have to have the reimbursement into me by November 15th. Those 5 fairs have revised language in the application asking them to sign off that they held their events in conjunction with all the rules set by the Governor in regards to the mandates of COVID. 2021 matching capital improvement grants Fair Fund advisory committee met at the end of September; they recommended approval of all the priority 1 grants. You would have received an email from me with regards to the funding of the project. The

funding is tied to the SB1182. Kevin Bieber asked when the House was going to meet next, Tracy did not know but would research and get us an answer. Bill is still in committee.

Report from Legislative Consultant – Given by Sam

See Legislative Report on web.

Convention Queen Program – Karen Dobson

We are ready to go with a modified program. Plan will start judging on Friday in the Cocoa rooms. Based on 30 contestants all interviews and speeches will be done by lunch time. Meal Friday night no program, come in and eat and go. Saturday some mini seminars for the Queens, then rehearsal around 11:30 then will have a lunch at 12:30 everything should be done by 4:00. Queen program very little budget, we now have to take on the expenses. Going at it bare bone. Waiting on costs. Live streaming event. Could blow up and all the planning will be done for nothing. Colleges not allowing kids to leave campus. Kevin asked if PSACF would contribute, Harry said at the last board meeting PSACF would pay for meeting rooms, however Hershey does not charge for the meeting rooms. What expenses will the Queen program incur that they would need help with, Karen did not have an answer for that. Discussion of lighting. Bev said you do not want to ask Hershey for a charge to a room.

Convention PSACF update – Harry Reffner

Directors Meeting Chocolate Ball Room Saturday January 23 9:30am.
Including reorganization.

Audit Committee to meet before the Annual Meeting at their convenience.

Annual Meeting Chocolate Ball Room 10:30 am Saturday January 23.

Meeting as in past.

Passing of the gavel

Fair Person of the Year

Recognize any outgoing or incoming Directors, if there are any

The 2021 Memorial service will be combined into the 2022 meeting

PSSA

Meeting and Luncheon Saturday January 23.

Bylaws being reviewed for Pandemic.

Committee Reports

Budget – John Blaney

Did two budgets for Convention and General.

General had \$132,450 for 2019-2020 the budget and the proposed budget for 2020-2021 is \$126,400. John motioned to approve the budget, 2nd by Roger Dirlam, carried. Convention budget John proposed we ignore the Convention budget and just go with the General this year. 2nd by Kevin Bieber, carried.

Back to the Queen program, does the program have an amount they are requested. Some type of Lighting for photos. Karen could give an amount. Karen asked if monies from last year's budget could be given to the program. Could we table until January's director meeting. Martha we are in favor of helping the program. She motioned that we are in favor of assisting the Queen program, the amount to be determined at the January meeting, 2nd by Sherman Allen, carried.

By-Laws Roger Dirlam

Looking at changes with regards to Pandemic, some minor, Sally indicated that they have to be approved at the Annual Meeting. Sam mentioned that a 30 day notice has to be given to the Fairs. Roger will them to Harry to get to the board for their review.

Fair Person – Bruce Koppenhaver

Bev posed the question do we want to present a Fair Person award, with such a small attendance. Bruce indicated that he has not received any applications. Emails were sent out for applications. Just wait to see if we get any.

Auditing – Kevin Bieber

The committee will at 8:30 Saturday in the Cocoa suites.

Animal Health – David Reese

USDA has sent out there is new swine flu in the far east.

PA Farm Show Committee – Kevin Bieber

Phone call with the Farm Show, trying to pull together a Virtual. Impress with all the commodity on the call, want to be part of Virtual. PSACF should be doing something. Hoping for a virtual baking contest. Baking products done at home, COVID, judges would have to come in, did not go very far. Bev indicated Farm Show working with PCN have a lot put together. You would have to go into something they do not have, need to talk with Sharon and Heidi. Farm Show will not put forth any funding. If ok with the Board Kevin will make contact for possibilities. No objections from the board, Kevin will proceed and report back to the Executive Committee. Laura England Committee is open to any ideas. Videos have to have close captioning.

Special Baking Contests -- Karen Dobson, Kevin Bieber

Martha suggested what could our Fair Queen Grace do for the Farmshow. Martha did at their fair with baking. Martha made cookies, she baked and daughter did talking. Grace could do several things that Fairs do flowers, quilting etc. We could do videos and Farm Show could fit in. Good canning practices.

Junior Fair Person – C. Sherman Allen

Right now we have 4 individuals. Gifts have been ordered and will be mailed directly to the winners. Zone 3 will get to Sally. Highly encourage, will have 2 winners in 2022. Strive to recognize the winners.

Rooms – Sally Nolt

In past had a block of rooms, only doing the Queen block. You must book the rooms yourself.

Resolutions – C. Sherman Allen

Will need a resolution for Hershey. Karen has gone above and beyond for Queen program.

Seminars/Table Topics --Kevin Bieber

Contacted company we are dealing with for Keynote Speaker, will have him for 2022.

Msg. John W. Mignot Scholarship -- Sally Nolt

We had 18 applicants, they were outstanding. Specials thanks to Karen for scanning to get out to the judging.

Zone 2

Cheyenne Bastian-Brown Troy Fair

Zone 3

Holly Long Derry Twp. Agricultural Fair

Macy Walason Bedford County Fair

Zone 4

Trenton Balmer Manheim Community Farm Show

Thomas Gabel Perry County Community Fair

Abigail Wurzbach York State Fair

Letters have been mailed to the winners and the 12 non-winners. They will be in FairTalk.

Tourism Partnership -- Sally Nolt

Last meeting my link would not let me in. Looked at how COVID affected travel.

Council of Farm Orgs – John Blaney

They have been having Virtual meetings and I have not been able to attend.

Penn State Ag Council – Jana Malot

Had a meeting today through Zoom website, only spoken about COVID impact on the University. The Lab has been doing COVID testing saving the university \$100,000s. Scholarships presented today.

Richard Blood died from Albion Area Fair.

Old Business – None

New Business

2021 Fair Theme – Since Fairs had to cancel, decision to use xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx for 2021. Sally

Karen the Zoom meetings next Wednesday, using an online program to do the voting for the Directors. Zone 1 and 2 will do online, Zone 4 only 6 running for director will not need an election. This Sunday night will practice the online voting. Can practice Sunday alleviate any concerns on how the voting will work. Let Karen know if you want to join. Thank you Karen for setting up these Zoom meetings. Elections will take place first at the meeting. Preparing for a run off if necessary. Will those running for director have time to say anything or just what was mailed out to the Fairs? Harry would be up to the Zone Chair, Sherman said if you give each 3 minutes that would be ½ hour. Sam recommend only to use what was sent out and no time at the zone meeting.

Sam when will the codes be sent out to vote? Karen plan is to do it all at once, after registering send out the code. As of yesterday only 26 people have signed up. Zone chairs to contact their Fairs to follow through to register. Karen will run the report Sunday, to let chairs know which Fairs are missing.

Respectfully submitted



Harry Reffner
Exec Secretary/Treasurer