

DATES TO REMEMBER

—2024—

October 1

Junior Fair Person of the Year apps.
Due

October 10

PSACF Board Meeting-Pleasant Gap

October 15

2025 Request for Fair info material,
PSACF Associate Dues Invoices,
PSACF/PSSA Convention material,
Trade Show apps. mailed.

October 16

Zone 4 Mtg - Yoder's Restaurant

October 17

Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

October 18

Zone 1 Mtg. - Clearfield County Fair

October 19

Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair
(Lycoming Hosting)

October 25

Showcase applications due

November 1

- Fair Person of the Year apps. Due
- Communications Competition apps
due
- Queen Competition Applications due

November 15

- Reimbursement apps.—Fair Fund
due
- Baking Contests Summaries due

November 30

FAIRTALK material for December is-
sue due

December 1- 4

- IAFE Convention and Trade Show
Phoenix, Arizona

—2025—

January 4 - 11

- Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 22—25

- 112th Annual Convention Hershey

—2026—

April 9—11

- IAFE Zone 1 Conference
Breinigsville, PA



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NO. 3

KEYNOTE, SEMINARS, TABLE TOPICS & YOUTH DAY ALL BEING PREPARED

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

This is the time of the year where it just about all comes together. The committee has identified what you would like to see and hear at convention when it comes to the Seminars and Table Topics as well as Youth Day. I have several invitations out to the speakers, I am just waiting on a few more to send me their seminar titles and any other pertinent information. As always, the December FairTalk issue will have the full line-up of the topics that will be at convention.

In order to give you a slight “sneak peak” as to what you will encounter at convention, by way of seminars, I can tell you that once again you will have updates from Trucking as well as Food Safety. We are also looking to bring in a speaker that will educate you and your fair on Succession Planning. I have been in contact with the South Central Task Force who has been gracious enough to come to Hershey and speak on some very important topics. Although not finalized as of yet, they are looking at some type of seminar evolving around gangs at your fair and violence. We will also be having the Saturday morning panel discussion about anything and everything fairs. Although there will be many other seminars available while we are in Hershey, these seminars are still being worked out. Stay tuned to the December issue for a full run down.

The keynote speaker will be Jeremy Parsons who is the CEO / Manager of the Iowa State Fair. I am also excited to announce that Jeremy will stay with us through most of the convention and present another seminar while he is in Hershey.

The Youth Day is also in full planning mode. This year we will be pleased to welcome back several of our past Fair Queens to present at Youth Day. As of the writing of this article, we have a zoom call scheduled to finalize the details of Youth Day. Start encouraging your Youth of the fair to attend that Saturday morning event which will conclude with lunch and networking.

So, needless to say, lots going on in the planning for Hershey. Please encourage your fair membership to join us in Hershey as there will be lots to see and do and allow you to bring home ideas as well as educate yourself to help take your fair to the next level

From our President

Even though the calendar says September. There are still fairs to attend so let's go out to a county fair...

And breath the balmy cool county air. And whittle a stick and look at the horses, Discuss the famer's profit and losses. We'll take a look at the country stock and drink some chocolate or white milk. Take a look at the pigs and admire the goats and try to forget it's as hot as the dickens. Forget there are any political rings just think of the baked goods and can goods and things; So, wash off the kids and get in the car and we'll all go out to a county fair.

In July myself, my 3 grown children, my grandson went on a cruise, we had such a great time. Never did I imagine that I would experience a fair atmosphere on the cruise ship. There was a carousel on the ship, in my mind the carousel is a staple of the county fair. There was also an amazing display showing the process, from a block of, carved into the shape of a horse, painted and onto the carousel it went.



August was a great month, my home fair, the GREAT Perry County Fair, happens in August. We had good weather and great volunteers. Like many of your fairs, we just need more of them. We did some new things this year, we held a daily raffle, and a one-day craft show on the last day of our fair. There are so many new things out there your fair can try if you have the people power.

Ray and I also attend numerous other fairs that are *Flourishing with Opportunities*. It's so good to see our younger generation taking over for their parents and other family members as directors, helping other fairs grow and become strong.

I also attended the Great Allentown Fair, was honored to do some judging for them, and then spent much of the day seeing how a fair much larger than my home fair runs, I learned so much! And I got to meet Patches the scarecrow.



From President previous page..

It may seem so, but my job as president isn't just all fun and games attending fairs. In late August I had the opportunity to testify at an informational meeting of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Myself, Bev Gruber, and our State Fair Queen, along with representatives from the PA Department of Agriculture and the State Showman's Association spoke on the importance of local fairs to the health of our communities.

**The Power of One.
One hope will raise our spirit,
One touch can show you care,
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true,
One life can make a difference,
You see, it's up to you!**

I hope to see you at our zone meetings in October.

Martha

2024 PSACF FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATION REQUEST

A "Fair Person of the Year" for 2024 will be selected and presented with an award at the 2025 Convention. The following criteria have been established as a guide in this selection. No previous year nomination will be considered. If you have a nominee, please submit the application and resume.

The rules for the award are:

- The candidate must be a living person at the time of the nomination.
- The person must be identified with the fair industry for a minimum of ten (10) years.
- The person shall have contributed to the fair industry in addition to his/her own fair or association of fairs, and something of value in the field of leadership preferably at the state association level.
- He/she shall have fairly consistently attended the meetings and conventions of PSACF.

Each PSACF member fair is entitled to nominate one person. The person need NOT be from the fair making the nomination.

To submit a nomination, submit the name and a brief write-up of the person you are nominating by November 1, 2024 to: Bruce Koppenhaver 314 E. Market St., PO Box 217, Gratz, PA 17030

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FAIRTALK published four times per year by the Association. Send information for the publication to:
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128 Cumberland Rd,
Bedford, PA 15522

There is "Gnome" Place like the PSACF Convention.

By Linda Grove



A gnome is a dwarfish creature that is supposed to guard the earth's underground treasures.

This year's spouse program we will be making Gnomes, which are very easy to make. We will

provide the yarn material for the beard, the cone for the body, the wooden button for the nose and the sock for the hat.

If you have a glue gun, bring it along. If not we will have extra there along with glue sticks.

Hope to see you there.

PA Fairs On Parade A review of 2024 Pennsylvania Fairs

PA Fairs on Parade was a huge success at this year's convention so we are bringing it back for 2025. During the PSACF Banquet at the 2025 convention on Thursday January 23, 2025, we will present "PA Fairs on Parade", a picture review of our fairs. All fairs are invited to submit 7 photos from your 2024 fair.

Look for a good variety of high quality, high-resolution photos that best represent your fair. Submit 7 photos and a logo. Photos must be in .jpeg format. Your best 5 photos will be included in the presentation. Your logo will precede your photos so that everyone will be able to identify your fair.

Please email your photos and logo to Pafairson-parade@gmail.com. In the subject line of your email please enter the name of your fair. To be included in the "Fairs on Parade", we must receive your photos no later than December 15, 2024, in order to allow time to produce the presentation. If you have any questions, please call Sam Zaffuto at 814-591-3485.

Please plan to share the best from your fair with everyone at our banquet!



2025 SPOUSE PROGRAMS

The Spouse Program for the 2025 Convention will feature four different activities:

A "Ticket Auction" in the Great Hallway and prizes to be awarded on Saturday at 12:30PM in the Chocolate Ballroom, reminder baskets cannot contain alcoholic beverages.

On Thursday, a Basket and Bag Bingo will be held with Vera Bradley bags and Longaberger Baskets as the prizes.

Friday we will have hands on activity "Gnome" Place like the PSACF Convention, with Linda Grove.

On Saturday afternoon the program is Ice Cream social.

Come join us for the fun!

All fairs and showmen are requested to donate one (1) or two (2) gifts for use in the above activities. Your support is truly needed and will be greatly appreciated.

2025 PA STATE FAIR QUEEN CONTEST SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

Raffle Table Set Up

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

12:00pm – 4:00pm

Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program

2:45 – 3:15pm

Queen Contestant Check-in for Orientation

Contestants drop off Auction Gift Cards (*at Orientation check-in table*)

3:15pm – 4:00pm

Queen Contestant Orientation

6:00pm

Line Up for Stage Introduction Competition

6:15pm

Stage Introduction Competition

6:45pm

PSACF Annual Banquet

Immediately after

Queen Contestants Group Photo

Banquet

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

7:00am – 12:00pm

Interviews - Morning Session

2025 Fair Queen Contest Packets available in Tower Suite 1 Interview Waiting Area

10:00am – 4:00pm

Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program

11:00am-12:00pm Seminar - Young Women's Leadership

1:00pm – 5:00pm

Interviews - Afternoon Session

2025 Fair Queen Contest Packets available in Tower Suite 1 Interview Waiting Area

2:15pm – 3:15pm

Seminar - Young Women's Leadership

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Round Table/Idea Exchange for Queen Coordinators

2025 Fair Queen Contest Packets available at Round Table

5:30pm – 6:15pm

Judges Reception with Contestants

7:00pm – 9:00pm

PA Fair Queen Erica Teagarden's Party with Contestants

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025

7:30am – 12:00pm

Speech Competition – Morning Session

9:00am – 12:45pm

Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program

10:00am-11:00am

Queen Program Seminar – Panel Discussion

12:30pm

Drawing for Raffle Table items

1:15pm – 3:00pm

Speech Competition – Afternoon Session

4:30pm

Rehearsal for Coronation

6:00pm

Coronation Banquet (*Reserved Seating - Ticket Required*)

7:15pm

Line Up for Coronation

7:30 – 8:45pm

Coronation Ceremony

9:00pm

Media Photos / 2025 PA Fair Queen Meeting with State Coordinator

Visit the PA Fair Queen Program's Basket Auction and Raffle Table in the Great Lobby.

A 50/50 cash raffle drawing will be held Wednesday through Saturday.

Tickets can be purchased as follows:

Wed, Thurs, and Sat. evenings - Chocolate Ballroom Lobby

Fri 11:00 am – 3:30 pm - Great Hall across from Trade Show entrance



112th ANNUAL CONVENTION

**PA State Association of County Fairs and
PA State Showmen's Association**

**The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey PA
Wednesday - Saturday, Jan. 22 – 25, 2025**



1:00pm-3:15pm	Spouse Program - "Bag & Basket" Bingo
1:30pm-3:00pm	Meeting – Sire & USTA
1:30pm-3:00pm	Seminar – TBA
2:00pm 3:00pm	YP Mentor Speed Dating
2:15pm-3:15pm	Table Topics 9,11
3:15pm-4:30pm	Seminar – “Succession planning & Estate planning”
3:30pm-4:30pm	Table Topics 3,6,12
4:00pm	Associates Gathering
5:30pm	PSACF & PSSA Board Group Photos
5:45pm	Hospitality Time & Cash Bar
6:15pm	PSACF ANNUAL BANQUET
6:45pm	Dinner (reserved seating-ticket required-\$43)

Friday, January 24, 2025

MEAL ON YOUR OWN-LUNCH

7:30am-5:00pm	Registration Desk Open
7:30am	COMMUNICATIONS BREAKFAST meal (served) 7:30am; awards 8:15am-9:00am (ticket required-\$21)
9:15am -11:30am	Memorial Service / PSACF Annual Meeting
11:30am	Fair Advisory Committee Meeting
11:00am – 12:30	YP Idea Swap, Networking & Lunch
10:30am-4:00pm	Trade Show Open Communication Exhibits Open (Badge Required)
10:30am-4:00pm	PA Dept. of Agriculture display, etc.
1:00pm-2:00pm	Table Topics 2,5,10
1:00pm -2:15pm	Seminar – “Looking back to move your Fair Forward”
1:30pm -2:30pm	Seminar – Trucking Regulations & Updates
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Seminar – Capital Improvement Grants
2:15pm-3:30pm	Seminar – “Special Baking Contests”
2:00pm-3:30pm	Spouse Program –
2:15pm-3:15pm	Table Topics 3, 8, 9
2:30pm-3:45pm	Seminar – To Be Announced
3:30pm-4:30pm	Table Topics 4,7,12
6:15pm	Hospitality Time & Cash Bar
6:45pm	PA SHOWMEN ANNUAL BANQUET (Reserved seating-ticket required-\$57)

Saturday, January 25, 2025

MEAL ON YOUR OWN-BREAKFAST

7:30am-5:00pm	Registration Desk Open
9:30am -11:30am	Seminar – Let’s Talk Anything Fairs
9:00am-10:30am	Seminar – Food Safety Updates
9:00am-Noon	Trade Show Open Communication Exhibits Open (Badge Required)
11:30am-12:30pm	PSSA Annual Meeting
Noon-12:30pm	Communication Exhibits Released
12:30pm	Auction Drawings - Winner must be present
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Spouse Program – Ice Cream Social
6:00pm	QUEEN CORONATION BANQUET (Reserved seating-ticket required-\$52)

Saturday Youth Day, January 25, 2025

9:00am - 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 26, 2025

8:00am PSACF Exec. / Conv. Breakfast

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2025 Convention reservations will now be accepted by the Hershey Lodge. Deadline is December 15, 2024. For lodging:

Call Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108, and ask for the room block for the PA State Association of County Fairs, January 21 - 26, 2025.

Rooms will be available by 4:00pm and check out at 11:00am daily for all.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

ADVANCE REGISTRATION is essential to the smooth operation of the convention. Registration is:

- \$40 (received on or before December 15, 2024)
- \$60 (received after December 15, 2024)

MEALS

Meal(s) that are purchased are not refundable; there will be a bulletin board near the registration area for you to place a "for sale" notice if you wish to resell them. A limited number will be available for purchase at convention.

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

MEALS ON YOUR OWN-ALL

9:00am-1:00PM	“Serv-Safe” (see newsletter article for details – PA Showmen or fairs who are members of PA Showmen [1 person per fair may register; others to be considered after deadline if space available])
11:00am-5:00pm	Registration Desk Open
12:30pm	Judging School Orientation Session
1:20pm – 2:30pm	First Session of Judging School
2:35pm – 3:55pm	Second Session of Judging School
2:00pm-3:00pm	Seminar – “Fairs 101”
3:00pm-4:00pm	Table Topics 1,8
3:15pm-4:15pm	Seminar – To Be Announced
4:00pm-8:00pm	Enter Communication Exhibits Trade Show Set-up
4:45pm	PSSA Board Meeting
4:45pm	PSACF Board Meeting
6:30pm-10:00pm	ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE

Thursday, January 23, 2025

MEALS ON YOUR OWN-BREAKFAST & LUNCH

8:00am-5:00pm	Registration Desk Open
8:00am-9:00am	Enter Communication Exhibits
8:00am-10:30am	Trade Show Set-up
8:30am-9:00am	First-Timers Session
9:00am-9:30am	Opening Entertainment
9:30am-10:45am	Opening Ceremony Keynote Speaker – Jeremy Parsons
10:30am-4:00pm	Trade Show Open Communication Exhibits Open (Badge Required)
10:30am-4:00pm	PA Dept. of Agriculture display, etc.
1:00pm-2:00pm	Table Topics 6,7,10
1:00pm-2:00pm	Seminar – Animal Health Updates

SPOUSE PROGRAM

There is “Gnome” place like the PSACF Convention

Presented by Linda Grove (Huntingdon County Fair)

A gnome is a dwarfish creature that is supposed to guard the earth’s underground treasures.

This year’s spouse program we will be making Gnomes, which are very easy to make. We will provide the yarn material for the beard, the cone for the body, the wooden button for the nose and the sock for the hat.

If you have a glue gun, bring it along. If not we will have extra there along with glue sticks.

Ice Cream Social

TABLE TOPICS

1. Commercial exhibits & concessions – (food or nonfood)
2. Entertainment
3. Competitive exhibits
4. Human resources (recruitment & training of employees / volunteers)
5. Fairs & showmen, working together for the best interest of all
6. Safety & security
7. Sponsorships
8. Strategic planning for your fair operations & facilities
9. Technology – (AI, what is it and how could it affect your fair)
10. Changes in the fair industry – what are you doing or will do to keep up?
11. Ideas for the 250th anniversary of the united states in 2026
12. Marketing

SEMINARS

Judging School

Baking and Canning	Group Exhibits
House Plants	More topics to come

Serv-Safe

The Food Safety updates will be presented by Paster Training, Inc. Paster Training Inc.’s trainers are the best and most passionate in the business. We are thrilled about the opportunity to provide your association members with a 4 hour food safety review session and proctoring of the ServSafe examination.

Trucking Regulations Update

The latest updates for the industry.

Fairs 101

Presented by Tracy Barone

Review of requirements under the Fair Act, state premium guideline book, fair reimbursements, and frequently asked question. Additionally, we’ll open the floor to attendees to share their best management practices and good ideas.

Fairs Capital Improvement Grants

Presented by Tracy Barone

Information regarding planning, applying for and reporting on Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grants.

Food Safety Updates

Changes and Updates from the PA Dept. of Agriculture.

TBA

Presented by South Central Task Force

IAFE

Speaker and topic forth coming.

Animal Health Updates

This presentation will cover the PA Department of Agriculture Animal Health Requirements and Recommendations, biosecurity considerations, and the Animal Exhibition and Sanitation Law. Information on the new exhibition swine and poultry quarantine orders will also be presented. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion for fair managers challenged with incorporating these requirements into their programs

Special Baking Contests

Presented by Kevin Bieber (Oley Valley Community Fair) and Karen Dobson (Kimberton Community Fair)

This is the annual seminar to update everyone who runs any of the Special Baking Contests at your fairs. This is also the perfect time to come and ask questions regarding any of the contests.

Let’s Talk Anything Fairs – Panel Discussions

Succession planning & Estate planning

Presented by Barley Snyder

TBA

Presented by South Central Task Force

Looking back to move your Fair forward

Presented by Jeremy Parsons

YP Event

– Maria Zaffuto

We will once again be having our annual Young Professional Lunch and Peer Networking Event on Friday of convention. A free lunch will be offered courtesy of our sponsors.

We are also looking forward to once again hosting the Mentor Speed Dating and Network Session. This session was a huge hit last year with special requests to bring it back for another year.

Youth Day sponsored by Erie County Fair at Wattsburg

– PA State FFA Officers



JUDGES SCHOOL SCHEDULED

On Wednesday, January 22, 2025 the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and the Pennsylvania Farm Show will host a Judge's School during the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs Convention at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. You may choose two breakout sessions to attend.

The day starts at 12:30 PM with an orientation session on ethics in the judging process. This is followed by the six sessions.

Here are some thoughts on Sessions for this year:

- Baking and Canning
- Group Exhibits
- House Plants
- More topics to come

The first session is from 1:20 - 2:30 PM and the second is from 2:35 - 3:55 PM. The fee for the school is \$15.00 per person.

A certificate of attendance is given to all participants who complete the program. This is NOT a certification.

By mid-February the "PSACF Suggested Judges List" is compiled and goes online on the Fair Association website, www.pafairs.org. Many fairs have found it very helpful in finding qualified judges.

If you are planning to participate in Judges School, you need to pre-register and send your payment by January 4, 2025. Send your name, address, phone number and e-mail to Jana Mellott, 1432 Trails End Road Harrisonville, Pa. 17228. You may register via email at auntjana@embarqmail.com with payment mailed. If paying at the convention please make those arrangements ahead of the school.

Judge's School Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If affiliated with a fair, give name of fair: _____

Session 1 _____ Session 2 _____

Number of People ___ @ \$15.00 = \$_____ (list additional names below)

Return form and check **payable to PSACF** • 1432 Trails End Road • Harrisonville, PA 17228 Registration may be called in. Phone 717-571-8637. Please register by January 4, 2025.

PA Fair Queen Program's Many Firsts



Our Program has seen many “firsts” over the past few months.

History was made when it was announced that our 2024 PA Fair Queen Erica Teagarden would serve an unprecedented fourth year on the Pennsylvania Farm Show's Junior Committee in her role as PA Fair Queen. For the past few years, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has committed to making the PA Fair Queen an honorary member of its Junior Committee. This special appointment supports our mission to connect PA agriculture with PA fairs. Erica had already served three years on the Committee where she enjoyed meeting and speaking with many people across the agricultural industry, greeting and interacting with Farm Show visitors, and planning the annual Junior Committee auction. We look forward to seeing her contributions to the success of the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show - January 4-11.

Next, for the first-time ever, the PA Fair Queen Program was invited be part of a panel of fair leaders who testified before the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on the "*Impact of Fairs in Pennsylvania*". Erica did an outstanding job making the case for how fairs have become traditions that communities cherish and provide many educational, economical, youth participation, and social benefits to the communities. She joined an elite panel including PSACF President Martha Ebersole, Allentown Fair Chairwoman and CEO Beverly Gruber, and PSSA Board of Director Jeff Good.



The testifying opportunity opened the door to another “first” - more fair queens promoting fairs with legislators. The Fair Queen Program has organized its first Advocacy Day at the Pennsylvania Capitol thanks to the efforts of Milliron Goodman Lobbyist Kerry Lange and Executive Director of the PA State Organization of Farm Council Lizzie Bailey. Over 25 fair queens will be gathering to meet with their home district legislators, tour the Capitol, and be recognized by the House and Senate as the ambassadors for PA Fairs.

In the middle of all these awesome happenings, we are also gearing up for the 2025 State Competition. Below is a list of key deadlines:

State Contestant Hotel Room Block Deadline October 15



The PA Fair Queen Program has reserved a block of rooms designated specifically for state contestants. This room block is guaranteed through **October 15**. After that, the hotel reserves the right to release any unused rooms to other convention guests.

There is a separate Hotel Room Form that can be downloaded from the PA Fair Queen Program's website -

<https://sites.google.com/view/pastatefairqueen/home>

Forms must be submitted directly to Hershey Lodge. The room reservation process is the responsibility of the fair, queen coordinator and/or the contestant's family. Be sure that your contestant is getting clear communication from your fair and queen coordinator about who is making her hotel reservation.

See Fair Queen next page





State Contestant Application Now Open Through November 15

The 2025 PA State Fair Queen application is available on the PA Fair Queen Program's website.

<https://sites.google.com/view/pastatefairqueen/home>

The application must be completed online. Queen Coordinators will receive instructions on how to access the webpage so that their contestants can complete the application forms. Completed applications and all required documents must be uploaded by **11:59 pm on November 15.**

An **online "2025 State Contestant Application Tutorial"** will be hosted for Coordinators and contestants. The session will be recorded so anyone else interested in receiving a copy of the training can contact Karen Dobson at kardob@msn.com.

Convention Registration for Contestants and Guests

In addition to the hotel room and the online application, each contestant – and any of her personal guests – **must** be registered for the Convention. This is done by completing PSACF's Convention Registration Form and submitting the associated payments. The fee to register a contestant for the state competition is \$125 and covers her convention registration, Thursday's PSACF Banquet, Friday's contestant pizza party, and Saturday's coronation banquet. Anyone else attending a convention event or banquet must also register and pay using the PSACF form. **Deadline to register and pay is December 15.** The form can be downloaded from PSACF's website. <https://www.pafairs.org/p/convention/convention-registration>

PA Fair Queen Logo Items



We are selling the Queen Program Quarter-Zip Pullovers again, plus a **NEW** item - embroidered Sweatshirt Blankets! **Orders must be placed by November 15** if you want to pick up at the Convention. See our website for order form and details. <https://sites.google.com/view/pastatefairqueen/home>



Queen Program Fundraising Opportunities



Supporting the PA Fair Queen Program is a great opportunity to invest in the next generation of PA's finest young women leaders. There are two opportunities:

- 1. Donations** - We are seeking items for our fundraising events at convention in January. Individuals, fairs, and businesses can help by donating gift baskets, live auction items or contributing a monetary donation. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Contact Amy Hawn with any questions. 814-386-1860 or amyhouck267@yahoo.com. **Deadline to sign up: November 30.**

From Fair Queen previous page

2. Sponsorships - The PA Fair Queen Program is also seeking sponsors for the upcoming state competition in January 2025. Sponsors are partners who maintain the high standards of excellence that has made us one of the top commodity programs in the Commonwealth. Sponsors receive great visibility and recognition with over 1300 delegates from fairs, showmen and associates who attend the annual convention.

A special opportunity this year is the **“Fair T-Shirt Quilt”** sponsorships in memory of C. Sherman Allen who passed away shortly after the 2024 Convention. Sherman was the long-time auctioneer for our Coronation as well as a loyal supporter of fair youth, including the Fair Queens. One of Sherman’s last fundraising ideas was to have a quilt for our Live Auction that represented the Fairs. The Queen Program is fulfilling his wishes by having a quilt made from t-shirts donated by PSACF member fairs this past spring. The Sherman Sponsorships will go towards offsetting the costs for fabric, sewing and quilting expenses.

We encourage individuals, fairs, showmen and fair associates to be a sponsor at the 2025 Convention. Contact Judy Kmetz for more details – 570-675-2952 or luzernecountyfair@hotmail.com . **Deadline is November 30** to be included in our publications.



– Maria Zaffuto

We will once again be having our annual Young Professional Lunch and Peer Networking Event on Friday of convention. A free lunch will be offered courtesy of our sponsors.

We are also looking forward to once again hosting the Mentor Speed Dating and Network Session. This session was a huge hit last year with special requests to bring it back for another year.



Pennsylvania Fair Queen Program 2024 Fundraising

**Great opportunities to invest in the
next generation of PA's finest young women leaders**



Individuals, Fairs and Businesses can participate as follows:

- Donate a **Gift Basket** for Convention
- Donate a **Live Auction** item for Coronation
- Contribute a **Monetary Donation**
- Help at the **50/50 Nightly Cash Raffle** Table
 ___ Wed ___ Thurs ___ Fri ___ Sat
- Help at the **Basket Raffle** Table at Convention
 ___ Thurs ___ Fri ___ Sat



Please indicate your preference above and return form by November 30.

Mail Form & Checks To: Amy Hawn, 9669 Kyper Road, Petersburg, PA 16669

FOR MONETARY DONATIONS – CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PA STATE FAIR QUEEN PROGRAM"

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING NEEDS

Contact Amy Hawn at 814-386-1860 (Baskets/Auction) or Ruth Trumbetta at 724-433-3571 (50/50)

PA State Fair Queen Program is a non-profit corporation with 501(c)3 tax exemption status

PSACF COMMUNICATIONS AWARD COMPETITION Registration Form

All forms must be postmarked by NOVEMBER 1, 2024.
Mail to Martha Ebersole 640 Dellville Road, Duncannon PA 17020

Fair: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone No: _____

Address: _____

The following entries must be submitted with this registration form before November 1.

____ PREMIUM BOOK

____ PREMIUM TABLOID

____ NON-PREMIUM TABLOID

____ BROCHURE

____ BILLBOARD (8X10 photo)

____ POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (amateur)

____ PLACEMAT

____ VIDEO TAPE (amateur)

____ WEBSITE (include web address & explanation of the site – typed, max. 100 words)

____ FACEBOOK (include address and brief paragraph – typed, max. 100 words)

The following entries should be brought to the convention, the registration form is still due by Nov. 1. Entries will be accepted at the convention on Wednesday from 4 to 8 pm and Thursday from 8 to 9 AM. (NO EXCEPTIONS). Judging will begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

____ PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

____ SCRAPBOOK Traditional _____ Digital _____

2024 PSACF Theme:
Pennsylvania Fairs: Flourishing
With Opportunity Rooted in
Agriculture

____ SCRAPBOOK COVER Traditional _____ Digital _____

____ FAIR DISPLAY - FLOOR (max. 8' high x 8' wide x 4' deep)

____ FAIR DISPLAY - TABLE (max. 4' high x 8' wide x 2' [24"] deep)
Please note the display tables are only 24" deep @ Hershey.

____ CREATIVE FAIR IDEA

____ BEST OF SHOW (Fair qualifies for this category if they've entered 5 other categories.)

Questions should be directed to the following executive committee members:

Martha Ebersole (717) 834-4435

Craig Lash (724) 872-8967

Christy Burkhouse (814) 249-2438

Ben Haagen (814) 383-4428

Paul Britcher, Jr (717) 587-8779

PA Fairs Special Baking Contest

September 2024
Submitted by Karen Dobson

Here are some reminders as we head towards the 2025 PA Special Baking finals at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

All of the post-contest information is available on the PSACF website under the “Members” section for “Baking Contest”.

- Every participating fair must submit the Contest Summary Report **by November 15** either through the online link or by paper form. It will help us communicate better about the PA Farm Show finals if fairs can provide their winners’ email addresses.
- There are **Winner Certification Information sheets** available to give your fair winners so they can prepare for the PA Farm Show contests. Fairs **no** longer fill out any Farm Show Certification Entry forms. Those Certification Forms will be sent by the PA Special Baking Contest Committee directly to the winners as designated in the fairs’ Contest Summary Forms.
- If a first-place winner is unable to attend the state finals, the PA Fairs Special Baking committee will certify the next available winner listed on the fair’s Contest Summary.
- Local winners should NOT register directly with the PA Farm Show to compete in the Farm Show special baking finals. The Certification Entry Form signed by the PA Fairs Special Baking committee is their “ticket” to enter. Instructions are listed on the Certification Entry Form.

If there are any questions, contact the appropriate committee chairpersons:

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests –

Kevin Bieber (484-256-8009, email kbieber1123@comcast.net)

Junior Baking and Chocolate Cake Contests –

Karen Dobson (610-212-6180, email kardob@msn.com)

#



Welcome New Associates!

Attractions, Miscellaneous

Crosson Magic

1018 Ridge St. Olyphant PA 18447
Phone: (570) 507-1136 Phone 2: (570) 702-2399 Fax: Web-
Site: www.crossonmagic.net
Info: Magical entertainment both strolling and/or stage for
your Fair and Festival entertainment need.

Magic Man Industries

10220 Route 426 Corry PA 16407
Phone: (814) 580-8745 WebSite: magicmanindustries.com
E-Mail: jamie@magicjamieshow.com
Info: Family Friendly Magic Shows

Musical Attractions

Carol Sexton

422 Lancaster Ave Malvern PA 19355
Phone: (484) 370-0106
E-Mail: sunshinepa@verizon.net
Info: Singer of Southern Gospel music

Stephanie Grace Music

48 Horseshoe Drive Douglassville PA 19518
Phone: (484) 942-6944 WebSite: stephanie-grace.com
E-Mail: info@stephanie-grace.com
Info: Entertainment - country/pop originals and covers - 5
piece band - family friendly



Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company is proud to help fulfill the dream of our founder, Milton S. Hershey, by providing value to Milton Hershey School in its mission of helping students lead happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives - just as Mr. Hershey intended. Learn more at MHSkids.org.

The PA State Association of County Fairs room block is OPEN and guests may begin to reserve their room reservations.

Your guests may begin to reserve their room reservations by calling the **Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108**, and asking for the room block for the **PA State Association of County Fairs, January 21 - 26, 2025**.

The Hershey Lodge Reservation office hours: Monday - Sunday, 8:00am - 8:30pm

Your Group's Room rate is:

One person in Room: \$125.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes
Two or more persons in the Room: \$128.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes

We are asking guests for their credit card numbers to guarantee their reservations, the card will be charged for one night at the time of reservation.

Your Group's cancellation policy is:

Cancellations must be received by the end of day, Monday January 13, 2025. Any room reservation cancelled after this date, will forfeit the one night charge made at reservation time.

Guests who need to reserve their room reservations in the Showmen Hallway, Rooms 2200 - 2250, please have them call me, and I will assist them with reserving their assigned room in this section. Could we ask these guests to contact me by Friday, Oct 25, 2024. I could provide you with the names of the guests who have not reserved their room reservation after this date, giving you time to check to see if the guest will be attending your conference.

(Michele Maxwell - Office Number: 717-534-8696).

Message from Our Associates



Plans are moving along well for the 2025 PSACF/PSSA convention to be held in Hershey on January 22nd – 25th.

Welcome new associates and those associates who have renewed their memberships!

Musicians, bands, solos, duos, jugglers, magicians, circus performers! Now is the time to apply for the very popular annual Showcase of Entertainment taking place this year on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 6:30. If you are already an Associate Member, you should have received your invitation to apply via email and mail.

If you are selected, you will be performing for over 100 fairs and buyers from all over Pennsylvania (from Maryland and New Jersey too) who are actively looking for acts that will make their fair special.

The showcase is a highlight of the convention, an excellent opportunity for fairs to experience acts/attractions/bands firsthand and book them early for the 2025 fair season.

The showcase committee looks for diversity - juggling/magic/illusion and novelty stage acts as well as musical groups, bands, tribute artists and singers – for all sizes of venues.

Additionally, strolling acts/street musicians and grounds entertainers (roving acts who do not offer a stage show) may apply to entertain and mingle in the Chocolate Ballroom lobby prior to the fair banquet on Thursday evening.

The applications for the showcase and strolling entertainment must be received by October 25th. Associates must be current members (or represented by an agent who is a member) to submit for the showcase. You are eligible to apply if you have not showcased in the last 2 years. Those who meet these qualifications should have received an invitation to apply.

If you or someone you talk to is not yet an Associate Member of the PSACF, direct them to the website: <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/216>. That link should take them directly to the application to become a member, as well as provide information. Those meeting the criteria will then receive an invitation to apply to showcase if it's before October 25th.

If you have not already done so, book your room now. In the past, some people were not able to get rooms as they waited too long to make their reservation. Follow the instructions on the PSACF website to get the convention room rate.

All the best,
Galla
gallaanddan@gmail.com

BUY SALE TRADE

A new column for you to place your surplus items that may be needed by another Fair.



We need your help to collect data from fairgoers at your fair this year to support the Economic Impact Study, currently in development.

These flyers contain QR codes that visitors to your fair can scan using the cameras on their phones to complete the survey regarding how much they spent while attending the fair. The survey asks fairgoers things like what fair they're attending, the town that they're from, how much they spent on things like food, lodging, and travel to the fair. You can take the survey at this link: [Survey to Understand the Economic Impacts of Visitors on State Fairs \(office.com\)](https://www.pas.gov/office.com).



Please post these in high traffic areas and where people gather or wait in line:

- Fair Entrances, Fair Information Booths/Buildings, Fair Office
- Amusement Ride Lines and "Waiting" Areas (where parents/guardians wait while the kiddos ride the rides). Ask the ride companies if they would post them inside some of the rides where appropriate.
- Picnic Areas or Other Areas Where People Gather
- Beer/Beverage Gardens
- Restrooms
- Trams/People Movers
- Show Arenas and Concert Stages
- Grandstands & Tracks
- On the Way In and Out of Exhibit Buildings
- Ask Food and Commercial Vendors (with trailers, tents, sit-downs, counters) to post them at their concession stands, etc.
- Encourage exhibitors and Vendors to Complete the surveys too
- Concert Venues
- Once an Hour Announcement over the PA System: *"We hope you're enjoying your time here at the fair! We could use your help to collect information about fair visitation by scanning the QR codes on the flyers posted throughout the fairgrounds titled: We'd Like to Hear From You! If you get a chance, please scan it today. If you cannot locate a flyer, please stop by the fair office, one is posted there."*

The data collected from fairgoers is important in measuring the fair industry's impact on the state and local economy. Call (717-772-3094) or email Tracy (tbarone@pa.gov) at the Fair Office for PDF versions of the posters. We appreciate your help with this!

Thanks!

You don't just need entertainment.



You need the **right** entertainment.

You can trust our consultants to match you with the right options **you need to be successful.**

Grandstand Concerts

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Ground Attractions

Comedians

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Competitions

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Wrestling

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QR code
to see
more!



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info@varietyattractions.com

From the PA State Fair Queen



It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the 2024 fair season. During my travels as the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen, I have been to each corner of the state and everywhere in between. From each fair that I have visited, I have found that they are each unique in their own way. I have enjoyed hearing the stories of how each fair was started and how it came to be what it is now. The history behind every Pennsylvania fair is what truly makes each unique.

Walking around in a big crown and bright sash of course brings a lot of attention when I am out and about. I have gotten my picture taken with so many young boys and girls eager to talk to the queen. I have had conversations with annual fairgoers and got to hear about their own fair favorites. I have had the opportunity to meet so many young women who are excited to promote their fairs as the queen. Through it all, I have truly learned the impact that Pennsylvania fairs have on the people in and out of our Commonwealth.

I had a unique opportunity this year to participate in the Pennsylvania House Agriculture and Rural Affairs informational meeting about the impact of Pennsylvania fairs. I spent the day at The Great Allentown Fair with House Representatives, those from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, PSACF members, and many from the fair. I got to tour the fair, give my testimony on what I believed the impact of our fairs is, was a part of the opening ceremonies, and finally watched the queen contest. I was grateful to get to be the first PA Fair Queen to have an opportunity to be a part of this event.

My summer has been filled with almost 40 fairs visits including the two fairs that I call home. My first stop in Washington County was to the fair that I represented in Hershey, The Washington County Agricultural Fair. There I got to crown our next county fair queen, participate in some of my favorite fair events, and enjoy being back at my fair. My next Washington County fair was another fair that I claim and call home, The West Alexander Fair. This is the smaller community fair in my county and it holds so many wonderful memories for me. At the queen contest, I was given the first ever key to the fair and named the "hometown girl" as I basically grew up at the fair and only lived a mile up the road for most of my life. I had always dreamed of bringing the state title back to that fair and although I was not their queen, I still felt the love and support as if I was.

With only a few fairs left in my year, I know that I am going to miss these adventures. I am making the most of the final fairs of the year and am excited to share all about my adventures once I get to Hershey in January. With every t-shirt, mug, and piece of fair memorabilia that I receive, I know that I will never forget the amazing year that I have had. Thank you to everyone who has made my year so wonderful and to everyone who works to put on fairs each year.

Yours truly, Erica Teagarden

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PLA

HARRISBURG OVERVIEW

The 2023-24 session will officially conclude on November 30th, leaving limited session days to move outstanding bills through the legislative process and across the Governor’s desk. If they don’t make it through the finish line, the bills will have to be reintroduced for consideration during the next session.

This fall, the House plans to gavel-in for 11 session days and the Senate for 14 days.

House of Representatives

The House continues to operate with slim margins between Democrats and Republicans. Without a clear majority, it’s difficult for either caucus to successfully pass controversial bills through the chamber.

At full complement, the House has 203 Representatives. Right now, there are 201 members (101R-100D).

Two Democrats recently resigned, bringing their seats down from 102 to 100. The special election to fill those two seats is scheduled for September 17th and it is generally expected that both seats will be filled by Democrats, putting them back in the majority (102) for the remainder of the session.

Senate

Senate Republicans continue to hold the majority with 28 seats; Democrats hold 22 seats.

2024 Elections

On November 5th, all 203 seats of the House of Representatives and 25 out of the 50 Senators are up for election. All odd-numbered Senate district seats are up for election this year.

On your ballots, you’ll also find three state row offices: Attorney General, Auditor General and Treasurer. The major party candidates for each office are as follows:

- Attorney General
 - Republican Dave Sunday
 - Democrat Eugene DePasquale
- Auditor General
 - Incumbent Republican Tim DeFoor
 - Democrat Malcolm Kenyatta
- Treasurer:
 - Incumbent Republican Stacy Garrity
 - Democrat Erin McClelland

BUDGET LINE ITEM

Our objective each year is to protect the county fairs line item in the state budget. This year we were able to secure \$4 million in the General Appropriations bill (SB 1001).

Interestingly, the line item was a standalone, separated out from the Race Horse Development Fund. The House Agriculture Committee staff noted that the Equine Coalition has been pushing to have these lines removed from Race Horse Development Fund transfers. Staff did not believe it’s a bad idea to have the funding come directly from the Department of Ag. They noted that several years ago, it was a standalone line item.

LEGISLATION

Protecting the Public from Contact with Wild Animals

[HB 1451](#) (Hohenstein, D-Philadelphia): Amends Title 34 (Game) by prohibiting menagerie and exotic wildlife permit holders to permit the public to feed or have direct contact with exotic wildlife or wildlife, EXCEPT for ruminants.

Ruminants are defined as “even-toed ungulated mammals that chew the cud regurgitated from their rumen. The term includes cattle, sheep, antelopes and deer and their relations. The term does not include giraffes.”

The restrictions would not apply to a nationally recognized circus.

The bill narrowly passed the House with a vote of 109-94. It is now waiting for consideration by the Senate Game & Fisheries Committee.

Banning Traveling Animal Acts in Pennsylvania

See M&G for continuation next page.....

From M&G previous page.....

Banning Traveling Animal Acts in Pennsylvania

[HB 1114](#) (Shusterman, D-Chester): Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses) by prohibiting the transport of animals for the purpose of a participating in a traveling animal act.

The bill was introduced and referred to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on May 5th, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

We have officially reorganized the Pennsylvania Fair Caucus! The Pennsylvania Fair Caucus is a bicameral (House and Senate), bipartisan (Republicans and Democrats) caucus.

Representative Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia) and Senator Lynda Culver (R-Columbia) are the Republican co-chairs. Both represent the Bloomsburg Fair. Senator Culver served on the original fair caucus (under Representative David Millard) when she was a state Representative!

Representative Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin), a former employee of the state Department of Agriculture, is also a co-chair of the caucus.

We collectively identified a few goals to work on throughout the next year:

Identify fair champions in the Capitol;

Provide continued education for fellow legislators about the importance of fairs for our local communities;

Encourage legislators to visit their local fairs and refresh relationships; and

Support the fairs with annual budget line-item initiatives.

Legislative caucuses tend to be relatively informal but provide a solid foundation and list of fair supporters and advocates in the Capitol. Caucus members will be able to help with future line-item requests as well as any other legislative issues that the fairs may encounter. Below is our robust list of members:

Rep. Jamie Barton (R-Berks)
Rep Aaron Bernstine (R-Butler)
Rep Marty Causer (R-McKean)
Rep Eric Davanzo (R-Westmoreland)
Rep Torren Ecker (R-Adams)
Rep Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin)
Rep Ann Flood (R-Northampton)
Rep Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna)
Rep Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland)
Rep. Charity Grimm Krupa (R-Fayette)
Rep. Joe Hamm (R-Lycoming)
Rep Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon)
Rep Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia)
Rep Zachary Mako (R-Northampton)
Rep Dave Maloney (R-Berks)
Rep. Milou Makenzie (R-Northampton)
Rep. Ryan Makenzie (R-Lehigh)
Rep Kristin Marcell (R-Bucks)
Rep. Clint Owlett (R-Bradford)
Rep Eddie Day Pashinski (D-Luzerne)
Rep. Tina Pickett (R-Bradford)
Rep Jack Rader (R-Monroe)
Rep Kathy Rapp (R-Warren)

Rep. Dave Rowe (R-Snyder)
Rep Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh)
Rep Mike Stender (R-Montour)
Rep. James Struzzi (R-Indiana)
Rep. Ryan Warner (R-Fayette)
Rep Dave Zimmerman (R-Lancaster)
Sen. Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill)
Sen Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington)
Sen Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester)
Sen. Lynda Culver (R-Columbia)
Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango)
Sen. Patrick Stefano (R-Fayette)
Senator Judy Ward (R-Blair)

HOUSE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VISITS THE ALLENTOWN FAIR

On August 28th, Representatives from the House Ag Committee visited the Allentown Fair for a tour of the fairgrounds and an informational meeting to discuss the impact of fairs in PA.

We had a several testifiers from PSACF and PSSA, including Bev Gruber (Allentown Fair), Martha Ebersole (PSACF President), Jedd Good (PSSA) and Erica Teagarden (PA Fair Queen).

Several staff members from the PA Department of Agriculture were also in attendance, including Greg Hostetter (Deputy Secretary), Tracy Barone (Fair Fund Administrator) and Stephen Rudman (Legislative Affairs).

This was a key opportunity to highlight the importance of fairs and the impact you have on the local economy, local culture and tourism! You can view a recording of the hearing here: [Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee -- August 28, 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

After the informational meeting, legislators were introduced at the opening ceremony and then invited to mingle at the reception. **Special thanks to Bev Gruber and her team for their assistance in organizing the event!**

FAIR QUEEN ADVOCACY DAY

Milliron Goodman is hosting a group of fair queens for an advocacy day on Monday, September 30th at the PA Capitol. They plan to meet with their local legislators, hear a presentation from the Senate Ag Committee Executive Director Lily Guthrie and view Senate session in action.

Our overall goal with this event is to start getting the youth more engaged in the legislative process.

As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to represent you in the 2024-25 legislative session.



Update from The Zones

1

Zone One – Sam Zaffuto

Our Zone One fall meeting will be held on Friday October 18, 2024 at the Clearfield County Fairgrounds, Agriculture Building in Clearfield. Please be sure to have your fair represented because we will be electing six members to the Executive Committee of the PSACF. These six will represent our zone during 2025 and 2026. Nomination forms for directors and applications for the Zone Person and information for the Junior Fair Person have been sent to all fairs in our zone. During the meeting the Zone Person Award and Junior Fair Person awards will be presented. We look forward to our PSACF officers updating us on the state of our association as well as presenting information about our 2025 convention in Hershey. We anticipate that Tracy Barone, our Fair Fund Administrator will be in attendance to bring us up to date on the happenings of the PA Department of Agriculture. There will be a raffle to support the Msgr. Mignot Scholarship program. Please plan to support this important program. As you can see, this will be an important meeting. Please plan to have your fair represented so that you are aware of everything that you need to know for your fair

2

Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

The fair season is now coming to an end. It seems we had what was a dry and wet season, depending on where you were. I know our Wayne County Fair had eight out of the nine days with rain. I spoke with Doc Reese from Tioga County Fair. They had a hurricane and had to shut down two days after their opening day. We have gone into a dry spell since the second week of August. I visited five fairs after our fair. All had good weather and good attendance. I would like to thank all of the directors for getting out and visiting the fairs in Zone Two. Everyone will be shutting down soon to prepare for the winter season.

Junior Fair Person nominations need to be sent to me by September 30th. We will be voting for directors for Zone Two. Nominations are to be sent to me by September 30th. Fair Person of the Year nominations are due by November 1st.

Our fall zone meeting will be at Bloomsburg Fairgrounds on October 19th. You will be receiving more information in the near future.

Enjoy the fall foliage. See you at the fall meeting in Bloomsburg.

3

Zone Three— Debbie Stephenson

It seems almost impossible that fair season and summer are almost over. We hope all of you had a great fair being the weather plays a big part in what happens in one week. Our Zone 3 meeting will be held on October 17 at Westmoreland Fairgrounds registration at 630 pm dinner then meeting to follow. We would like all fairs to bring with them a new idea they did at their fair this year and briefly tell about it that night. Sharing is how we learn from others and is a good thing! Just a reminder we will be electing 6 directors to represent our zone. There will be convention updates also. If your fair has any questions please ask.

4

Zone Four — Kevin Bieber

This has been quite the interesting fair season that we are finishing up. Unfortunately, some fairs in Zone 4 experienced some very wet weather and some experienced some dry weather with extreme heat. Mother Nature just didn't seem to be in favor of some fairs this year. However, some of our fairs were lucky enough to escape that severe heat and wet weather and experienced, large crowds and a great time. If you happen to be one of those fairs that did not have ideal weather, please do not let that get you down as you will come back even stronger next year. For the Zone 4 fairs that are coming up, we wish you all the best as well. The Zone 4 Director's had a great time in visiting your fairs and as always, we thank you for all the hospitality you provided.

Before long, we will be heading to Hershey for another great convention and fellowship. I hope that all of you are making those plans to head to Hershey in January. If you have never been to the convention, I urge you to attend this year and see what all your association has to offer by way of educational seminars, table topics and so much more. Where else can you find a hotel full of people that have so much in common. The networking alone is also well worth your time.

I also would like to encourage all of you to attend the upcoming Zone 4 meeting which is being held at Yoder's in Lancaster County. The date for this meeting is set for Wednesday October 16th. Karen will soon be sending out the invitations. Please remember to register by the deadline. Please consider having your fair send at least one representative. Communication in an organization is key, and that is exactly what we do at Zone Meetings, we communicate things you as a fair need to know. It also allows you to ask questions of your Director's and Executive Officer teams. This Zone meeting will also be your chance to elect the Zone 4 Director's. Anyone who was interested in running for a Director's position was to have their fair nominate them and send their letter of nomination to Karen Dobson by October 1st. Karen will then post all the resumes for you to read and prepare for your vote on that evening of October 16th.

Update from The Zones

4

Something else to remember is to get your nominations in for the Zone 4 Fair Person of the Year as well as Zone 4 Junior Fair Person. Nominations are due to me no later than October 1st. We all have those special volunteers who work so hard and deserve that recognition. Please consider a nomination from your fair.

As you can see, Zone 4 and your PSACF Association is quite busy in preparing to bring you all the information possible from our industry. It is our goal to make your fair successful as well as making sure you have all the information needed to run a safe and successful fair. The Zone 4 Director's look forward to continuing to service you and your fair. Please feel free to reach out to us if we can be of any assistance.

See you at the Zone 4 Meeting as well as Hershey !



Pennsylvania's Collective Voice in the Movement to End Hunger

As the statewide association of Pennsylvania's nine Feeding America-affiliated food banks, we're making our charitable food system work better so no Pennsylvanian as to go hungry. We accomplish this by helping to get nutritious food into communities it's needed, advocating for policies that get more food to more Pennsylvanians, and helping food banks operate more efficiently and effectively.

AMERICA



OUR JOURNEY TO 250

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.



2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show - January 4-11, 2025

Every January, the Complex highlights Pennsylvania's top industry: agriculture. It's the largest indoor agricultural event in the country. The show welcomes everyone—farmers, families, and food lovers. Admission is free. Hundreds of vendors and thousands of exhibitors showcase their skills.

We aim to connect you with the dedicated people who grow our food. Also, meet the talented young individuals shaping our industry's future. Plus, enjoy delicious Farm Show Food from various Pennsylvania groups.

John McMullen, A Life Well Lived



Harness racing can be addictive, especially when you grow up around the sport. John McMullen continued a harness racing family tradition started by his late father, Don, in the 1930's and 40's. When it came to training horses in the Indiana PA area, Herman Nichols was once considered the equine authority.

John stated that it was Herman who guided his father's entry into the harness racing business.

Don McMullen passed away in October 1990, succumbing to cancer just a month after finishing the racing season. He certainly went out on a high note after driving a McMullen owned and trained horse that year, Super Fellow, to a national title as the leading two year-old trotting

gelding on a half mile track.

In addition to continuing his father's success on the racetrack, John took over his Dad's seat on the Indiana County Fair Board and inherited the title of Harness Race Secretary. In addition, John ultimately served on the Board of the State Association of County Fairs. During the harness races at subsequent Indiana Fair's, a horse blanket has been awarded annually in Don McMullen's memory. John and his father raced exclusively at county fairs until the North Strabane track opened south of Pittsburgh in 1963. John and his father earned the unique bragging rights that few can claim by racing a horse on the opening day of the Meadows Pari-mutuel Racetrack.

Recounting a conversation with a friend, John recalled driving horses at numerous Pennsylvania county fair tracks during his career. Although his record would prove differently, he limited his driving because his Dad told him he was not very good at it. We tend to be toughest on the ones we love. For many years, including today, when you drive past Armaugh PA on Route 22 you'll be able to view the picturesque McMullen farm complete with their jogging track and often with several horses of various ages in the fields.

Today, with the help of their dear friend Wilbur Yoder who trains and drives for them, they continue to field horses. John's wife, Judy, has been a major part of the racing success that John has enjoyed during his career. Judy has supported their harness racing ventures as a dedicated partner to John both on and off the track. She has been an integral part of their family operation, along with son John, daughter-in-law Michelle, and grandson Owen.

Some of their best horses followed a McMullen tradition by naming their entries after Pennsylvania counties. This included the very successful horses, Columbia County and Somerset County. John's horses were winners because of his personal commitment as an owner and trainer. This is the same dedication he shared with the Indiana County Fair for the past 34 years as a Board Member and Harness Race Secretary. Well done John, you've earned the enormous respect of the Harness Racing Industry and the Fair Community.

Copy By: Darla Ritenour and Jake Hoover

PSACF Association Update



Showcase

Associate members eligible to showcase were postal mailed and emailed an application in mid-September. To be considered for the showcase, that application can be done online or postmarked by October 25th. Showcase participation is my invitation only. Note:

Dues must be paid in the year you received the application, and if selected, in the year you showcase.

Junior Fair Person of the Year

The deadline of October 1st quickly approaching. As I have visited fairs there is youth involvement and deserving of the recognition.

Fair Person of the Year

An application is available in the “Member Fairs Only” section of our website. Applications are also available in the convention packets to be picked up at your zone meeting. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than November 1st.

Communications Competition

A Communications Competition criteria and registration form are also available in the “Members Fairs Only” section of our website, and will be in the convention packets at your zone meeting.

Fair Dates for 2025

I will be mailing a request for the dates of your 2025 Fair and any changes that you may wish to make personnel, directions, etc. The dates are not only used for the Department of Agricultural Fair 2025 Fair Guides but our 2025 Directory. I will also be requesting these dates at your zone meeting. During the year please notify me of any personnel, date changes and I will note them in the next FairTalk issue.

Msgr. John W. Mignot/PSACF Scholarship

Scholarship selection process is under way those selected will be notified by the Chairperson or the Zone Chairperson. At the Fall zone meetings, recipients will also be recognized.

Associates Members

Packets will be mailed in October, as well as invoices for membership. The invoice requests current information to be printed in the 2025 PSACF directory. Information needs to be returned to the PSACF office no later than December 1, 2024 to be published in the 2025 directory.

Poster Contest Winners

Poster contest can be brought to your zone meeting and given to Tracy. Do not fold or bend posters, they must be flat and protected. Tracy will deliver them to the Farm Show.

Hershey Convention Rooms

Book your rooms now, if plans change you can always cancel up to January 13, 2024 and no penalty. Save your anxiety of No Room at the Inn. Reservation staff will be asking guests for their credit card numbers to guarantee their reservations, and **the guest's credit card will be charged a one night's room and tax charge at the time of reservation.** Guests will receive a refund of the one night's advance deposit if they cancel their room reservation prior to the end of day, Monday, January 13, 2024.

Judging Reference List

Now that the Fair season is over, if you have found anyone listed that should be removed due to retirement, etc, please let Jana know. At this publication the schedule for the Convention was not available.

Looking forward to seeing all my Fair Family at the Zone Meetings.

Harry

