

MID-WEST FAIRS ASSOCIATION

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Mid-West Fairs Association concluded their 100th annual meeting in Santa Fe, NM on 3/28/2024, with Cindy Hoyer, Indiana State Fair presiding over thirty-three (33) of its forty (40) Fair members represented along with 8 Life Members and 59 spouses, significant others and invited guests, for a total gathering of 100 participants.

The program was presented by John Sykes, First Vice President, (East Texas State Fair, Tyler, TX), and began on Wednesday, March 26th, and concluded Thursday, March 28th, 2024.

The Wednesday/Thursday program included topics on:

- History of Santa Fe and The La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza presented by Ed Pulsifer, Director of Sales, and Chief Historian of the La Fonda Hotel
- Artificial Intelligence for the F(AI)R Industry presented by Steve Richo and Mark O'Shea, Co-Founders of Noise New Media
- Bus ride and tour of MEOW WOLF, Santa Fe
- Train ride and bus tour and visit – Expo New Mexico and New Mexico State Fairgrounds hosted by Dan Mourning, CEO
- Expanding Access: Expanding Guest Accessibility on Fairgrounds presented by Renee Alexander, Minnesota State Fair
- Legal Matters for Fairs presented by Lauren M. Spahn, Partner – Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP
- Panel Discussion with Industry Questions and Answers from
Rey O'Day, NICA Executive Director
Greg Chiecko, OABA, CEO
Marla Calico, IAFE President
- Attending members elected new officers at the annual Business Meeting of the Association and the following will preside for the balance of 2024/2025 year:
John Sykes, President, (East Texas State Fair, Tyler, TX)
Nancy Smith, First Vice President) (South Carolina State Fair, Columbia, SC)
Marlene Pierson-Jolliffe, Second Vice President (State Fair of Virginia)
Norb Bartosik, Secretary/ Treasurer (Life Member)

The site for the 2025 annual meeting will be Charleston, SC. Dates will be determined and set for March, 2025.

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