

A History of  
**Florida Fairs and Livestock Shows**  
1990 Edition/2010/2020/2021/2022/2023

A History of  
**Florida Fairs and Livestock Shows**  
And a History of  
**The Florida Federation of Fairs & Livestock Shows, Inc.**

**June 1, 2023 Website Edition\***



**MISSION STATEMENT**

Increase the overall quality of Florida's Agricultural Fairs,  
provide the members the support and  
guidance needed to enlighten our youth and  
educate the fairgoers on agriculture, trade,  
entertainment and heritage of Florida.

**MEMBER OF**

Federation of State and Provincial Association  
of Fairs of North America

Florida Festival & Events Association

International Association of Fairs  
& Expositions (IAFE)

National Independent Concessionaires Association (NICA)

Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)

United Concessionaires Association

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AND LIVESTOCK SHOWS, INC.**

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*\*The last printed edition is 2010*

## ***INTRODUCTION***

For 1990-91 we have compiled our first "History of Florida Fairs", which really is not only a history of fairs, and the Florida Federation of Fairs, but also a handbook to the 54 facilities which are chartered under Chapter 616.

Heretofore, there has been no written record of the development of Fairs in Florida and with the passing of time, many of the footprints left in its sands have been eroded.

This is the Florida Federation of Fairs and Livestock Shows effort to put the pieces back into the puzzle and some of the pieces were missing, both in the history of our Fairs and our Federation.

From this foundation, however, we hope we can reconstruct additional parts of this history... truly a part of Florida's Agricultural Heritage.

Also contained herein, you will find the first chronological listing of Chapter 616 Fairs and Livestock Shows, and their dates.

Additionally, we have compiled a complete facilities guide to participating Fairs based upon information provided by them.

We hope you will enjoy our efforts.

Kenneth G. Cassels  
Florida Strawberry Festival  
& Hillsborough County Fair  
President, Florida Federation of Fairs

"History of Florida Fairs Committee"

Paul Robinson, Chairman

Ron Beckey

## **PART TWO**

In 2008 Jean Grant and Doris Graska began taking notes and going through the minutes of the Federation, along with other materials. Fairs were asked to update their information. We have included other information that will be valuable to have assembled in one place. In order to preserve the original history it is printed here word for word, the updated history follows.

Update June 1, 2020—[www.floridafairs.org](http://www.floridafairs.org)

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## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

The "History of Florida Fairs" committee of the Florida Federation of Fairs wishes to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the following persons. Without their assistance, the compilation of this initial documentation would not have been possible.

**Emma Taylor**, Florida State Fair, Tampa, Documentation of the organization of the Federation in its beginning and formative years, in the early 1950s.

**Louie W. Seay, Sr.**, Marianna **Lloyd Rhoden**, Tallahassee

Documentation of the operation of the organization through the 1950s and 1960s.

**Richard Kelly & Lowell Parrish** Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Compilation of additional historical information and chronological data.

In 1989 Paul Robinson of the Florida State Fair sought the help of Ron Beckey, Manager of the North Florida Fair to sort through several boxes of materials of history stored there. Ron sorted, edited and had the information condensed and typed by Mary Geddis and Lynn Gay.

**Hon. Doyle E. Conner**, Commissioner Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Printing of "History of Florida Fairs" booklet.

**North Florida Fair**, Tallahassee

**Florida State Fair**, Tampa

Donation of committee members' time.

**North Florida Fair**, Tallahassee

Stenographic services of **Mary Geddis** and **Lynn K. Gay**.

**Florida State Fair**, Tampa

Stenographic services of **Shirley Waters**.

**Robinson's Racing Pigs**, Tampa

Travel and accommodations expenses.

We realize in some cases there may be oversights in this edition. Additions, deletions or corrections may be submitted to: Florida Federation of Fairs and Livestock Shows to the email address on the front page.



## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

### **PART TWO**

The “History of Florida Fairs” and the “History of the Florida Federation of Fairs & Livestock Shows, Inc.” continued.....

**Jean Grant** of the Citrus County Fair for compiling notes and encouraging the continuation of the original history.

**Darwin Fuchs** for writing the History of the Sales Tax Issue and an article about how delegates were chosen. Darwin also checked facts and gave unlimited encouragement to get the book finished.

**Jim Overton** of the Martin County Fair for the original copy of the history and for several older directories and program books.

**Donna Begelman** of the Miami-Dade County Fair for supplying older program books and newsletters.

**Foster & Fuchs** for articles, advice and checking of facts.

**Jack Griffith** for expanding on information and proofreading part two.

**Lisa Hinton** for answering question, after question, and for proof reading the additions.

**The Fairs** that returned the forms to update information.

**Doris Graska** for compiling and typing part two.

**Charles & Rebecca Panacek** of Belle City Amusements for sponsoring the printing of this book.

The facts were gathered from all available sources. Some information was contradictory, rather than leave out information it was included with the hope that at some future date it will be corrected. Perhaps some of those who served as Directors were missed, all Fairs were sent the list to check and add to....still we would like to add them if they were missed. Contact the Federation Office to make any changes to the file that is on the Federation computer in Publisher.



STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND  
CONSUMER SERVICES

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE 32301

DOYLE CONNER  
COMMISSIONER

Dear Friends:

Through the years, as a 4-H member, FFA member, State Representative and now as Commissioner of Agriculture, I have supported and participated in Florida fairs. Our fairs provide a way for Floridians to showcase and promote the agricultural and other resources of the State. Each fair reflects the character of its county and of the State.

The most important resource reflected is our people. Exhibits show what we do with our time, how we make a living, our past, and our hopes for the future.

I am proud that the Florida Statutes refer to public fairs as a public trust with fair associations as the Trustee. This history of Florida fairs, prepared by volunteers, summarizes some of the highlights of this public trust, a trust that has been well-served.

Florida fairs have matured and are among the great fairs in our country. I am proud to be associated with our great Florida fairs, along with the fine personnel of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

With warm personal regards, I am

**Doyle Conner**  
Commissioner

DC/ph

# **HISTORY OF THE FEDERATION OF FLORIDA FAIRS**

## **PREFACE**

The Federation, at its 1989 meeting determined it was time for us to seek out our "roots" as an organization, and many elements are missing.

What you are about to review is information which we have been able to document from records, correspondence and meeting minutes as well as from the records of the Federation, which from time to time, we have been unable to locate.

We hope that our fairs, chartered under chapter 616, after reviewing this history, can give us additional input into the Federation, the History of Florida Fairs, of their Fairs, and Fairs which may have come and gone.

## **HISTORY**

In December of 1950, at the urging of J.C. Huskisson, Assistant Manager of the Florida State Fair, Tampa and John Henry Logan, Manager of the Pinellas County Fair, then in Largo, a letter was circulated to all county fairs in Florida.

The letter was authored by Lloyd Rhoden, Secretary Treasurer and Manager, North Florida Fair, Tallahassee and Leon County Extension Agent.

The text invited fair managers to attend a meeting in the Terrazzo room of the Floridan Hotel in Tampa on February 1, 1951, stating "The purpose of this meeting is to discuss among ourselves the advantages and advisability of organizing a State Association of Fairs and Shows ..... the latter alluding to Livestock Shows. Thus, we can document the "Founding Fathers" of our Federation were Lloyd Rhoden, J.C. Huskisson and John Henry Logan.

Nineteen representatives of ten fairs were present along with a representative from the State Extension Service and a "Fair Designer" from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Fairs represented that are still active in Florida were the Florida State Fair, Pinellas County Fair, North Florida Fair, Central Florida Exposition, Pasco County Fair, and the Charlotte County Fair, although this event has no relation to the new Charlotte County Fair which made its debut in January of 1990.

Representatives were also present from the Tobacco Festival and Fair, Quincy (Gadsden County) and the State Livestock and Crops Pavilion in Jackson County.

Lloyd Rhoden was appointed Temporary Chairman of the State Association of Fairs and Expositions and the next meeting was set for March 29 of the same year at Silver Springs.

By that time, the organization had a new name, "Florida Association of Fairs, Livestock Shows and Expositions" and representatives of ten events and associations were in attendance.

Represented were the Florida State Fair, State Extension Service, Florida Marketing Bureau, Sumter All Fla. Breeders Show, Southeastern Festival, Inc., Central Florida Exposition, Citrus County Fair, North Florida Fair, Charlotte County and the Strawberry Festival of Plant City.

At this meeting communications were reviewed from Pensacola, Quincy, Marianna and Eustis pledging support for the fledgling group, and a third organizational meeting was set for May 14, 1951 at which time by-laws would be adopted and officers and directors elected. This meeting was held in Orlando at the Angebilt Hotel.

The meeting was held as scheduled and the first slate of Officers and Directors was elected. They were;

C. T. Bickford, Orlando;	President
John Henry Logan, Clearwater;	1st. District V.P.
Gordon Ellis, Hilliard;	2nd. District V.P.

George E. Dryden, Marianna;      3rd. District V.P.  
W.E. Goerne, Ft. Lauderdale;    4th. District V.P.  
W.E. Ellis, Ocala                    5th. District V.P.  
Directors at large;  
Harry Jack, (city unknown),  
J.C. Huskisson, Tampa  
Lloyd Rhoden, Tallahassee.

Speakers at that meeting included Rollo E. Singleton, Secretary of the Missouri Association of Fairs and Agricultural Exhibitions to discuss organization and purpose; H.G. Clayton, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, who gave his concept of the purposes and objectives of such an organization and Karl Lehman, Manager of the Lake County Fair and Sportsman's Exhibition who reviewed problems involved in holding fairs, shows and expositions.

Activities adjourned with the scheduling of the "Annual Meeting", Monday December 10 at Winter Haven.

Thirty persons attended this meeting including what could well be defined as our first "Associate Members", Mutual Advertising Agency of Miami Beach, Mahaffey Bros. Tent and Awning Co., Memphis, Tennessee and Royal Crown Shows of Tarpon Springs.

Auditing, nominating, program and resolutions committees were formed.

Reports were heard from previously formed committees including Legislative, Carnival and By-Laws committees and an afternoon session consisted of a "1951 Version" of today's round table discussions.

Dues at this time for members and associates (merely grouped with members) was \$25.00 per year.

Honorary Memberships were recommended for representatives of the University system, and Agriculture related state agencies, the Attorney General and State Comptroller.

In the early years, the title "Short Course" was given to the annual meeting and in the 1952-53 period, the organization had a total of 23 fairs. Some of them no longer are in existence, i.e.;

Gadsden Co. Fair & Tobacco Festival, Quincy, S.E. Florida Youth Show, Belle Glade and Jefferson County Fair, Monticello. A predecessor of the Charlotte County Fair also belonged as did the Nassau County Fair which is now the Northeast Florida Fair in Callahan.

At some point prior to December of 1952 the name of our organization became "Florida Federation of Fairs, Livestock Shows and Expositions", with the word "Federation" replacing "Association" in our title.

At the 1952 meeting, records indicate a motion was made that the Federation pursue the legislature, seeking legislation defining a fair.

Documentation of the organization and its activities from this period until 1975 could not be found, however, we have been able to research a reasonably accurate listing of Presidents, but a listing nonetheless that may be open to revision.

During this period, the Federation also addressed involvement in a great many Livestock Shows, Breed Shows, and other exhibitions of an agricultural nature, but not necessarily fairs as we know them today.

In 1975, the Federation had 42 member fairs, 8 member Livestock Shows and 34 associate members and met each April in Gainesville.

The programs of the meeting in that time frame are not unlike the programs which comprise the annual meetings we have at this point in time.

Of the 42 member fairs, Levy County, Seminole County, Hillsborough County Jr. Agricultural Fairs and Sumter All Florida Breeders Show at Wildwood no longer exist.

Among the member Livestock Shows, only two remain, the Southeastern Livestock Show at Ocala and the Suwannee River Livestock Show at Fanning Springs.

In 1977, the Legislature created the Bureau of Public Fairs and Expositions with the stated intent to protect the legitimate county fairs of the State of Florida. The bureau became effective on July 1 addressing many of the functions it addresses today

such as safety inspection, and Chapter 616 as it was in form at that time.

Articles of Incorporation for the Florida Federation of Fairs and Livestock Shows were filed in 1977 under the guidance of President Darwin Fuchs.

The schedule of Florida Fairs and Livestock Shows belonging to the Federation in 1977-78 included 42 member fairs and livestock shows.

There were 33 Officers, Directors (Past Presidents), Honorary Life Directors and Honorary Directors and three Junior Directors. We had 40 Associate Members.

From that period to the present day there were occasional changes in by-laws but the overall structure of the Florida Federation of Fairs and Livestock Shows is pretty much intact today as it was then.

In 1989 we had 45 member fairs and 140 Associate Members. With the burgeoning growth of Associates we also implemented a Trade Show in conjunction with the annual Short Course in the mid 1980's.

There are many important events which have not found their way onto these pages of the history of our organization for lack of documentation and we sincerely hope member fairs will help us to fill in the voids in the future.

Respectfully Submitted;  
Historical Committee

## HISTORY OF FLORIDA FAIRS AND LIVESTOCK SHOWS

The city of Jacksonville enjoys the position as the first city in the Sunshine State to hold a fair. In an effort to stimulate the local economy, the event got under way in 1876. Over 1,000 visitors attended Florida's first "State" fair that year. We know this event today as the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair.

Florida's oldest "County" fair, the Dade County Fair was born in the City of Miami in 1897. Henry Morrison Flagler's Florida East Coast Railroad paid all expenses during the fair's first years of existence. This was the forerunner of what we now call the Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition which was chartered in 1952. The Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition is the largest youth fair in the world.

The Florida State Fair in Tampa is an outgrowth of the South Florida Fair Association which was founded in 1904. In 1975 the State of Florida officially designated this annual event as the Florida State Fair. Over 858,000 people came through the gates in 1990 making this the second largest crowd of all time for the Fair. Attendees travel from around the U.S. and some 39 foreign countries.

Following is a list of the remaining Fairs and Livestock Shows in chronological order, as submitted by our participating members: (Additions and changes made 2020)

	Year
Florida State Fair .....	1904
Central Florida Fair .....	1912
South Florida Fair .....	1912
Suwannee County Fair & Livestock Show .....	1914/1962
Manatee County Fair .....	1915/1937
Lake County Fair .....	1915
Pinellas County Fair .....	1920
Citrus County Fair .....	1920
Volusia County Fair .....	1923
FL Citrus Showcase & Polk County Fair .....	1923
Sarasota County Agricultural Fair .....	1926
FL Strawberry Festival & Hillsborough Co. Fair ...	1930
Pensacola Interstate Fair .....	1935
Jackson County Fair .....	1936
Highlands County Fair .....	1937
Hardee County Fair .....	1940
Osceola Co/Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show & Fair	1940



Southeastern Youth Fair.....	1941
Central Panhandle, formerly Bay County Fair.....	1945
Suwannee River Fair & Livestock Show.....	1945
North Florida Fair.....	1946
Polk County Youth Fair.....	1947
Glades County/Chalo Nitka Festival.....	1948
Pasco County Fair.....	1948
Bradford County Fair.....	1950
Putnam County Fair.....	1950
Hernando County Fair.....	1951
Sumter County Fair.....	1952
Miami-Dade County Fair.....	1952
DeSoto County Fair.....	1953
Northeast Florida Fair.....	1954
Greater Jacksonville Fair.....	1876/1955
Walton County Fair.....	1956
Greater Holmes County Fair.....	1958
Southwest Florida/Lee County Fair.....	1959
Martin County Fair.....	1959
South Dade Country Fair & Festival.....	1962
Columbia County Fair.....	1962
St. Lucie County Fair.....	1964
Northwest FL/Greater Okaloosa County Fair.....	1966
Alachua County Fair.....	1969
Hamilton County Fair.....	1970
Broward County Fair.....	1976
Collier County Agricultural Fair & Expo.....	1977
Baker County Fair.....	1981
Brevard County Fair.....	1984/2006
Firefighters Indian River County Fair.....	1986
Clay County Fair.....	1987
Flagler County Fair & Youth Show.....	1989
Marion County Fair & Florida Peanut Festival.....	1989
Charlotte County Fair.....	1990
Florida Blueberry Festival & County Fair.....	1990
Santa Rosa County Fair.....	1991
Greater Hillsborough County Fair.....	1993
Levy County Fair (last fair 2019).....	2006
Okeechobee County Fair.....	2006
Hendry County Fair.....	
St. Johns County Fair.....	

## ***FLORIDA FAIRS & LIVESTOCK SHOWS***

This information is from the first history. Fairs were asked to update their information. The printing in bold is the information supplied. **The current membership listing is on the website updated 6-1-2020**

**ARCADIA-DeSoto County Fair** (Est. 1953) 100 Heard Street 34265. Fairgrounds 8 acres (Phone 863-494-5678) Off season rentals available. Fair held in January.

**BARTOW - Polk County Youth Fair**, (Est. 1947) James Stricker. 1702 Hwy 17, South, 33830, (Phone 813-533-0765). 1989 attendance 25,000. Fairgrounds 12 acres. No commercial exhibit space available. Total parking for 500 cars. Facilities NOT available for year-round rental. 1991 dates: Mar 12 - 15. Not members as of 2019

**BONIFAY - Holmes County Fair**, (Est. 1958), Mary Kay Hicks, 306 E. Minnesota Ave, 32425, (Phone 904-547-3394). 1989 attendance 7,000. Fairgrounds 5 acres. Facilities available for year round rental. 1990 dates: unknown. **NOW GREATER HOLMES COUNTY FAIR.** Not members

**BROOKSVILLE—Hernando County Fair & Youth Livestock Show—** (Est. 1951) on Hwy. 41 South of Brooksville. Fair held in April. **Bird Show, Gun Show, Truck & Tractor Pull, Wrestling, Circus off season. NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**BUNNELL - Flagler County Fair & Youth Show**, (Est. 1989), Dan Schrader, PO Box 308, 32110, (Phone 904-437-3122). 1989 attendance 3,000. Fairgrounds 60 acres. Total parking for 1000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Apr. 18 - 21. **NO FAIR IN 2020 DUES TO COVID 19**

**BUSHNELL—Sumter County Fair**, (Est. 1952), L.L. Gideons, **First President. Fairgrounds 50 acres owned by Sumter County. Swap Meet, Mud Bog off season.**

**CALLAHAN - Northeast Florida Fair Association**, (Est. 1954), Arnold Robinson, PO Box 1070, 32011. 1989 attendance 25,000. Fairgrounds 3 acres. 1990 dates: Oct 8 - 13. **Chartered in 1951, on 103.5 acres owned by Nassau County School Board and State of Florida. First President C.A. Sauls, Jr. first manager L.F. Higginbotham. Blueberry Festival held in June.**

**CHIEFLAND - Suwannee River Fair & Livestock Show**, (Est. 1945), Anthony Drew, PO Box 710, 32626, (Phone 904-493-2571). 1989 attendance 5,000. Fairgrounds 20 acres. Facilities NOT available for year round rental. . **NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**CLEWISTON-Hendry County Fair & Livestock Show** 710 S. Francisco Street. Fair held in Feb.

**COCOA - Brevard County Fair**, (Est. 1984), Ernest H. Cowen, 500 Friday Road, 32926, (Phone 407-633-4028), (Fax 407-633-6930). 1989 attendance 200,000. Fairgrounds 50 acres. Grandstand 7000 capacity. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoor 80 - 10ft booths Outdoors 1500 linear feet. Total parking for 3000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Nov. 8 - 18. **Chartered in 2006. Located in MELBOURNE on 55 acres owned by Brevard County/Brevard Community College. First President Frank Sullivan, first manager Wm. E. Cannon. Not a member of Florida Federation of Fairs as of 2019.**

**DADE CITY - Pasco County Fair**, (Est. 1948), Harold R. Sample, 1510 State Rd 52 W. 33525, (Phone 904-567-6678), 1989 attendance 13,000, Fairgrounds 40 acres, Entertainment auditorium 1200 seats, Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 30,653, Outdoors approx 5

acres. Total parking for 2500 cars. Facilities available for year round rental. 1991 dates: Feb 19 - 23. **Star Spangled Concert, Sparklebration July. Bug Jam November, off season. Sparklebration discontinued 2019.**

**DEFUNIAK SPRINGS - Walton County Fair** (Est. 1956), Jay McDaniel, Rt.8 Box 38, 32433, (Phone 904-892-2598). 1989 attendance 10,500. Fairgrounds 13 acres. Entertainment capacity 75-100 seats. Commercial Exhibit space: Indoors 2400 sq .f. Outdoor 300 sq f. Total parking for 200 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Oct. 8 - 13. **Not Federation members.**

**DELAND - Volusia County Fair & Youth Show**, (Est. 1923), T. R. Townsend, PO Drawer 1910, 32721, (Phone 734-9514). 1989 attendance 130,000. Fairgrounds 80 acres. Entertainment capacity 5000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 560 sq .f. Outdoors 1082 sq .f. Total parking on 60 acres. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Nov 1 - 10. **On 120 acres owned by the Volusia County Fair Association & the County of Volusia. First President Earl W. Brown, Mgr. S.A. Wood. T.R. Townsend, Over 50 events annually, weekly Flea Market off season.**

**DOVER- Greater Hillsborough County Fair (Est. 1993)** **Once part of the Florida Strawberry Festival. Fairs held at State Fairgrounds, Raymond James Stadium and other places. Now located 5 miles East of Brandon on 80 acres at E. SR 60 and Sydney-Washer Road. Fair held in October. Tom Umiker, Manager**

**ELKTON-St. Johns County Agricultural Fair 5840 SR 207 between St. Augustine and Palatka.** Fair held in Oct. No longer active

**EAST PALATKA - Putnam County Fair Association**, (Est. 1950), Robert L. Revels, 20 Yelvington Road, Suite #1, 32131, (Phone 904-329-0318). 1990 attendance 30,000. Fairgrounds 35 acres. Entertainment capacity outdoor stage. standing area. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 350 ft Outdoors 150 ft. Facilities available for year round rental to non-profit organizations only. 1991 dates: Mar-24-30. **Auto & Cycle Swap Meet off season. NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**EUSTIS - Lake County Fair**, (Est. 1915), Betty H. Dittman, CFE, PO Box 221, 32727, (Phone 904-357-7111), 1989 attendance 60,000. Fairgrounds 30 acres. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoor 15000 sq f. Outdoor 30,000 sq f. Total parking for 1500 cars. Facilities available for year round rental. 1990 dates: Apr 6 - 14. **Chartered in 1940, same location since 1969, grounds owned by Lake County Government. First President LL Polk. NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**FORT PIERCE - St Lucie County Fair**, (Est. 1966), W.E. Phares, 4116 St Lucie Blvd, 34946, (Phone 407-464-2910). 1989 attendance 60,000. Fairgrounds 17 acres. Total parking for 3000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1991 dates: Feb 22 -Mar 2. **First President W.G. Padrick, Jr. In 2003 first Fair held on the new 250 acre site on Midway Rd. & Okeechobee Rd. with 3 air conditioned buildings, and a large livestock complex.**

**FT WALTON BEACH -Greater Okaloosa County Fair**, (Est. 1966), C. H. Bull Rigdon Jr., 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd, 32548, (Phone 904-862-0211). 1989 attendance 60,000. Fairgrounds 42 acres. Entertainment capacity 1000 seats. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 45000 sq f Outdoors 5 acres. Total parking on 10 acres. Facilities available for year-round rental. . Fair held in October.

**FT. MYERS - Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair,** (Est. 1959), Rex H. Jackson, 2010 Hanson St. 33901, (Phone 813-334-2226). 1989 attendance 100,000. Fairgrounds 100 acres. Entertainment capacity approx 7500 seats. Total parking for 3000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. . **Dog, Gun, Knife, Craft, Horse Shows, Circus off season.**

**GAINESVILLE - Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show** (Est. 1969), Bob G. Bates, PO Box 2566, 32602, (Phone 904-372-1537). 1990 attendance 91,000. Fairgrounds 105 acres. Entertainment capacity 1200. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 25000 sq ft Outdoors 18 acres. Total parking for 5000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental.

**GAINESVILLE—The Greater Alachua County Fair** 3100 NE 39th Ave 32601 (Phone 352-354-3708) Oct. 25-Nov. 2, 2019

**GREEN COVE SPRINGS– Clay County Fair.** Chartered in 1987 on 65 acres owned by Clay County and 10 acres owned by Clay County Fair Association. First President Claude Kelly, first manager Joan Bazley. **NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**HOLLYWOOD - Broward County Fair,** (Est. 1976), Ina Nadler, 2210 Hayes St, 33020, (Phone 305-920-3247), (Fax 305-920-3247). 1989 attendance 403,000. Fairgrounds 114 acres. Entertainment capacity 8200 seats. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 31,000 sf Outdoors 75,000 sq f., Total parking for 20,000 cars. Facilities NOT available for year round rental. 1990 dates: Nov 15 - 25. Not Federation members/

**HOMESTEAD - South Dade Country Fair & Festival,** (Est. 1962), Jack Levy, PO Drawer 1390, 33030, (Phone 305-247-2234). 1989 attendance 30,000. Fairgrounds 20 acres. Entertainment under tents outside only. Commercial Exhibit space - Tents only. Total parking on 15 acres. Facilities NOT available for year round rental. 1991 dates: Feb 13- 18 **NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**INVERNESS - Citrus County Fair,** (Est. 1920), Jean Grant, 3600 South Florida Ave, 32650, (Phone 904-726-2993). 1989 attendance 25,000. Fairgrounds 28 acres. Auditorium seating 1500. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 1050 sq f. Outdoors 645 sq f., Total parking for 1500 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. **On 26 acres owned by the Citrus County Fair Association. First President James E. Rooks, first manager Quentin Medlin, County Agent.. Weekly flea market, 4-H Rodeo. In January 2000 held first annual Tractor Pull, off season. NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**JACKSONVILLE - Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair,** (Est. 1876), Gary L. Roegner, CFE, 1400 E. Duval St, 32202, (Phone 904-353-0535), (Fax 904-353-5458). 1989 attendance 610,374. Fairgrounds 25 acres. Coliseum seating 8,000 - 10,000. Commercial Exhibit Space: 37,330 sq f. Total parking for 20,000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Oct 17 - 28 . **Chartered in 1955 and held entirely inside the Gator Bowl. In 1990 moved to new permanent grounds at 510 Fairgrounds Place. Annual Wing & Rock Fest, Gun, Knife, Bird, Craft Shows. Jaguar Parking. Repticon off season.**

**JASPER - Hamilton County Fair,** (Est. 1970), E. G. Jerry Clayton, PO Drawer K, 32052, (Phone 904-792-1276). 1989 attendance 2,000. Facilities NOT available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Oct 8 - 13. Not Federation members

**KISSIMMEE - Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show & Fair,** (Est. 1940), Vern Miner, 1901 E. Irlo Bronson Mem. Hwy, 34744, (Phone 407-846-6046). 1989 attendance 30,000. Fairgrounds 35 acres. Entertainment capacity 1000-1500. Commercial Exhibit Space:

Indoors 20000 sq f Outdoors unlimited. Total parking for 10,000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1991 dates: Feb 19 - 24. **80 acres owned by Osceola County. First President Franklin L. Poffenbaugh, first manager Vern Miner. NBHA State Finals held off season.**

**LAKE CITY - Columbia County Fair,** (Est. 1962), Bascom Norris, Rt 3 Box 7, 32055, (Phone 904-752-8822). 1989 attendance 25,000. Fairgrounds 80 acres. Entertainment capacity 60 x 160 ft. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 37000 sq ft Outdoors 10000 sq ft, 1990 dates: Oct 29 - Nov 2. **Chartered 1954 under name of Slash Pine Forest & Farm Festival, moved in 1963 to current location, owned by Columbia County Resources, Inc. First President John Giebeig, first manager Hick Griffin. Week-end flea market, Gateway Pro Rodeo, Home Show and PUT Fall Festival, gun shows, etc. off season.**

**LAKE CITY—Florida Gateway Fairgrounds name changed 2019. Same location.**

**LIVE OAK - Suwannee County Fair Livestock Show & Sale,** (Est. 1914), Cary Lee, PO Box 266, 32060, (Phone 904-352-7366 ). 1989 attendance 11,000. Fairgrounds 10 acres. Commercial Exhibit Space: 80-8'booths Outdoors 2 acres. Total parking for 600 cars. Facilities NOT available for year round rental. 1990 dates: Oct 22 - 27 March 20-28, 2020 **NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**MACCLENNY - Baker County Fair** (Est. 1981), Patsy Hunter, PO Box 492, 32063, (Phone 904-259-6523). 1989 attendance 10,000. Fairgrounds 6 acres. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 60 x 200 Outdoors: 6 acres. Total parking for 5000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: unknown. September Fair.

**MARIANNA, - Jackson County Fair,** (Est. 1936), Dave Bray, 32446, 1989 attendance 12,000. Fairgrounds 20 acres. Commercial Exhibit Space; Indoors 9000 Outdoors 12,000. Total parking for 600 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Oct 3 - 7. Not Federation members.

**MIAMI - Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition,** (Est. 1952), E. Darwin Fuchs, CFE, 10901 SW. 24 St. (Coral Way), 33165, (Phone 305-223-7060), (Fax 305-554-6092). 1989 attendance 773,821. Fairgrounds 260 acres. Show Tent 800 seats Amphitheatre 3000 seats Mall Arena 1200 seats Park Square 1500 seats. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 113,000 sc ft, Outdoors 30 acres. Total parking for 200 cars. Facilities available for 10 month yearly rental. 1991 dates: Mar. 14 - 31. **Chartered in 1956, now Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition on 84 acres in Tamiami Park, owned by Miami-Dade County. First President Lamar S. Walker, first manager J. Lawrence Edwards. The E. Darwin Fuchs Pavilion was engineered to withstand winds up to 175 mph, available for use as a shelter during hurricane emergencies. Yearly youth league basketball, summer camp, boat, gun, home, craft, dog shows. Colombian, Cuban & Nicaraguan Festivals off season. NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**MILTON- Santa Rosa County Fair** (Chartered in 1991) Located on Bobby Brown Road in Milton **NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**MOORE HAVEN - Chalo Nitka Festival,** (Est. 1948), Maxine Hough, PO Box 490, 33471, (Phone 813-946-0440). 1989 attendance 42,000. Fairgrounds 5 acres. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors a covered Pavilion Outdoors 15 covered booths. Total parking on 10-15 acres. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1991 dates: Feb 26 - Mar 3. **GLADES COUNTY YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & Chalo Nitka Festival** Not Federation members.

**NAPLES - Collier County Agricultural Fair & Expo.** (Est. 1977), Audrey Johnson, 751 39th Ave, NE, 33964, (Phone 455-1444). 1989 attendance 45,000. Fairgrounds 70 acres. Entertainment capacity under tent 700 seats. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 300 sq f Outdoors 1500 sq f. Total parking on 10 acres. Facilities NOT available for year-round rental. 1991 dates: Jan 11 - 19. **Fun Flyers Club, Flea Market, Motorcycle School. off season Opened for part of 2020 Fair but closed down due to Covid 19.**

**OCALA - Southeastern Youth Fair.** (Est. 1941), Rick Eubanks, PO Box 940, 32672, 1989 attendance 10,000. Fairgrounds 20 acres. No Commercial exhibit space. Total parking for 1000 cars. Facilities available for year round rental. 1991 dates: Feb. 22- Mar 3

**OCALA - Marion County Fair & Florida Peanut Festival.** (Est. 1989), Michael C. Mason, 4680 SE 38th ST, 32671, (Phone 904-694-2500). Fairgrounds 175 acres. Entertainment capacity 3800. Total parking for 5000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: unknown. **No longer held.**

**OKEECHOBEE-Okeechobee County Fair (Est. 2006) Okeechobee County Civic Center 4200 Hwy. 710 East. Fair held in March. NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**ORLANDO - Central Florida Fair.** (Est. 1912), Herschel Parrish, Jr. PO Box 2268, 32802, (Phone 407-295-3247), 1989 attendance 226,500. Fairgrounds 91 acres. Entertainment capacity main building 2500 seats. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 106,000 sq f Outdoors 91 acres. Total parking 5000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1991 dates: Mar 1 - 11. **Farmer's Market, Paintball World Sports, Senior Expo. off season.**

**PALMETTO - Manatee County Fair.** (Est. 1915), John H. Marble, 1303 17th St W, 34221, (Phone 813-722-1639). 1989 attendance 113,000. Fairgrounds 25 acres. Entertainment capacity 2000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 35,000 sq f. Outdoors 8,000 sq f. Total parking for 500 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1991 dates: Jan 21 - 26. **On 32 acres, Chartered in 1916, 2nd Charter 1937 as Manatee River Fair Assoc., same location since 1951, owned by Manatee County and parcels owned by the Fair Association. Hoke Hughes, first manager. Events held all year in arena, off season.**

**PANAMA CITY - Bay County Fair.** (Est. 1945), Horace Carr, PO Box 1818, 32401. (Phone 904-759-2645). 1989 attendance 3,600. Fairgrounds 10 acres. Entertainment capacity 450 seats. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 8600 ft. Total parking on 5 acres. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Oct 2 - 7. **NOW CENTRAL PANHANDLE FAIR . Not Federation members.**

**PENSACOLA - Pensacola Interstate Fair.** (Est. 1935), John E. Frenkel, Jr. CFE, PO Box 255 - 32592, (Phone 904-944-4500). 1988 attendance 473,039. Fairgrounds 143 acres. Open Air stage seats 4000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 24,000 sq f Outdoors 3000 sq f; Parking on 20 paved acres. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Oct 18 - 27. **On 105 acres, same location since 1969, grounds owned by Pensacola Interstate Fair, first President John E. Frenkel, Sr. Various events held off season.**

**PINELLAS PARK - Pinellas County Fair.** (Est. 1920), Hardy Huntley, 7901 Park Blvd, 34665, (Phone 813-541-6941). 1989 attendance 95,000. Fairgrounds 100 acres. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 30,000 sq ft Outdoors 30,000 sq ft. Total parking for 3000 cars. Facilities available for year round rental. 1990 dates: Mar. 28 - Apr 1. **No longer held**

**PLANT CITY - Florida Strawberry Festival & Hillsborough County Fair,** (Est. 1930), Kenneth G. Cassels, PO Drawer 1869, 33564, (Phone 813-752-9194). (Fax 813-754-4297). 1989 attendance 742,762. Fairgrounds 70 acres. Entertainment capacity 15000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 93,075 sq f. Outdoors 609,840 sq f. Total parking for 3000 cars. 1990 dates: Mar 1 - 11. **In 1992 dropped "Hillsborough County Fair."**

**PORT CHARLOTTE - Charlotte County Fair,** (Est. 1990), Pete Simone, 1193 Enterprise Dr, Unit A-6, 33953, (Phone 813-629-4252). 1990 attendance 50,000. Fairgrounds 13 acres. Entertainment capacity 2000 seats. Commercial Exhibits Space: Indoors 800 ft. Outdoors 1100 ft. Total Parking for 3000 cars. Facilities NOT available for year round rental. 1991 dates: Jan. 3 - 13. **Chartered in 1989, 20 acres, grounds owned by Charlotte County Fair Association. First President John Mahshie. Monthly bull riding competition, bird show, gun show, and car sales, off season.**

**SARASOTA - Sarasota County Agricultural Fair,** (Est. 1926), Lloyd Morgan, 3000 Ringling Blvd, 34237, (Phone 813-365-0818). 1989 attendance 150,000. Fairgrounds 66 acres. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 100 sf Outdoors 75 sf. Total parking for 1200 cars. Facilities available for year round rental. 1991 dates: Mar 15 - 23. **Swap Meet, Fishing Tournament, Chili Cook-Off, off season. NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**SEBRING - Highlands County Fair,** (Est. 1937), Mae Jeanne Peppers, PO Box 1981, 33871, (Phone 813-382-2255). 1989 attendance 25,000. Fairgrounds 25 acres. Entertainment capacity 3500. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 25000 sq ft. Outdoors 10,000 sp ft. Total parking for 700 cars. 1991 dates: Feb 12 - 16. **24 acres, owned by Highlands County Fairs Association. Weekly flea market.**

**STARKE - Bradford County Fair,** (Est. 1950), Anita Rink. PO Box 576, 32091, (Phone 904-964-5278), (Fax 904-964-2863). 1989 attendance 30,000. Fairgrounds 20 acres. Entertainment capacity 5000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 15000 sq f Outdoors 500 sq f. Total parking for 500 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental.

**STUART - Martin County Fair,** (Est. 1959), Gregory Bean, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, 34996, (Phone 407-287-8988). 1989 attendance 50,000. Fairgrounds 10 acres. Entertainment capacity 1000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 42,000 sq f. Outdoors 50000 sq f. Total parking on 150,000 sq f. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1991 Mar 1 - 9. **Moving to new fairgrounds 2020-2021.**

**TALLAHASSEE - North Florida Fair,** (Est. 1946), Ron Beckey, 441 Paul Russell Rd, 32301, (Phone 904-878-FAIR). 1989 attendance 283,748. Fairgrounds 127 acres. Arena seating 2000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 24000 sq f Outdoors: 38,625 sq f. Total parking 2000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Oct 25-Nov 4. **Chartered in 1939, 140 acres owned by Leon County. V.G. Philips, first President, Lloyd Rhoden, first manager.**

**TAMPA - Florida State Fair,** (Est. 1904), Thomas L. Umiker, CFE, PO Box 11766, 33680, (Phone 813-621-7821), (Fax 813-628-4902). 1990 attendance 858,585. Fairgrounds 301 acres. Concert Hall capacity 6000. Charlie Lykes Arena Seating 4,000. Commercial exhibits space; indoors 291,000 sq f.; outdoors 40 acres. Total parking for 16,000 cars. Facilities available for year round rental. 1991 dates: Feb. 6 -17. **Current location since 1977, owned by Florida State Fair Authority. W.G. Brorein first President, P.T. Strieder first manager. Over 300 events held annually, off season.**

**VERO BEACH-Firefighters' Indian River County Fair** (Est. 1986) 7955 58th Ave. On 75 acres owned by Indian River County. The first President was Joe Earman and the first manager was Firefighter Bill Tripp. **NO FAIR IN 2020 DUE TO COVID 19**

**WAUCHULA - Hardee County Fair**, (Est. 1940), Earl Gill.. PO Box 1236, 33873, (Phone 813-773-2511). 1989 attendance 10-12,000. Fairgrounds 20 acres. Civic Center capacity 1400 seats. Arena seating 4,000. Commercial exhibit space; Indoors 8,000 sq. ft. Total parking for 500 cars. Facilities available for year round rental. 1991 dates: Mar 11-16

**WEST PALM BEACH- South Florida Fair** (Est. 1912) Located on 130 acres owned by the South Florida Fair. **Moved to suburban West Palm Beach in 1958. George Currie, first President, Lamar Allen first manager. Over 100 shows per year held off season**

**WILLISTON-Levy County Fair** (Est. 2006) 19th Terr. Williston CHIEFLAND - Suwannee River Fair & Livestock Show, (Est. 1945) **Last fair held 2019**

**WINTER HAVEN - Florida Citrus Showcase & Polk Co. Fair**, (Est. 1923), Brenda E. Eubanks, PO Box 9229, 33883, (Phone 813-293-3175). 1989 attendance 125,000. Fairgrounds 12 acres. Entertainment capacity 5000. Commercial Exhibit Space: Indoors 5400 sq f Outdoors 13,458 sq f. Total parking 5000 cars. Facilities available for year-round rental. 1990 dates: Feb 1 - 11. Not Federation members.

### ***"FAIR FACTS"***

Here are some fascinating "Fair Facts" about Florida Fairs and Livestock Shows:

- \* The Lake County Fairgrounds were leased to the U.S. Army Signal Corps in World War II.

- \* The Florida Strawberry Festival & Hillsborough County Fair, though officially founded in 1930, was preceded by a "Strawberry Day" as early as 1914 in Plant City.

- \* In World War II, the Volusia County Fairgrounds were turned into an industrial site to aid the war effort.

- \* The North Florida Fair (formerly the Leon County Fair) began in 1941~ though early archive materials refer to Leon County Fairs as early as 1914.

- \* The Florida Citrus Showcase & Festival and Polk County Fair received a visit from Ex-President Calvin Coolidge in 1930. The former President had ended his term in office the year prior and came to the festival while visiting friends in Mt. Dora.

- \* The St. Lucie County Fair, founded in 1966, is an off shoot to a party held to honor World War I heroes. It is held at the same time of year.

- \* The Hamilton County Fair started as a one day youth livestock show. It has since expanded to a full week and was incorporated in 1986. No longer a member.

- \* The Southeastern Youth Fair has the oldest continuous Steer Show in Florida. Marion County.

- \* The newest Fair in Florida is the Charlotte County Fair in Port Charlotte founded in January 1990.



\* The Suwannee County Fair had it's debut in 1913 the theme "Good Roads Days". There were few roads for farmers to move their crops and other goods. The fair was designed to aid farmers in displaying their crops.

\* The Brevard County Fair in it's first year of existence (1984), drew some 210,000 patrons through the fair gates.

## **PART TWO**

\* Herschel Parrish was the first son of a Past President of the Federation to also serve as President.

\* First Lady Barbara Bush attended the Central Florida Fair in Orlando in 1992.

\* The Auditorium as the Citrus County Fair was converted into a jail because of overcrowding, complete with cells and barbed wire fencing. It was three years before it was reverted to its original use.

\* The South Florida Fair and the Miami-Dade County Fair were used for a post disaster operations base in 1992 and again in 2005. Several Fairs throughout the state were used in the same way, some were used to shelter horses and other animals. Several Fairs have also had disastrous effects of Hurricanes. Hurricane Opal destroyed five buildings at the Greater Okaloosa County Fair. In 1992 the Dade County Fairgrounds were destroyed by Hurricane Andrew.

\* The Volusia County Fair was affected by a major tornado (an F3) in February 2007, losing several buildings.

\* Tom Umiker has been both an Associate Director (1999) and a Director (2009).

\* Rick Vymlatil has been manager of three Fairs. St. Lucie County Fair, Florida State Fair and South Florida Fair.

\* In the hospitality room at a Zone meeting in Sarasota, guests were required to perform a talent before they were allowed to leave the room.

\* Fairs that have been re-activated since the last history was written are Brevard County, Hillsborough County, Levy County, and Sumter County. 2020: Only Hillsborough and Sumter remain.

\* In 2008 several Florida Federation of Fairs members were "snowed in" in Las Vegas, delaying their return to Florida.

\* The Lake County Fair has had four generations on staff. 1. Robert "Bob" Norris, father, 2. Charles Norris, son, 3. C.E. "Happy" Norris, grandson, 4. Leah Norris, great granddaughter.

\* The Pensacola Interstate Fair has had three generations on staff. 1. John E. Frenkel, Sr., (who was instrumental in getting the organization started in the sixties when it was known as "A Short Course" and was held at the University of Florida. At that time it was not large enough and they did not have officers but he was a key person in getting it organized.) father, 2. John E. Frenkel, Jr., son, 3.

Felicia Chivington, granddaughter. Another son, Don E. Frenkel also served on the FFF Board of Directors and was President.

\* In 1980 Miami-Dade Fairgrounds was used to process 35,000 Mariel Bay, Cuba Boatlift refugees under supervision of the staff of Pres. Carter and Gov. Graham.

\* In 1987 Miami-Dade Fair hosted Pope John Paul's Miami-Dade visit.

\* In 2005 two "ladies of the night" stopped the "Last Train to Clarksville" at the President's party.

\* Gary Roegner's secret admirer has yet to be discovered and the ransom was never paid for Martin County's pig.

\* In 2019 Bill Olson of the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair, became the youngest Federation President at the age of 40.

\* In 2020 the Convention was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **Lisa Hinton Named 2015 Woman of the Year in Agriculture**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam announced today that Lisa Hinton, a fifth generation Floridian, has been named the 2015 Woman of the Year in Agriculture. Lisa Hinton has dedicated herself to the advancement of Florida agriculture, agriculture education and youth programs. The award, now in its 31st year, recognizes women who have made outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture.



"Lisa Hinton is a true advocate for Florida agriculture and the programs she has implemented and the individuals she has inspired will have a lasting impact on Florida agriculture for generations to come," said Commissioner Adam H. Putnam. "I am proud to recognize her as the 2015 Woman of the Year in Agriculture, and I want to thank her for her years of dedicated service and contributions to agriculture and to all of Florida."

Hinton grew up on a seed harvesting and cow-calf operation where she spent most of her summers working and developed an appreciation and respect for agriculture. When the National FFA Organization voted to allow female membership in 1970, a young Hinton jumped at the opportunity to join. She became the first female to be elected a State

FFA officer in Florida. Hinton then went to the University of Florida where she graduated with a B.S. in Agricultural Education.

Hinton had an immeasurable impact on Florida's youth programs while serving as the Director of Agribusiness for the Florida State Fair. Hinton placed a high priority on livestock education and her philosophy of “we're raising kids not animals” led to the development of the Champion Youth Program at the Florida State Fair. The program has gained national recognition as a valuable teaching tool for the future contributors to the agriculture industry. In addition to the Champion Youth Program, Hinton also played a role in developing and implementing other important programs, such as the Youth Steer Futurity that showcases Florida cattle, Ag-Venture and the Youth Livestock Show Ethics Certifications.

After her retirement from the Florida State Fair, Hinton then promoted agricultural education on a state and national level by serving as the Executive Director of the Florida Federation of Fairs. In this role, she is able to impact the direction of 52 agricultural fairs in the state of Florida as well as over 200 associate members.

As a result of her dedication to Florida agriculture, education and youth programs, Hinton was inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Florida Federation of Fairs Hall of Fame in 2009.

The Woman of the Year in Agriculture award is sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida State Fair Authority and presented to the recipient Monday, February 8th at the 2016 Florida State Fair in Tampa.

## **SALES TAX EXEMPTION HISTORY**

By Darwin Fuchs

For years, the Florida Department of Revenue (“DOR”) had a standing order to collect sales tax from all ride operators and concession operators who contracted for space at Florida fairs. Most, if not all, local DOR agents collected the tax due on concession space. However, tax from ride revenue paid to fairs by rider operators was selectively enforced by DOR agents. Thus leaving the fair industry and ride operators to guess whether they should collect and remit sales tax. At one point, Conklin Shows was advised that it owed revenue earned at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition retro-actively. Needless to say, the amount due was substantial. The law firm of Foster & Fuchs was retained by the Federation to work with Conklin Show’s attorney to try and resolve the issue. John Foster and E. Darwin Fuchs, chairman of the legislative committee and the Federation’s President Don Frenkel, went to Tallahassee and met with the Department of Revenue representatives in an attempt to gain clarification on how the sales and use tax laws would be enforced and interpreted. After considerable and lengthy negotiations, it was determined that the only thing that could resolve the issue was to pass legislation exempting fair associations from the sales and use tax.

Thereafter, the Federation’s Board of Directors approved the following: (a) Hire a lobbyist; (b) Raise the required funds Federation members, including ride operators and concessionaires, to pass the proposed legislation through the legislature.

In 1995, tax exempt legislation was approved by both the House and Senate. However, the exemption was vetoed by Governor Lawton Chiles. The following year, at the next legislative session, the mission was accomplished and the sales tax exemption was passed clarifying the law.

In all, Florida Fairs, ride operators and concessionaires contributed approximately \$150,000 to save the industry from the years of costly litigation over sales tax that would ultimately have resulted in the demise of a number of smaller fairs. While much of the money went for lobbyist, legal fees and campaign contributions, there was a substantial sum left that has provided a nice war chest to continue battling legislative and regulatory efforts to protect the Fair industry in Florida.

# FEDERATION IN JEOPARDY

By Darwin Fuchs

From the Federation's beginning it was a well known fact that certain members from a certain sector of the state were controlling the organization. A few members decided who would serve on the Board of Directors, and controlled all operational aspects of the Federation's business.

In 1978 when the nominating committee made it's recommendation for election of directors, and then asked for any recommendations from the floor a representative of the newly chartered Florida Council of Fairs requested, and was granted, permission to speak. He outlined the Council's members' grievances with the way the Federation was being run and controlled by a select few people and was not representative of all Florida Fairs. He then proposed the Council's slate of directors. A major debate ensued and lasted for at least three hours before a Board of Directors was finally elected.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, newly elected president E. Darwin Fuchs called for a joint meeting of the executive committees of both the Federation and Council members. After much discussion and debate, it was agreed that the Association needed to have total state representation. With that understood, Fuchs proposed the following:

1. The state be broken into zones, with a director being elected from each zone.
2. With the understanding the President would appoint a nominating committee from each zone. Each committee would then make their recommendation to serve on the board at the annual meeting.

With that understanding, it was agreed the Council's charter would be dissolved.

Directors continued to be elected by this method until 2005 and are now elected as follows, assuring state-wide representation.

At large members: 6

Small Fairs: 2 (attendance less than 50,000)

Medium Fairs: 2 (attendance 50,000—400,000)

Large Fairs: 2 (attendance greater than 400,000)

The Past President and two Associate Directors

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Between Florida Federation of Fairs And University of Florida - IFAS - Extension**

The Florida Federation of Fairs believes that the University of Florida - IFAS - Extension program has a vital role in the development and implementation of agricultural and youth programs relating to Fairs in Florida. As a commitment to that belief, the Florida Federation of Fairs encourages Fairs to:

Include local Extension staff on the Fair Board in an ex-officio capacity (where applicable) so that they have a voice in the decision making process.

Support age appropriate 4-H youth development standards in the design and implementation of fair rules and regulations, including proper use of the 4-H Name and Emblem.

Support active educational involvement of Extension staff (in coordinating demonstrations, manning booths, and assistance in running events) by providing credentials for access to the Fair and other conveniences when possible (i.e. parking, etc.),

Develop relationships between IFAS Extension, 4-H, and Fair Committees (e.g. Livestock, General projects, etc.) to enhance the quality of the exhibit experience for youth, volunteers, and adults.

Provide year-round support of the Extension program by working cooperatively with Extension in providing facilities, etc. for Extension events at reduced or free rental rates.

The University of Florida - IFAS - Extension believes that Florida Fairs are effective venues for providing educational programs related to agriculture, family life and youth development. As a commitment to that belief Extension encourages its faculty, staff and stakeholders to:

Utilize the facilities of the state and local fairs to present educational programs and demonstrations.

Serve on fair boards and advisory committees in an ex-officio manner to foster cooperation and understanding between Fair Boards and Extension.

Work cooperatively with Fair Boards and their committees in the development of parameters for youth program exhibits and demonstrations within the policies and practices of the Florida 4-H program and USDA 4-H Name and Emblem requirements.

Promote attendance to fairs to recognize youth and adult achievements, and to increase public awareness of the importance of agriculture to the state's economy and the well-being of the citizens of the state.

Develop close working relationships with staff of state and local fairs as means to enhance communication and avoid conflicts of scheduling or program rules.

We, Florida Fairs and Extension, believe that the common objectives between our organizations (a. to educate the public on the importance of agriculture, and b. to recognize the quality work of 4-H members) are best served by our mutual agreement to work cooperatively, efficiently and effectively. This effort serves both organizations well and enhances the benefit to the public.

## **The History Continues.....**

In the 20 years since the original history was written, much has changed and much has remained the same.

As stated previously, “there are many important events which have not found their way onto these pages of the history of our organization for lack of documentation.” There are several missing years, years where no minutes can be found, or any other records from that earlier period.

In the 1980s auctions were held at the President’s Party to fund scholarships for the Fair Management program at Georgia State. The auctions are still held but the scholarships have changed.

The trade show has steadily increased and is only limited by the space at the host hotel each year. The Trade Show started in 1987 with a budget of \$2,000 to cover pipe & drape and security. A table and chair was provided for \$50.00, electricity was extra. The lowest number of booths was 36 in 1997 and the highest was 92 in 2016, in 2022 there were 105 booths.

In the early 1950s the date of the Annual Meeting (known as Annual Short Course) was in December, in the mid 50s it moved to the middle of May, in the 70s it moved to the middle to end of April and in 2008 the Thursday after Mother’s Day was established.. The Site Selection Committee (Chairman, President, 1st Vice President, Executive Secretary) select the place for the Annual Meeting for the next five years (with approval of the Board of Directors). The President and Executive Director select the meals. Meeting locations have been selected through 2026.

Through the years over many individuals have served on the Board of Directors. As stated earlier, there are missing years, therefore many missing names. All of the current member Fairs were contacted to try and fill in the blanks.

The Federation has been fortunate in having had only six Executive Directors during the past several years, the 7th one was hired in 2019. Dan West, former manager of the Manatee County Fair in Palmetto.

Traditionally the duties of the officers (besides those stated in the by-laws) are: Secretary/Treasurer: Showcase Committee, 2nd Vice President: Summer Workshop Committee, 1st. Vice President, Annual Meeting Planning. President & Executive Director in charge of overall oversight of all committees and Federation activities and events.

Showcases are an important part of the annual meeting. Participants must be a member in good standing of the Florida Federation of Fairs and listed in the current Directory and have not showcased in the past three years. Only three acts may be submitted by an agent. **Rules have changed.**

Over the years we have had hundreds of showcases. Some who have gotten notoriety have been Casey Lunn Hasak of Naples who was the teen winner on *Star Search* in 1991. Terry Fator won *American's Got Talent* in 2007. Taylor Ware was a finalist on *America's Got Talent* and went on to appear on many national TV shows. There are others who have become successful.

**In 1990** President George Frazer met in Gainesville with the Department of Agriculture and was one of six members of a "Fair Council" to discuss Chapter 616. Others were Farm Bureau, FFA, 4H/State Cooperative Extension Office.

It was voted to pay the expenses of the Executive Secretary and the Federation President to attend the IAFE meeting in Las Vegas or where held.

IAFE Zone 2 meeting held in Naples.

**In 1991** Officers wore ribbons to the annual meeting for the first time, a brochure was developed and distributed. Notebooks were prepared for all committee chairs with a job description, this was done "to maintain continuity from year to year and to document Federation activities for the Fair History Project."

Legislation Appreciation Day was held, this was an annual affair held in Tallahassee, the Federation maintained a booth there.

**In 1992** the Federation bought their first computer and laser printer.

John Foster was retained to address the Chapter 616 issue.

It was voted to have two delegates from each Fair instead of one.

IAFE Zones 1 & 2 met in West Palm Beach March 31-April 3.

**In 1993** a plaque was presented to John Foster and Darwin Fuchs for their work with Legislative issues.

The Federation was represented in the recently formed Florida Amusement Ride Inspection Advisory Committee meeting in Tampa. Federation First Vice President Ron Beckey was named Chairman of the organization's Legislative and Rules Committee.

**In 1994** banquet tickets and assigned seating were used for the first time.

Smoking was banned from all areas of the Annual Meeting

Reithoffer Shows was the first advertiser in the newsletter, "sponsoring the newsletter" for \$50.00 per issue.

**In 1995** Reithoffer again sponsored the newsletter.

LeRoy Van Dyke was the auctioneer at the President's party auction.

**In 1996** IAFE Spring Manager's Conference was held in Orlando May 3-6, at the Sheraton Plaza at the Florida Mall, hosted by Central Florida Fair.

**In 1998** an Economic Impact Study was done with Buck Christian working with Dr. Mulkey at the University of Florida and several Fairs.



With a cost of \$25,000.00. The report was widely distributed to the benefit of Fairs.

Federation pins were purchased.

Hosted the Hospitality Suite at the Zone 2 meeting in Sarasota.

**In 1999** the President's Party and the Hall of Fame reception were combined.

The Director's Breakfast was changed to honor Past Presidents.

**In 2000** Bob Crawford, Commissioner of Agriculture gave the welcome speech.

**In 2001** to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Federation a cookbook was published. Executive Secretary Mozelle Williams with the help of many members, in particular Roberta Cassidy, Terri Gast, Mary Beaver and Debbie Dutton compiled and published the over 200 page book.

The Agriculture Committee was added and the Merit Awards program was initiated. The committee also initiated purchasing a mechanical cow, the Dairy Farmers, Inc. donated half of the purchase and the Florida State Fair the other half.

Purchased four Farmer For A Day Units for \$6,000.00.

The first organized meeting of the Associates was held.

Stickers were purchased to give to Associates to put on concessions "Member of Florida Federation of Fairs."

The law firm Foster & Fuchs was put on a retainer.

Voted to call the "convention" an Annual Meeting, not convention.

The first golf tournament was held led by Giles Ellis of the Florida State Fair. Later named The Giles Elis Memorial Golf Tournament.

**In 2002** A Mission Statement was developed under the leadership of Jim Overton.

The first Merit Awards were given, the program was funded with \$10,000.00, mainly from the Golf Tournament.

Commissioner of Agriculture **Charles Bronson** gave the Keynote Address.

First Honorary Members chosen to be members of the Board of Directors.

Handbook for new Directors developed.

**Hall of Fame Committee** to consist of past recipients with the presenter being the current recipient.

Purchased a trailer to move the cow and the South Florida Fair donated the signage for the trailer.

**In 2003** waive registration fee for Honorary Directors.

President to have first refusal to host the Summer Workshop.

**In 2004** a committee was established to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation and the Cooperative Extension Services.

Dr. Larry Arrington of the University of Florida was made an Honorary Director.

The Associate of the Year Award was established.

**In 2005** By-laws changed to elect directors by the size of the Fairs and not by zones.

To be eligible to be elected as a director must be a Fair Manager or equivalent, Assistant Manager or equivalent, for not less than 5 years or must be on the governing board of a member fair association for no less than 10 years. Also must be a voting delegate.

Fair dates were added to the annual directory.

The first showcase to be held in a hotel lounge.

**Door prize money and partial Hospitality Suite expenses put in Annual Meeting budget, to eliminate hats and such.**

Silent Auction added to President's party auction.

**In 2006** instead of using generic photographs on the Directory Cover a contest was developed to select photographs submitted by member Fairs. Photographs used are considered winners, without issuing a winning order.

The first scholarship (\$1,000 sponsored by Staats) was awarded to Danielle Padgett of Sarasota.

**In 2007** The President's Party was held at the famous Florida Theatre on Forsyth Street in Jacksonville courtesy of Theatre President J. Erik Hart.

Scholarships were awarded (one \$1,000 sponsored by Staats and one \$1,000 by the Federation) to: Leah Harvell of Lake Placid and Nocona Rooks of Inverness.

**In 2008 -** The Thursday after Mother's Day was established as the start of the annual meeting.

A person can not be inducted into the Hall of Fame until one year from serving as President.

Sound needs to be bid by member firms.

Scholarships were awarded (one \$1,000 sponsored by Staats and one \$1,000 by the Federation) to: Kelsy Munyan of Ft. Pierce and Lindsay Rucks of Okeechobee.

Doris Graska was the first woman from Florida to win the Hass Wilkerson Heritage Award for volunteers. The award include \$1,000 to the recipient and \$500 to the Citrus County Fair.

**In 2009** By-Laws changed to have Executive Director accept membership applications as long as they are qualified for membership.

Re-instate travel expenses for President, beginning 2009-10.

Hired lobbyist to ensure that our interests and benefits are safeguarded.

Fairs who had received the Blue Ribbon for the previous 5 years would not be evaluated for another three years.

YPI (Young Professionals Initiative) Established by IAFE for age 40 and under.

**By-laws changed to allow the Immediate Past President to serve out their term even if their Fair affiliation has been terminated.**

Scholarships were awarded (one \$1,000 sponsored by North American Midway Entertainment and one \$1,000 by the Federation) to: Eileen Cowdery, Winter Springs, Matthew Simmons, Callahan.

The first \$1,000 Scholarship for tuition for a Florida resident to the IAFE Institute of Fair Management was awarded to Lesa Burke of Volusia County.

The South Florida Fair hosted the IAFE Zone 2 meeting.

**In 2010** waive registration fee for IAFE President.

In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture a video was made and widely distributed titled **“Beyond The Midway.”**

The “Faircracker” newsletter became available on the Federation website and in print.

**In 2011** Online convention registration was offered for the first time. FYI established for age 40 and under. Leah Norris was the first chairman. This was similar to IAFE’s YPI. This was later merged into YPI.

Historical Display Contest was established to showcase a Fair’s History. The winner was Pasco County, in 2012 it was won by Citrus County and 2013 by Florida State Fair. The contest was discontinued as it had served its purpose to encourage Fairs to have a history exhibit.

Florida Dairy Farmers sponsored the milkable cow display.

First annual Fair Dream Tour was established by Happy Norris. The trip was in August visiting the Iowa State Fair, Indiana State Fair and the Illinois State Fair.

The first joint convention with Zone II was established.

**In 2012** the second Fair Trip was to The Big E, Fryeburg Fair, and Topsfield Fair.

**In 2013** What A Great Idea Contest was established.

The Fair Trip was to East Texas State Fair, and State Fair of Texas.

Lisa Hinton, Executive Director received the IAFE Executive of the Year Award.

**In 2014** Miranda Muir was elected YPI representative for Zone II.

The Fair Trip was the Calgary Stampede in Canada.

**In 2015** the Fair Trip was to State Fair of VA fairgrounds, Maryland State Fair and Allentown, PA Fair.

A Strategic Planning Committee was established.

**In 2016** the Fair Partner Shoot-out was established in partnership with NICA and OABA, in February raising over \$10,000.

A fire in the trade show area canceled Tom Umiker’s President’s Party.

The Fair Trip was to the Minnesota State Fair.

YPI raised funds and supplies for a St. Augustine Youth charity.

**In 2017** Florida State Fair hosted a Florida Fair Appreciation Reception.

Participated in Farm Bureau Legislative Days in Tallahassee.  
Hired CAS Government Services to lobby for us in Tallahassee.  
Megan Price, Miss South Florida Fair became Miss Florida.  
The Beyond The Midway video made in 2010 was reworked and distributed as a CD.

Agricultural signs were created using “Ole Red” displaying QR codes.  
The Summer Trip was to the Erie County Fair.  
The “Great Ideas” Contest was established.  
First Fall Fair Trip visiting Florida Fairs, Volusia, Jacksonville, North Florida Fair.

YPI established a fund raiser to be held on Wednesday night after the Golf Tournament. Mix & Mingle Bowling was held and a donation was made to Harbor House of Central Florida.

Facebook page established. Recognized new members.

**In 2018** Summer Fair Trip was to California State Fair in Sacramento.

Miss South Florida Fair Taylor Tyson, was crowned Miss Florida.

A first time attendee workshop was held at the convention.

A Candidate Forum for those running for Commissioner of Agriculture.

YPI raised funds and goods with another Mix & Mingle for Literacy volunteers of Collier County.

Hurricane Michael caused damage throughout the State. Fairs were instrumental in recovery.

Fall Fair Trip was to Georgia National Fair in Perry, Ga.

IAFE met in San Antonio, Texas. Leaving Las Vegas after decades. Rick Vymatil was elected Chair and all of the Florida Delegates wore matching blue shirts and volunteered at all of the events for the day.

**In 2019** Bill Olson, Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair and YPI member, at age 40, was the youngest person elected President of the Florida Federation of Fairs.

Dan West, former manager of the Manatee County Fair was hired to replace retiring Executive Director Lisa Hinton.

YPI raised \$2,000.00 for the Lee Conlee House in Putnam County.

**In 2020** The 5th Annual Fair Partner Shootout was another success.

The 2020 Spring Faircracker went completely digital and was on the website March 1st.

Due to a worldwide pandemic Covid 19, many Fairs were not allowed to open. It started with Miami-Dade Youth Fair. Others who did not have a Fair were: Sarasota, Okeechobee, Collier (ran partly), Putnam, Citrus, Flagler, Clay, Santa Rosa, Hernando, and Lake.

The 2020 Florida Federation of Fairs Convention, to be held at World Golf Village was cancelled. Election of officers was held via Zoom video meeting May 28, 2020.

The 2021 Convention was held at the Naples Grand Resort. Coincidentally this was in the hometown of the Incoming President Rhonda Ward from Collier Fair. The Golf Tournament was not held because of the lack of an affordable course. Instead a Giles Ellis Memorial Event was the Fun Shoot & Giles Ellis Memorial Event.

The theme for the President’s Party was football

Open mic was established in the hospitality room. For the first time ever we were not allowed to bring our own refreshments.

The summer fair trip was to Wilson County Fair, Tennessee State Fair, Williamson County Fair and Georgia Mountain Fair.

In 2022 the convention was again held at the Naples Grande. Zones 1 & 2 joined the convention. This was the 110th year that Dennis Lee sponsored the Hospitality room. The hotel moved it from downstairs to upstairs ballroom and the price of a mixed drink was \$12, and beer or soft drink \$6.00. There was not a lunch on Saturday. There were more showcases than previously. was over sold . The theme was Mardi Gras. Several new awards were established. The Fair trip was to Washington State Fair.

In 2023 the convention was held in Orlando with Zone 2 joining. The largest Trade Show so far. The Past Presidents’ Council was established giving the group one vote on the Board of Directors. Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agriculture was the Keynote Speaker.

## HISTORY OF THE GILES ELLIS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT/EVENT



As a means to fund the Merit Awards Program a Golf Tournament was started on April 25, 2001. It was chaired by Giles Ellis of the Florida State Fair and held at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. Besides funding the program it became a major source of income for the Federation. Raising more than \$100,000 since its inception.

The tournament was held in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 in Tampa and Chaired by Giles Ellis.

In 2008 the Annual Golf Tournament was named after Giles Ellis, CFO of the Florida State Fair, who passed away in 2007.

2006	Jacksonville	.....	Martha Leverock
2007	Jacksonville	.....	Martha Leverock
2008	Palm Harbor	.....	Chuck Pesano
2009	Daytona	.....	David Viers
2010	Daytona	.....	David Viers
2011	St. Augustine	.....	Pete Sutton
2012	St. Augustine	.....	Bill Olson

2013	Naples	Artie McIntyre
2014	Naples	Rhonda Ward
2015	St. Augustine	Bill Olson
2016	St. Augustine	Bill Olson
2017	Orlando (Disney)	Shawn Krauel
2018	Orlando (Disney)	Shawn Krauel
2019	St. Augustine	Shawn Krauel, Tasha Hyder
2020	St. Augustine	Cancelled
2021	Naples—Clay Shoot	Hal Porter, Kathy Ross
2022	Naples-Clay Shoot	Bill Olson
2023	Orlando-Clay Shoot at FFA Headquarters	Bill Olson

## LOCATION OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

1950	Organization of Florida Federation of Fairs	Lloyd Rhoden, Chm.
1951	Dec. 10	FL Citrus Bldg., Winter Haven
1952	Dec. 7-8	Marion Hotel, Ocala
1953	May 18-19	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1954	May 17-18	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1955	May 16-17	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1956	May 14-15	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1957	May 13-14	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1958	May 19-20	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1959	May 17-19	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1960	May 15-17	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1961	May 15-16	Thomas Hotel, Gainesville
1962	May 6-8	Holiday Inn, Gainesville
1963	May 5-7	Holliday Inn, Gainesville
1964	May 3-5	Holiday Inn, Gainesville
1965	May 16-18	Holiday Inn, Gainesville
1966	May 15-17	Holiday Inn, Gainesville
1967	May 7-9	Holiday Inn, Gainesville
1968	May 5-7	Holiday Inn, Gainesville
1969	May 4-6	Ramada Inn, Gainesville
1970	May 1-3	Flagler Inn, Gainesville
1971	Apr. 23-25	Flagler Inn, Gainesville
1972	Apr. 21-23	Flagler Inn, Gainesville
1973	Apr. 13-14	Flagler Inn, Gainesville
1974	Apr.29-May1	Flagler Inn, Gainesville
1975	Apr. 25-27	Hilton Inn, Gainesville
1976	Apr.29-May2	Flagler Inn, Gainesville
1977	May 12-15	Flagler Inn, Gainesville
1978	May 18-21	Sheraton Hotel, West Palm Bch
1979	May 17-20	Holiday Inn, Long Boat Key
1980	Apr. 24-27	Holiday Inn, Pensacola
1981	Apr. 23-26	Hilton Hotel, Tallahassee
1982	Apr. 15-18	Hilton Hotel, Orlando
1983	Apr. 21-24	Holiday Inn, Plant City
1984	Apr. 12-15	Bay Harbor Inn, Tampa

1985	Apr. 18-21	Holiday Inn, Plant City .....	Keith Hessey, Broward Co.
1986	May 22-24	Hyatt Hotel, Sarasota .....	Jean Grant, Citrus Co.
1987	Apr. 23-25	Crown Plaza, Orlando .....	Bull Rigdon, Okaloosa Co.
1988	Apr. 21-23	Holiday Inn, Sabal Park, Tampa.....	Gary Roegner, Jacksonville
1989	Apr. 20-22	Palm Hotel, West Palm Beach .....	Buck Christian, South FL Fair
1990	Apr. 19-21	Omni Hotel, Jacksonville .....	Ken Cassels, Strawberry Festival
1991	Apr. 18-20	Holiday Inn, Airport, Tampa.....	George Frazer, Collier Co.
1992	Apr.30-May2	Howard Johnson, Daytona .....	Herschel Parrish, Jr., Central FL
1993	Apr. 22-24	Ramada Inn, Ft. Walton .....	Don Frenkel, Pensacola
1994	Apr. 21-23	Marina Hotel, Jacksonville.....	Betty Dittman, Lake Co.
1995	Apr. 20-22	Marina Hotel, Jacksonville.....	Ron Beckey, North FL Fair
1996	Apr. 25-27	Radisson Hotel, Jax. (Marina) .....	Patsy Brooks, Strawberry Fest.
1997	Apr. 18-20	Hyatt Regency, Tampa.....	Jack Griffith, Miami-Dade Co.
1998	May 7-9	Sheraton Hotel, W. P. Bch. ....	Martha Leverock, - Jacksonville
1999	Apr. 22-24	Hyatt Regency, Downtown Tpa. ....	Rick Vymlatil, State Fair
2000	Apr. 26-29	Radisson Deauville, Miami .....	David Viers, Volusia Co.
2001	Apr. 26-28	Hyatt Regency, Downtown Tpa. ....	Bull Rigdon, Okaloosa Co.
2002	Apr. 17-21	Hyatt Regency, Downtown Tpa. ....	Jim Overton, Martin Co.
2003	Apr. 24-26	Crown Plaza, Sabal Park, Tpa .....	Richard McClain, Highlands Co.
2004	Apr. 29-May 1	Hyatt Regency, Downtown Tpa. ....	C.E. "Happy" Norris, Lake Co.
2005	Apr. 21-24	Hyatt Regency, Downtown Tpa. ....	Clark Converse, Pasco Co.
2006	Apr. 20-22	Hyatt Regency, Riverfront, Jax. ....	Lisa Hinton, State Fair
2007	April 19-21	Hyatt Regency, Riverfront, Jax. ....	Vick Chouris, South FL Fair
2008	May 14-17	Innisbrook Resort, Palm Harbor .....	Alta Mosley, SW FL & Lee Co.
2009	May 14-16	Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona.....	Doris Graska, Citrus Co.
2010	May 13-15	Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona.....	Artie McIntyre, SW FL Fair
2011	May 12-15	Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine.....	.....
		.....	Jeanne Keaton, St Lucie County Fair
2012	May 17-20	Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine.....	Happy Norris, Lake County
2013	May 16-19	Naples Grande, Naples .....	Daniel West, Manatee County
2014	May 15-18	Naples Grande, Naples .....	Gayle Hart, Jacksonville
2015	May 14-16	Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine.....	Rick Vymlatil, So FL Fair
2016	May 12-14	Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine.....	Tom Umiker, Hillsborough Ct
2017	May 18-20	Buena Vista Palace, Orlando .....	Felicia Chivington, Pensacola
2018	May 17-19	Buena Vista Palace, Orlando .....	Dawn Rowe, Osceola County Fair
2019	May 16-18	Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine.....	Paul Davis, Strawberry Fest.
2020	May 14-16	Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine.....	Bill Olson, Jacksonville
		Cancelled due to Covid 19	
2021	May 13-15	Naples Grande, Naples .....	Jim Ward, Pasco County Fair
2022	May 12-14	Naples Grande, Naples .....	Rhonda Ward, Collier Fair
2023	May 18-21	Caribe Royale, Orlando.....	Terry Athley

## LOCATION OF SUMMER /FALL WORKSHOPS

Summer workshops began as Small Fairs Seminars, in 1992 the meetings were held in zones. In 1993 it became a statewide meeting, with Fairs volunteering to host. In 2003 it was voted to give the current President the option of hosting the summer workshop. Traditionally the meeting was held on Saturday. In 1999 David Viers and the Volusia County Fair hosted a Friday night dinner. In 2001 Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair hosted a Friday night dinner and a new precedent was set making the workshop a two day event.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Presiding</u>
1990 Oct. 6	Orlando.....	
1992 July 25	Jacksonville—North Zone .....	Lou Ann Vaden, Organizer
1992 Aug. 1	Plant City—Central Zone.....	Patsy Brooks, Organizer
1992 Oct. 3	Fort Pierce—South Zone.....	Rick Vymlatil, Organizer
1993 July 10	Orlando.....	Betty Dittman
1994 July 9	Orlando.....	Ron Beckey
1995 July 22	Tampa .....	Patsy Brooks
1996 July 27	Tampa .....	Jack Griffith
1997 July 26	Tampa .....	Martha Leverock
1998 July 18	Tampa .....	Rick Vymlatil
1999 July 24	Deland .....	David Viers
2000 July 22	Inverness.....	Bull Ridgdon
2001 July 20	Fort Myers .....	Jim Overton
2002 Aug. 9	Sebring .....	Richard McClain
2003 July 26	Fort Walton Beach.....	C.E. Happy Norris
2004 July 24	Dade City.....	Clark Converse
2005 July 31	Plant City (Consumer Protection Workshop) .....	
		Lisa Hinton
2006 July 29	West Palm Beach.....	Vicki Chouris
2007 July 28	North Ft. Myers.....	Alta Mosley
2008 July 26	Inverness.....	Doris Graska
2009 Aug. 1	North Ft. Myers.....	Artie McIntyre
2010 Aug. 13	Ft. Pierce .....	Jeanne Keaton
2011 July 29	Plant City .....	Happy Norris
2012 July 27	Palmetto .....	Dan West
2013 Aug. 2	Jacksonville.....	Gayle Hart
2014 Aug. 1	West Palm Beach.....	Rick Vymlatil
2015 July 31	Brandon.....	Tom Umiker
2016 July 29	Pensacola.....	Felicia Chivington
2017 July 28	Kissimmee.....	Dawn Rowe
2018 July 27	Plant City .....	Paul Davis
2019 Sept 6	Jacksonville.....	Cancelled due to Hurricane Dorian
2020 Sept. 25-26	Dade City.....	Jim Ward
2021 Oct. 1 & 2	Naples .....	Rhonda Ward
2022 Sept. 30-Oct.1	Wachula-Terry Atchley .....	Canceled due to Hurricane Ian
2023		

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Past & Present

<u>Name</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Fair</u>
Lamar Allen*		South Florida Fair
Dr. Jim App, HM	1976	Gainesville
Walter Arnold*		Miami Dade County
Dr. Larry Arrington, HM	2004	Gainesville, FL Coop. Ext. U of F
Terry Atchley*	2016	Hardee County Fair
Vance Banks		Bay County Fair
T.L. Barrineau, HLD	1975	Tallahassee
Bob Bates	1989	Alachua County Fair



Ron Beckey, CFE*		North Florida Fair
Stephen Bell	2000	Sarasota County Fair
Gordon Bell	1976	Palmetto
Crawford T. Bickford*		Central Florida Fair
Patsy Brooks, CFE*		Florida Strawberry Festival
Brenda Burnette	1992	FL Citrus Festival/Polk County Fair
Dr. Pauline Calloway, HM	1976	Gainesville, FL Coop. Ext. U of F
Horace Carr*		Bay County
Ken Cassels, CFE*		Florida Strawberry Festival
Thomas P. Chaires*		Manatee County
Felecia Chivington*	2008	Pensacola Interstate Fair
Vicki Chouris, CFE*	2002	South Florida Fair
"Buck" Christian, CFE*	1996	South Florida Fair
Phil Clark	2007	Miami Dade County
Ken Clark	1976	Sarasota
Kenneth "Red" Cochrane		Martin County Fair
Don Coker, HM	2002	FL Dept. of Agriculture
Dr. Maurice Cole, HM		Gainesville, FL Coop. Ext. U of F
Doyle Conner, HLD	1976	Tallahassee, Comm of Ag.
Clark Converse*	1998	Pasco County Fair
Joseph C. Cooper, Sr.		Panama City
Fran Crone	2017	SW FL & Lee County Fair
Roy A. Cunningham*		Manatee County
Paul Davis*	2013	FL Strawberry Festival
John Demark, HM		Agriculture Education, Tallahassee
Betty (Baggett) Dittman, CFE*	1976	Lake County (and Volusia County)
Debbie Dowler	2003	North Florida Fair
George E. Dryden	1951	Jackson County Fair
Giles Ellis		Florida State Fair
Gordon Ellis	1951	Nassau County Fair
W.E. Ellis	1951	State Livestock Crop Pav.
Scot Eubanks—HM	2017	Florida Farm Bureau
Michelle Faulk-HM	2020	FL Dept. of Agriculture
Ruth Ferrara, CFE*		Jacksonville
Cheryl Flood	2021	Florida State Fair
George Frazer*		Collier County Fair
Don Frenkel, CFE*		Pensacola County Fair
John Frenkel, Jr., CFE*		Pensacola County Fair
John Frenkel, Sr. HLD	1950	Pensacola Interstate Fair
Sandra Fritz	1987	
Darwin Fuchs, CFE*	1970	Miami Dade County
Bob Gast	2004	Volusia County
Louise Gibbs	1976	Plant City
W.W. Glenn, HLD		Marianna
Jean Grant, CFE*		Citrus County Fair
Doris Graska*	2002	Citrus County Fair
Jack Griffith*		Miami Dade County
W.E. Groene	1951	Ft. Lauderdale, County Comm.
Frankie Hall, HM	2001	Florida Farm Bureau
Hal Harris, Jr.	1976	Jacksonville
Gayle Hart, CFE8	2007	Greater Jacksonville Ag Fair

Mark Harvey	2018	North Florida Fair
S. D. (Sandy) Hendricks*		Bay County, Panama City
Kieth Hessey*		Broward County Fair
Lisa Hinton, CFE*	2000	Florida State Fair
Bob Hohenstein	2018	Miami-Dade
Suzanne Holcomb	2022	Hillsborough County Fair
Tommy Houser	1992	Sarasota County Fair
J.C. Huskisson	1951	Florida State Fair
Harry Jack		Charlotte County Fair
Rex Jackson	1989	SW FL & Lee County Fair
Donnie Jarrett	2003	Northeast Florida Fair
W.R. Jeffries, HM	1976	Tallahassee, State Dept. of Educ.
J. McK Jeter	1976	Tampa
Ellany Johnson	2002	Florida Strawberry Festival
Wanda Jones	2012	Columbia County Fair
Jeanne Keaton*	1997/2004	St. Lucie County Fair
Dr. E.M. Kelly, HM	1976	Gainesville
Jim Killip	1976	Kissimmee
Joe Kirkland, HM	1976	Tallahassee
Shawn Krauel	2014	Central Florida Fair
Jack Levy		South Dade County Fair,
		Homestead
Karl Lehmann*		Lake County
Martha Leverock, CFE*	1992	Greater Jacksonville Ag Fair
Jack Levins	1976	Tallahassee
L.H. Lewis	1951	FL State Marketing Bureau,
		Jacksonville
Rita DeMeir Lincoln	2016	South Florida Fair
John Henry Logan	1951	Clearwater
Tim Lovett	2023	FL Strawberry Festival
Lee Maxwell*		Volusia County
Richard McClain*	1998	Highlands County Fair
F.D. McCormick, HM	1976	Tallahassee
Jay McDaniel	1989	Walton County Fair
Artie McIntyre*	2004	Highlands Co. Fair and
		SW FL & Lee County Fair
Teresa Milicevic	1990	Hendry County Fair
Henry "Vern" Miner	1988	Kissimmee Valley/Osceola Cty
Albert Montes	2012	Miami-Dade County Youth Fair
Alta Mosley*	2001	SW FL & Lee County Fair
G.C. Norman, HLD		Tallahassee
C.E. Happy Norris, CFE*	1996	Lake County Fair
Leah Norris, CFE	2015	Lake County Fair
William C. Ochs*		South Florida Fair
Bill Olson, CFE*	2012	Greater Jacksonville Ag Fair
Jim Overton*	1994	Martin County Fair
Herschel Parrish, Jr., CFE*		Central Florida Fair
H.H. Parrish, Sr., CFE*		Central Florida Fair
Chuck Pesano	2011	Florida State Fair
Henry Pfeiffer	1976	Gainesville
Jim Poffenbaugh		Kissimmee Valley/Osceola Cty

Hal Porter*	2015	Citrus County Fair
Charles Price	1998	Central Florida Fair
C.L. Raines	1976	Jacksonville
Danny Raulerson, HM	2011	FL Dept. of Agriculture
Lloyd Rhoden	1951	North Florida Fair
Wallace Rich, HM	1976	Tallahassee
Bull Rigdon, CFE*		Northwest Florida Fair
Gary Roegner, CFE*		Greater Jacksonville Ag. Fair
Frank Ross	1992	Florida State Fair
Dawn Rowe*	2009	Osceola County Fair
Dr. Steven Ryan, HM		Gainesville, FL Coop. Ext. U of F
Tom Sanson	1995	Jackson County Fair
Louie W. Seay*		Jackson County Fair
Ruth K. Slatford	1976	Largo
Charles R. Smith*		Hernando County Fair
J. Carl Smith	1976	Lake County, Eustis
Dr. Howard Smith, HM	1976	Gainesville
Dr. Wayne Smith, HM		University of Florida
T. Wilson Sparks*		Florida State Fair
Jay Spicer	2019	Martin County
Regina Sprague	2008	Santa Rosa County Fair
D.A. Storms, HLD		Plant City
H.O. Stratton*		Northeast Florida Fair
Dr. John R. Strayer, HM	1976	Gainesville
Pete Sutton	2008	Clay County Fair
Calvin Swindle	1991	Hendry County Fair
Elmer C. Taylor*		Sarasota
Shelley Terrell	2020	Northeast Florida Fair
E. Thomas Torrence	1976	Deland
T.R. Townsend		Volusia County
Toby Turner	2011	Firefighters Indian River Fair
Thomas L. Umiker, CFE*	1987	Hillsborough County Fair
David Viers, CFE*	1993	Volusia County
Rick Vymlatil, CFE*		So Florida Fair, also St. Lucie County, and Florida State Fair
Stacey Wade	2018	Osceola County Fair
Jim Ward*	2006/2016	Lake County Fair
Ann Ward		Pasco County Fair
Rhonda Ward*	2014	Collier County Fair
Dr. Peter Warnock, HM		Collier County Fair
Dan West*	2004	University of Florida
Jack Whiddon	1976	Manatee County
H.E. Wood, HLD		Tallahassee
		Tallahassee

\*Past President

HM=Honorary Member

HLD=Honorary Life Director

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

	Wally Rich	Bob Gill
1985	Evelyn Zerr	Colie Ervin
1986	Colie Ervin	Ben Braunstein
1987	Rusty Groscurth	Dan Fleenor
1991	Jim Murphy	Rusty Groscurth
1992	Jim Murphy	Paul Robinson
1993	Paul Robinson	J.D. Floyd
1994	Paul Robinson	J.D. Floyd
1995	Joy C. Fleenor	E. James Strates
1996	Joy C. Fleenor	E. James Strates
1997	Wesley Oler	Andy Hendricks
1998	Wesley Oler	Andy Hendricks
1999	Dennis Lee	Thomas L. Umiker
2000	Eva Morris	Jim LaFratta
2001	Eva Morris	Jim LaFratta
2002	Eva Morris	Jim LaFratta
2003	Eva Morris	Jim LaFratta
2004	Tim O'Brien	Ron Toloday
2005	Tim O'Brien	Ron Toloday
2006	Tim O'Brien	Jill Eaton
2007	Tim O'Brien	Jill Eaton
2008	Tim O'Brien	Jill Eaton
2009	Joe Repass	Jill Eaton
2010	Joe Repass	Vicki Oler Senecal
2011	Joe Repass	Vicki Oler Senecal
2012	Mark Sparks	Vicki Oler Senecal
2013	Mark Sparks	Justine O'Brien
2014	Dennis Lee	Justine O'Brien
2015	Dennis Lee	Paul Laughter
2016	Kathy Ross	Paul Laughter
2017	Kathy Ross	Tim Stevens
2018	Richard George	Tim Stevens
2019	Richard George	Heidi Deggeller Pugh
2020	Eddie Porcelli, Jr.	Heidi Deggeller Pugh
2021	Eddie Porcelli, Jr.	Robert Smith
2022	Jay Strates	Robert Smith
2023	Jay Strates	Jodi Arzt Buresh

## PAST PRESIDENTS

1950	Lloyd Rhoden, Chairman
1951	Crawford T. Bickford ..... Central Florida
1952-4	Karl Lehman ..... Lake County
1955-6	H.O. Stratton ..... Northeast Florida Fair
1957-8	Thomas P. Chaires ..... Manatee County
1959-60	Lee Maxwell ..... Volusia County
1961-2	Lamar Allen ..... South Florida Fair
1963-4	Louie W. Seay ..... Jackson County
1965-8	H.H. Parrish, Sr. .... Central Florida Fair

1969	Charles R. Smith .....	Hernando County
1970	Ruth Ferrara .....	Jacksonville
1971	Roy A. Cunningham.....	Manatee County
1972-3	Walter Arnold.....	Miami-Dade County
1974	W.C. Ochs.....	South Florida Fair
1975	S.D. Hendricks .....	Bay County Fair
1976-7	W.C. Ochs.....	South Florida Fair
1978-9	Darwin Fuchs .....	Miami-Dade County
1980-1	Elmer C. Taylor .....	Sarasota County
1982	Horace Carr .....	Bay County
1983	John E. Frenkel, Jr.....	Pensacola
1984	T. Wilson Sparks.....	Florida State Fair
1985	Keith Hessey .....	Broward County
1986	Jean Grant.....	Citrus County
1987	C.H. "Bull" Rigdon, Jr. ....	Ft. Walton Beach
1988	Gary Roegner .....	Jacksonville
1989	Brantley "Buck" Christian.....	W. Palm Beach
1990	Ken Cassels.....	Strawberry Festival
1991	George Frazer .....	Collier County
1992	Herschel Parrish, Jr. ....	Central Florida Fair
1993	Don Frenkel .....	Pensacola
1994	Betty Dittman.....	Lake County
1995	Ron Beckey.....	North Florida Fair
1996	Patsy Brooks.....	Strawberry Festival
1997	Jack Griffith.....	Miami-Dade County
1998	Martha Leverock.....	Jacksonville
1999	Rick Vymlatil.....	Florida State Fair
2000	David Viers.....	Volusia County
2001	C.H. "Bull" Rigdon, Jr. ....	Ft. Walton Beach
2002	Jim Overton.....	Martin County
2003	Richard McClain .....	Highlands County
2004	C.E. "Happy Norris" .....	Lake County
2005	Clark Converse.....	Pasco County
2006	Lisa Hinton.....	Florida State
2007	Vicki Chouris.....	South Florida
2008	Alta Mosley.....	Southwest Florida & Lee County
2009	Doris Graska .....	Citrus County
2010	Artie McIntyre.....	Southwest Florida & Lee County
2011	Jeanne Keaton.....	St. Lucie County Fair
2012	C.E. Happy Norris .....	Lake County Fair
2013	Dan West .....	Manatee County
2014	Gayle Hart.....	Greater Jacksonville
2015	Rick Vymlatil.....	South Florida Fair

2016	Tom Umiker.....	Greater Hillsborough
2017	Felicia Chivington .....	Pensacola Interstate
2018	Dawn Rowe.....	Osceola County Fair
2019	Paul Davis.....	Florida Strawberry Festival
2020	Bill Olson.....	Greater Jacksonville Ag Fair
2021	Jim Ward.....	Pasco County Fair
2022	Rhonda Ward.....	Collier Fair
2023	Terry Atchley .....	Hardee County Fair

## HONORARY DIRECTORS OTHER THAN PAST PRESIDENTS

Woodrow W. Glenn 1918-2007 .....	Mariana
Doyle E. Connor 1928-2012 .....	Tallahassee
Jack C. Whidden.....	Tallahassee
Mozelle Williams .....	Brandon

## HALL OF FAME

This award began as Fair Person of The Year and was changed to Hall of Fame. The Committee that chooses the recipient is comprised of former recipients. A President must be out of office for a year before being considered.

1988	Louie Seay* (1991) .....	Marianna
1989	Walter B. Arnold, Jr.* (2000).....	Miami
1990	Jack Levins .....	Tallahassee
1991	H.H. Pete Parrish, Sr.* (2004) .....	Orlando
1992	Joseph C. Cooper, Sr.* (1998).....	Panama City
1993	Betty H. Dittman* (1999) .....	Daytona Beach
1994	E. Darwin Fuchs (2022).....	Miami
1995	C.H. “Bull” Rigdon, Jr. (2011) .....	Ft. Walton Beach
1996	Horace M. Carr, Sr. (2015).....	Panama City
1997	Jean Grant* (2008).....	Inverness
1998	Patsy Brooks .....	Plant City
1999	Brantley “Buck” Christian .....	W. Palm Beach
2000	Gary Roegner.....	Jacksonville
2001	Mozelle Williams .....	Brandon
2002	Don E. Frenkel.....	Pensacola
2003	Richard J. Vymlatil .....	Tampa
2004	Ronald S. Beckey.....	Tallahassee
2005	David Viers .....	Deland
2006	Richard McClain (2022) .....	Sebring
2007	Jack Griffith .....	Miami
2008	Martha Leverock .....	Jacksonville
2009	C.E. “Happy” Norris .....	Eustis

2010	Lisa Hinton .....	Riverview
2011	Vicki Chouris .....	West Palm Beach
2012	Ellany Johnson .....	Plant City
2013	Alta Mosley .....	Ft. Myers
2014	Doris Graska .....	Inverness
2015	Jeanne Keaton .....	Ft. Pierce
2016	Clark Converse .....	Dade City
2017	Pete Sutton.....	Green Cove Springs
2018	Tom Umiker .....	Sydney
2019	Dan West.....	Palmetto
2020	Carried over to 2021	
2021	Gayle Hart.....	Jacksonville
2022	Artie McIntyre .....	Highlands County Fair, Retired
2023	Dawn Rowe .....	Osceola County Fair
		*deceased (year)

### ASSOCIATES OF THE YEAR

2004	Eva Morris.....	Haas Wilkerson Insurance
2005	The O'Brien Family .....	O'Brien's Food Service
2006	Jill & Jef Eaton.....	Kandu Magic Company
2007	Vicki Oler Senecal .....	Oler Productions
2008	Dennis Lee .....	The Dennis Lee Show
2009	James LaFratta .....	Perfection Confections, Inc.
2010	The Panaceks .....	Belle City Amusements
2011	John Duttera .....	Duttera Sound
2012	Mark Sparks.....	Triangle Talent, Inc.
2013	David Musselman.....	Capitol International Productions
2014	Bobby McLamb.....	Artists & Attractions
2015	Doug King.....	King Enterprises, Inc.
2016	Randy & Sharon Ross.....	Robinson's Racing Pigs
2017	Charlie Smith.....	Populous
2018	Dave Meola & Ron Kramer .....	Techtronics Productions
2019	Kathy Ross .....	Ross Concessions
2020	Postponed to 2021	
2021	Rusty Groscurth .....	Super Dog
2022	E. James Strates .....	Strates Shows
2023	Eddie Porcelli.....	Spaghetti Eddie's

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES/DIRECTOR**

Ruth Ferrara .....	1970-1985
Patsy Brooks .....	1985
Mozelle Williams* .....	1985-2003
Heidi Herriott .....	May 3, 2003-June 15, 2005
Rachel Bush Newbauer .....	July 15, 2005-October 15, 2006
Lisa Hinton** .....	November 1, 2006—June 1, 2019
Dan West .....	June 1, 2019

\*President State & Provincial Association of Fairs—1995

\*\*President State & Provincial Association of Fairs—2017

\*\*Executive of the Year Award—2013

### **International Association of Fairs & Expos Awards**

#### **IAFE STATE AND PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS**

NEWSLETTER: 2003 2008 2009 2010 2015\*

DIRECTORY: 2010

E-NEWS: 2014 2015

\*STOPPED ENTERING

#### **IAFE HALL OF FAME**

Darwin Fuchs

#### **IAFE HERITAGE AWARD**

For Volunteer Service

Jack Levy-Homestead

Horace Carr-Panama City—2001

Jack Griffith-Miami

Richard McClain-Sebring

Doris Graska-Inverness—2008

Clark Converse—Dade City—2015

Dawn Rowe-Osceola County-2021

#### **IAFE OFFICERS**

Darwin Fuchs, Miami, Treasurer

Darwin Fuchs, Miami, President

Rick Vymlatil, 2nd Vice Chair—2016, Chair 2018

Lisa Hinton, State and Provincial Representative

#### **IAFE ZONE DIRECTORS**

Ron Beckey

Patsy Brooks, Plant City

Gary Roegner, Jacksonville



Rick Vymlatil, West Palm Beach  
Vicki Chouris, West Palm Beach

## **DIRECTORY COVER PHOTOGRAPH WINNERS**

- 2006-07 Columbia County Fair, South Florida Fair
- 2007-08 Citrus County, Clay County, Collier County,  
Osceola County, Florida State Fair
- 2008-09 Florida State Fair, Hernando County, Pasco County
- 2009-10 Citrus County, Clay County, Firefighter-Indian River, Florida State Fair
- 2010-11 Clay County Fair, Florida State Fair,  
Northeast Florida Fair, Osceola County Fair
- 2011-12 Citrus County Fair, Florida State Fair, Florida  
Strawberry Festival, Greater Jacksonville Fair
- 2012-13 Indian River County Firefighters Fair, Miami-Dade County Fair,  
Northeast Florida Fair
- 2013-14 Florida Strawberry Festival, Greater Jacksonville Fair,  
Indian River County Firefighters Fair, Miami-Dade County Fair
- 2014-15 Greater Hillsborough County Fair,  
Indian River County Firefighters Fair, Lake County Fair,  
Miami-Dade County Fair
- 2015-16 Citrus County Fair, Greater Hillsborough County Fair,  
Martin County Fair, Miami-Dade County Fair
- 2016-17 Florida Strawberry Festival, Miami-Dade County Fair, Osceola County Fair,  
SW Florida & Lee County Fair
- 2017-18 Florida State Fair, Martin County Fair, Miami-Dade County, SW FL & Lee  
County
- 2018-19 Clay County, Miami-Dade, Martin County, Sumter County
- 2019-20 Clay County, Miami-Dade, Osceola County, Hillsborough County
- 2020-21 Citrus County, Florida Strawberry Festival, Martin County, Osceola County
- 2021-22 Citrus County, Collier County, Lake County, St. Lucie County
- 2022-23 Lake County, Central Florida, Hardee County, Hendry County
- 2023-24 Citrus County, Clay County, Lake County, Pasco County

## **PREMIUM CHECKS**

Premium checks issued by a Fair and not cashed become unclaimed property and must be paid to the state? Some Fairs have already had to remit the amount of outstanding checks to the state.

To avoid this liability the following wording should be included on the checks and on the applications for entries.

### *Language for checks for premium monies:*

This check is void if not negotiated within 90 days from the date hereof and all sums held on payee's behalf by payor shall constitute an irrevocable gift of said amount by payee to payor.

Language for applications for entries:

All checks for premium monies awarded in connection with the Fair shall be negotiated by the recipient/payee within 90 days from the date of the check, time

being of the essence. If the recipient/payee fails to timely negotiate said check, all monies due recipient/payee shall belong to the Fair and the recipient/payee shall be deemed to have made an unconditional and irrevocable gift of said monies to the Fair.

The mission of the **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services** is to safeguard the public and support Florida's agricultural economy by:  
Ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of food and other consumer products through inspection and testing programs;  
Protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices and providing consumer information;  
Assisting Florida's farmers and agricultural industries with the production and promotion of agricultural products; and  
Conserving and protecting the state's agricultural and natural resources by reducing wildfires, promoting environmentally safe agricultural practices, and managing public lands.

## **Florida Department of Agriculture**

### **CHAPTER 616**

#### **PUBLIC FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS**

##### **PART I**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS (ss. 616.001-616.24)**

##### **PART II**

#### **TRADE AND SAFETY STANDARDS (ss. 616.241, 616.242)**

##### **PART I**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The entire chapter can be found at Florida Legislature

### **616.17 Minimum exhibits.--**

(1) No public fair or exposition conducted by a fair association may be approved by the department for a tax exemption certificate unless the fair or exposition displays the following minimum exhibits, but this requirement may not be construed as a limitation on the number of exhibits which the fair or exposition may have:

- (a) Three exhibits from 4-H Clubs or Future Farmers of America chapters which are officially approved by those clubs or chapters.
- (b) Three exhibits of community, individual, or county farm displays.
- (c) Three exhibits of field crops in at least three different crops.
- (d) Three exhibits of horticultural products.

(e) Three culinary exhibits such as canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned pickles or juices, jams, jellies, cakes, bread, candies, or eggs.

(f) Three exhibits of household arts such as homemade spreads, towels, luncheon sets, rugs, clothing, or baby apparel.

(g) Three exhibits of fruit or vegetable crops in at least three different crops.

(h) Three exhibits of arts, crafts, photography, or antiques or of scout handiwork.

(i) Three exhibits from home demonstration, home economics, educational, religious, or civic groups.

(j) Three exhibits of livestock such as dairy cows, beef cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, horses, or mules.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to specialized livestock shows or fruit or vegetable festivals, the minimum exhibits of which shall be as follows:

(a) Each specialized livestock show shall consist of at least 50 head of animals or 300 head of poultry.

(b) Each specialized fruit, vegetable, or crop festival or exposition shall consist of at least 50 entries in the specialty, which shall occupy at least 1,000 square feet of display area.

(3) The department may provide a waiver to the minimum exhibit requirements of this section to any fair association that submits an application for the waiver to the department, at least 60 days prior to the annual public fair or exposition in need of the waiver, and shows good cause why the requirements of this section cannot be met.

### **“Additional Powers of Fairs”**

by Foster & Fuchs

In Chapter 616, which governs public fairs and expositions, there is a

section which lists the powers of a fair association. It is interesting to note the Florida Legislature has empowered a fair association to do more than just hold a fair. Specifically, Section 616.08 of the Florida Statutes provides:

Every fair association shall have the power to hold, conduct, and operate public fairs and expositions annually and for such purpose to buy, lease, acquire, and occupy lands, erect buildings and improvements of all kinds thereon, and develop those lands, buildings, and improvements; to sell, mortgage, lease, or convey any such property or any part thereof, in its discretion, from time to time for the purpose of public fairs or expositions; to charge and receive compensation for admission to those fairs and expositions, for the sale or renting of space for exhibitions, and for other privileges; to conduct and hold public meetings; to supervise and conduct lectures and all kinds of demonstration work in connection with or for the improvement of agriculture, horticulture, stock raising and poultry raising, and all kinds of farming and matters connected therewith; to hold exhibits of agricultural and horticultural products and livestock, chickens, and other domestic animals; to give certificates or diplomas of excellence; to promote the progress of the geographical area it represents and serves and stimulate public interest in the advantages and development of that area by providing facilities for agricultural and industrial exhibitions, public gatherings, cultural activities, and other functions which the association determines will enhance the educational, physical, economic, and cultural interests of the public; and generally to do, perform, and carry out all matters, acts, and business usual or proper in connection with public fairs and expositions.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

### **Article I—Purpose**

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Organization) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization, or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

### **Article II—Definitions**

1. **Interested Person** - Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. **Financial Interest** - A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or

b. A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or

c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration, as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

#### **Article III-Procedures**

1. **Duty to Disclose.** In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. **Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists.** After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

3. **Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest.**

a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of and the voted on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.

c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.

d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. **Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy.**

b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

#### **Article IV—Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

#### **Article V—Compensation**

a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

#### **Article VI—Annual Statements**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

#### **Article VII- Periodic Reviews**

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit, or in an excess benefit transaction.

#### **Article VIII -Use of Outside Experts**

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

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