



NEWS RELEASE

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Indiana State Fair Board elects new president, names officers

New governance structure policy also approved

INDIANAPOLIS – The [Indiana State Fair](http://indianastatefair.com) Board, which conducts many of the programs and competitions held annually during the annual State Fair, has elected Stan Poe as its new president. He succeeds Steve Simmerman who has served in that role since 2011. Poe's one-year term begins immediately.

Poe is a Franklin sheep producer and has served on the board since 2011. He is also a retired executive from [Elanco](http://elanco.com), an Indianapolis-based global animal health company. Most recently, he has served the board as vice president and for the past three years has been the director of the Fairgrounds Coliseum, Youth Arena and 4H Horse & Pony during the State Fair.

The board also filled its officer positions during its October meeting. Paul Graf, Sellersburg, has been elected to serve as vice president, and Jackie Bell, Avilla, becomes the board secretary. The board also welcomed Carlos Garcia, Indianapolis, as its newest member. Garcia, the Director of Emergency Management and Continuity for [IUPUI](http://iupui.edu), was appointed by the Governor's office to replace Al Polin whose term had expired.

The Indiana State Fair Board is comprised of 17 members – seven elected, seven appointed and 3 ex-officio – who reside throughout Indiana's seven agricultural districts. It is responsible for conducting the annual Indiana State Fair under the policies and procedures established by the Indiana State Fair Commission.

During the State Fair Commission's October meeting, the commission unanimously approved Poe's motion to accept a new governance policy the Fair Board and Fair Commission have been collaborating on for the past several months. The new policy better defines the roles and responsibilities of the individual board members and emphasizes the essential role of the board in conducting the State Fair. Board members are critical advocates for youth, animal agriculture and education during the fair, and are called on to work with commission staff personnel to execute State Fair competitions and events to the highest standards of youth and livestock contests.

For more information on the Indiana State Fair and its structure, please visit www.indianastatefair.com.

About Indiana State Fair

The Indiana State Fair is the state's largest multi-day event celebrating Hoosiers' spirit and agricultural heritage. Nationally recognized for offering great entertainment, showcasing youth, interactive agriculture education programs, premier facilities and a variety of unique, fun foods, the Indiana State Fair has been an annual tradition for generations of Hoosiers since 1852. For more information, please visit www.indianastatefair.com.

About Indiana State Fairgrounds

Established in 1892, the Indiana State Fairgrounds is a modern public event facility that annually hosts more than 300 meetings, shows, sports and agriculture events, including the Indiana State Fair. The Indiana State Fairgrounds is one of Indiana's top tourist destinations annually attracting 2 million visitors to its 250-acre campus in Indianapolis' Midtown district and adding \$124 million to the local economy. Agriculture and food production education are part of the fairgrounds' core values. The nine-member Indiana State Fair Commission, a quasi-governmental agency, oversees year-round management of the fairgrounds, which operates in a safe and fiscally conscious manner for the benefit of all citizens of Indiana. Additional information is available at www.indianastatefair.com.

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