

The FAIR FOUNDATION

north idaho fair and rodeo

Cowboy Ball Update



When I think of something to describe the 2022 Cowboy Ball, I think of an octopus, a whimsical, cute one at that. This being one of our signature events, we always want to put our best foot forward and make it a well-run, enjoyable, top-notch event. Often times, the Chairperson of such an event gets most of the praise and accolades, but it is the individuals involved in creating a high performing team, that make the event successful.

I remember 9 years ago, while attending my first Cowboy Ball, I was told that a lady by the name of Kim Edmonson was the Chair of the event. I recall just being in awe and thinking "who could pull off such an amazing event?" I sat on her committee for a few years, and the past four years I have served in a leadership role, most recently as Chair for this event. As I take a step back, I am so thrilled we have been able to put together such a wonderful team in 2022.

Our Decorating Committee Chair and Foundation Board Member, Dorine Souther, is an experienced decorator, and we hit the jackpot with her. Pictured below is a sample of the table decorations for this year's event (table sponsors get to take these home with them). The octopus tentacles extend from Dorine, to her '40-Something Cowgirl's' committee, which are a newly formed group of ladies that volunteer collectively for the betterment of our community.

Our silent auction is one of our fan favorites. Foundation Board Member Kim Weatherford, who is very experienced in social media and multi-level marketing has championed this effort ensuring we secure popular packages, in addition to properly thanking our auction donors at every level and giving them the recognition they deserve via our Facebook page and print media.

Ann Siebert, long time Foundation Board member, and her team from First Interstate Bank are seasoned pros with check-in and check-out. They give up their entire evening of dancing and entertainment to handle the financials and prepare to provide an estimate of funds brought in by night end so we can all celebrate.

Heidi Acuff is a talented artist and not only donates a custom painting to our event annually, but also makes all posters for the Live Auction portion of the program.

Long-time Foundation Board member Mary Larson champions the bathroom décor and networks throughout the evening making sure our guests feel appreciated and get their questions answered.

The Gem State Stampede Rodeo Committee has a representative on our committee, Denise Rosen, who helps throughout the night with identifying bids and generating energy for the live auction portion of our program.

Kimberly Cornelius runs our Scholarship Program, which typically generates around \$14,000 annually toward scholarships for local youth.

It goes without saying that the event would not be possible, profitable, and successful, were it not for Alexcia Jordan and her staff, as the Fair liaison to our Cowboy Ball.

The eight tentacles of the octopus have now been identified. As Chair, I guess that leaves me as the octopus head (remember, I said a cute, whimsical one at that.) Having these key committee members, the tentacles, enable me to focus on how to grow our event. This year, we have already experienced brisk table sales with 2/3 the tables already sold. We have a new Presenting Sponsor, **Kootenai Title Company, J.T. Jacobson** – thank you for stepping up and agreeing to join in at this level. Other ways we are generating new revenues are through Table Wraps! Get yours now for \$300 each! They're a great way to bring exposure to your business during the evening. (*More info on page 5.*)

You all have heard about Forrie Smith flying in for our event! He is just a good ole' cowboy and BIG-TIME actor from the hit series, Yellowstone, who has quite a personal journey and story to share. Kat Van Trol will be doing a 12-minute speed painting of a portrait of him, and we will sell it during the auction.

All exciting new announcements! Thank you for your support and call us now to reserve your table or sponsor a scholarship. Ph: 208.765.4969.

Kindly,

Gayle Stegmann

Fair Foundation Board Member
Cowboy Ball Chair



Presidential Address

We just concluded a phenomenal annual retreat, thereby fulfilling the obligations set forth in our Foundation By-Laws. With all Board members present, this all-day retreat included our monthly meeting, breakout session, and afternoon meeting. During the breakout session, we joined up with members of the Fair Board, Staff, 4-H Cooperative Extension and Gem State Stampede in an empowering 2-hour presentation given by Marla J. Calico, President and CEO of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE). During this session, we identified and had conversations around preserving our rural heritage, through 4-H, FFA, and other educational programs benefiting area youth, all along, being faced with significant urban sprawl.



The afternoon Foundation meeting primarily consisted of identifying committee Chairs, setting into motion a By-Law Committee to ensure our By-Laws continue to remain up to date. Leading this committee are board members, Merlin Berger, Rachel Peters, and Kim Weatherford. We have also updated our Foundation Board application process to include a "Code of Conduct and Guidelines" for new board members.

The most exciting news that came from our retreat and we are now advancing forward, is our longtime desire to hire a full time Executive Director for the Foundation. A search committee was established immediately, and we hope to get a new director in place by May 1st.

Exciting things are happening with the Foundation as exemplified by all the wonderful articles featured in this newsletter. It has been a fun and challenging first year as President, and with board support, I gratefully lead the Foundation into a 2nd year of presidency.

Kindly,

Dwayne Glemser

President

North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation

Blake Webb Safety Awareness Foundation donation



From left to right: Alexcia Jordan, Laurice Webb, Gayle Stegmann & Rachel Peters

The North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation accepted a check from the Blake Webb Safety Awareness Foundation (BWSAF) in the amount of \$5,150 for the purchase of a table to be placed on the Fairground property for additional seating during the annual Fair and events throughout the year. The BWSAF, ran by Jessi and Laurice Webb, chose the Fair property to honor their beloved son Blake Webb, who passed away in a motocross accident in 2007.

The Foundation purchases safety awareness equipment and provides education to tracks throughout the country. Additionally, they have given to families experiencing hardships and charitable organizations from proceeds raised at their rummage sale held annually.

For more information on the bench and table program, see page 3.

'Salute to a Century'



The planning for the 2022 North Idaho State Fair is well underway and we are thrilled to 'Salute to a Century' as we celebrate our centennial year. That is right, 100 years of fair here in Kootenai County celebrating our youth and our community! You can expect another ten-day run, incorporating our rich history and a whole lot of fun designed for everyone to enjoy.

We are ramping up to announce all our events in the Findlay Arena adding some new and keeping to the traditional favorites. Our free entertainment lineup is exceptional and will highlight our centennial celebration with decade days, tribute shows and much more. Within the coming months we will release a commemorative magazine showcasing the history of the fair and the changes throughout the years on the facility. The Museum of North Idaho has partnered with us to create an interactive historical exhibit during the fair that everyone is sure to enjoy. We are also thrilled to share that FFA will be joining the agricultural programming this year, while 4-H celebrates 100 years with us!

Around the grounds you will find lots of projects underway. The rodeo arena will have new footing and the Chill Zone will receive some major upgrades. The next phase of the RV Park will begin this summer, creating a third loop of additional sites.

We continue to strive to constantly improve the facility for a better guest experience and work hard to ensure we offer something fun for everyone throughout the Fair programming, and the great variety of events that we book at the facility. Check our calendar at www.kcfairgrounds.com to see what you might be missing and check for North Idaho State Fair programming at www.NISFair.fun often as it all rolls out!

Alexcia Jordan, CFE

General Manager



Recognition Benches and Tables Available

Under the recently launched 'Bench and Table Program', Co-Chaired by Gayle Stegmann and Rachel Peters, donors can purchase a bench or table and have their business or individual's names noted. For an additional \$150, a plaque remembering a loved one or the like can be placed on the equipment. You may also choose from one of three different locations at the Fairgrounds.

We are seeking additional donors. For more information or to download a brochure, checkout the Foundation webpage at www.kcfairgrounds.org or Rachel Peters at 208.661.7971 or Gayle Stegmann at 509.994.6098.



Welcome Pierce Clegg to the NISF & Rodeo Board of Directors!



We would like to announce the new addition to our Board, Mr. Pierce Clegg. Mr. Clegg has lived in Kootenai County for 50 years and brings to the Board, 30 years of experience spent in County Government, serving part of this as a Kootenai County Deputy, then Sergeant, and most impressively, three 4-year terms as Kootenai County Sheriff.

His commitment to the Fairgrounds has been unwavering with over 10 years of volunteer service in various capacities. He mentored young men in 4-H and Livestock programs along with helping kids receive market pricing, along with purchasing many of their animals. His background is in agriculture, and he raises animals on his own ranch to this day. Mr. Clegg was quick to point out “as Sheriff, I never had a criminal case against any 4-H kids or families. Enough said.”

When asked what skills he can bring to our organization, Mr. Clegg replied “I have the knowledge to work on budgets, bring in new sponsors and am willing to contribute financially”. He is motivated primarily by a strong desire to “serve my community”.

“Mr. Clegg is well respected in our community and has a passion for maintaining the financial stewardship of the Foundation. This, combined with his rural roots, will further strengthen our board and the confidence of our legacy donors, contributors and the community at large”, said Dwayne Glemser, Board President.

Mr. Clegg and his wife Lois have 6 children, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. His hobbies include ranching, fishing and watching his grandson race cars.

The North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation is a 501 (3) C and monies raised go towards capital improvements at the Fairgrounds and educational opportunities for area youth.

For more information about the Foundation, or becoming a board member, please contact Gayle Stegmann, Community Outreach, at 509.994.6098, or check our website at www.kcfairgrounds.com.

Barb Renner Shows Support Again, and Again and Again!



From left to right: Barbara Renner, Marla Calico, CEO of the international association of fairs and expos and Alexcia Jordan

Longtime supporter of both the Fair and the Fair Foundation and past Manager of the Fairgrounds, Barb Renner, generously donated \$10,000 to our Endowment Fund!

Our Endowment Fund was established in 2019. That endowment fund is growing every day to help the Kootenai County Fairgrounds maintain and expand its grounds. With this contribution, this now brings our Endowment Fund to just over \$150,000! Sufficient savings and liquidity beyond the endowment fund to support the Foundation's current giving plans have now been attained and with annual contributions from the Foundation, will continue to grow.

According to Mary LuAnn Larson, Board Member and Past President who spearheaded this mission during her presidency, “Creating and funding this Endowment has been a dream of the Fair Foundation since its inception. Thanks to the dedication of the current board, and the generosity of many donors, we have been able to achieve this goal.”

On a side note, Barb has published a phenomenal new book, titled ‘This is Us’ with fond memories of her late husband Harlen, her childhood, how she came by way of being the Fair Manager, the Turf Club, and much history about the Fair property. By reading it, one would likely be moved to ensure the Fairgrounds continue to prosper at its current location. She is happy to share her writings with any interested parties.

Thanks, Barb, for your continued support in ways that go well beyond financial. We are grateful to have you in our Fair Family!

Chicks n Chaps Update

Word of mouth is a dangerously good thing...especially for the 14th Chicks n Chaps at the Gem State Stampede. On August 27th of this year, our committee will be gathering gals around tables of eight to raise awareness, raise funds and yes, raise a little H-E-double toothpicks. And thanks to word of mouth those tables of eight sold out in three days.

Wow!

What a great event, and a huge thanks goes to the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort and Hotel as they have agreed to be our title sponsor again this year. We love this collaboration because of the importance the Coeur d'Alene tribe has always been in our community. This year we are working on some additional collaborations that will extend our relationship throughout the year. Who will be seated at their table at the end of August?

Well, we can't forget to mention that two of our tables sold during our event last August. One of our live auction items is a VIP table. The competition was so intense, Co-Chair Ann Siebert offered two at the same price. Congratulations to Valley Glass and to Coeur d'Alene Structures – you are our 2022 VIPs. And good job diffusing the situation, Ann – maybe we should send you to Washington, D.C.

With all of this good stuff around us, our committee is meeting to make sure we up our game again this year to assure that all of our guests leave the rodeo knowing this was their best experience ever.

Mary Luann Mall Larson

208.691.2197

mllarson@roadrunner.com



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Table Wrap

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(208) 765-4969 or

Foundation@NorthIdahoStateFair.com

Upcoming Events



MAY 17-19, 2022 FARM TO TABLE 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

MAY 20, 2022 COWBOY BALL

AUG. 5-7, 2022 OPEN HORSE SHOW

AUG. 19-28, 2022 NORTH IDAHO STATE FAIR

AUG. 25-28, 2022 GEM STATE STAMPEDE

AUG. 26, 2022 CHICKS n CHAPS TM

The advertisement for the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation Scholarship Program. It features a young woman with dark hair, wearing a blue and black plaid shirt over a grey tank top, holding several folders. The background is a mix of yellow and blue with a pattern of small white dots. The text "NORTH IDAHO FAIR AND RODEO FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" is in bold blue letters at the top. Below it, "Now Accepting Applicants" is in white text on a blue background. The website "NORTHIDAHOFAIRFOUNDATION.ORG" is listed below that. At the bottom, the "The FAIR FOUNDATION" logo is shown, with "north idaho" and "fair and rodeo" in smaller text.

Applications for the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation's 2022-2023 Scholarship program are available for Kootenai and Shoshone County students that are enrolled in a two or four-year academic or trade institution. Students can talk to their counselors for an application or they are available at the Fairgrounds Office, the 4-H Extension Office, or at www.kcfairgrounds.com.

Scholarship amounts range from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Funds for the scholarships are donated through the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation's annual Cowboy Ball, which is scheduled for May 20th, 2022.



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