



2014 Mofairs Convention News

The 69th Annual Mofairs Convention has come and gone with so much good information and so many great contacts for Fairs, Festivals, Picnics, Homecomings, and our all important Associate members. With 1077 people registered there was plenty of interaction between all those events, both large and small, and the 85 associate companies in the trade show area, the 15 entertainment agencies represented on the main entertainment showcase stage, 14 different acts on the variety showcase stage, as well as the 12 different educational sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Recognition of our fellow Fair and Festival members is always an important part of our event. 2014 was special as we added an additional category of recognition with our Fair Person of the Year Award.

Those receiving recognition for 2014 included Hall of Fame inductees:

Fairs and Festivals - Past President Mr. Don Reynolds NEMO Fair Kirksville, Mo

Associate Member - Sandy Lee of Sanford Lee & Associates Concordia, Mo.

And new this year

Fair Person of the Year – Kris Richards Potosi, Mo.

Scholarships awarded at the annual convention also bring recognition to those young Fair and Festival exhibitors, competitors, and supporters from throughout the state. Scholarships were awarded to the Mofairs Public Speaking Competition winners as well as the Staats / Past Presidents competition.

Those young people recognized were :

Public Speaking Competition 1st Place – Lauren Haley – Livingston County Fair

2nd Place – John Wolken Moniteau County Fair

3rd Place – Libby Martin – Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival

Staats/ Past Presidents Scholarship went to Lindsey Robinson of the Montgomery County Fair.

The Mofairs annual business meeting was held Friday morning with the usual financial reporting and previous meeting minutes reviewed however the election of Board members to help lead us forward is a very important part of that meeting. Board member terms in both District 1 / Northwest and District 5/Southwest had expired. Dr. Vince Shelby of Maryville (Nodaway Co. Fair) was elected from District #1. Judi Baldwin of El Dorado Springs (El Dorado Springs Picnic) was re-elected from District #5. Both will serve a three year term.

Saturday afternoon your board convened for an annual meeting to determine the Associations officers for the 2014 year. Those positions will be filled by Fred Higdon – President (SEMO District Fair), Mike Heflin – Vice President (Washington County Fair), Judi Baldwin - Treasurer (El Dorado Springs Picnic) and Daniel Yarnell - Secretary (Toby's Carnival Co.).

As always a large part of the Convention is the hospitality available to all by our sponsors, associates, with various happy hours, and the wine and cheese reception from the Missouri State Fair. These all give our attendees one more opportunity to mix, mingle, and share with other fair members during the weekend.

Our website at MOAIRS.ORG has a new look as most of you know and with that are new opportunities. We have posted many photos from the convention as well as other information. All our sponsor logos are proudly displayed on the homepage as well. As you check out the website you will notice some of our events have taken advantage of our ability to post your logo and some favorite photos of your event to help you promote it. A complete list of Mofairs member events is available for download there as well. Another part of the upgrade with Saffire Events. If you have questions on this please let us know.

We do need to thank the management and staff of the Holiday Inn for their hospitality and going the extra mile to accommodate our varied needs and requests. And we do have many.

The 2015 Mofairs Convention will again be held in Columbia at the Holiday Inn Executive Center with the dates being January 29 to February 1, 2015. Mark your calendar.

Your District Directors stand ready on the local level as well as state wide to be of help with your issues and questions as well as support in general. Their contact information is available on the web site for your use.

We are wishing each of you a successful 2014.