

**NCW Fair Board Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Members Present | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colby Holaday <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Foged <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grant <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Johnson <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Schneider <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy English <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamey Jo Steele <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margaret Viebrock <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Beidler <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Whitehall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheri Bock |
| Staff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Morley <input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Sanders | <input type="checkbox"/> Karina Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Ramon Ramirez |
| Guests | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

President Leon Grant called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. He mentioned that if you have items to be added to the agenda, please do so.

Amy made the motion to accept the minutes as emailed; Bill seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 9, 2025. The minutes were previously emailed to all Board members. It passed unanimously.

The budget discussion will be included under “Carolyn’s Report” elsewhere in these Minutes.

Old Business: Becky Matthiesen has chosen not to apply to renew her term as a Board member. Her term recently expired. She had been a board member for over 30 years (somewhere between 38 and 39 years). Adam made a motion that her years of service be honored by inducting her into the Hall of Fame. Margaret seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. **Heidi Hedges** has resigned her position as Board member. We are in search of four board members. Carolyn has been posting it on social media. Discussion ensued regarding Liz Marlow as she expressed interest a year ago and has been collaborating with the Operating Committee since then.
2. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Livestock Committee** –
 - The Livestock Committee met in November 2025. One item discussed was that FFA was considering eliminating all contests due to the time and expense involved vs the lack of participation. Lack of participation was due to the requirement for FFA students to register as exhibitors to participate in those contests. FFA had not yet made a final decision.

Jamey Jo mentioned that a question had been asked at a meeting of FFA advisors whether they could obtain sponsors to cover the cost of entry onto the fairgrounds and exhibitor fees. Jamey Jo will take that information back to their next meeting on January 26. The advisors can send the registration information to Ann for entry into Fair Entry after the normal registration deadline. Jamey Jo will net us know at the next board meeting of their final decision.

- It was suggested that the G.O.A.T. Experience be moved from Sunday afternoon to Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. to allow more time for the event so the exhibitors can have better interaction with the judge and the animals. Leon, Ann, and Sheri will work on this/
- The Livestock Committee made the recommendation to eliminate open class swine from the registration guide. They cannot sell during the auction; stall space is at a premium, and we have not had any Open Class swine registered for several years. Adam made a motion to eliminate Open Class swine from the registration guide; Amy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ann requested that we allow the sale of a “donation swine” to benefit the Rodeo Committee. She and Kevin will donate the animal; their granddaughter will lead it through the sale with the understanding that she cannot exhibit it as she is too young for a 4-H swine project and Open Class swine have been eliminated as a project. The request was approved.

b. Race & Rodeo Committees –

- Mark spoke about the queen pageant. He is working with Appleatchee regarding planning. Carolyn mentioned that the county had allowed the establishment of a fund within the budget, like the Livestock Fund. Carolyn is working with the Risk Management director to work out the process. The fund is \$5,000 initially to get things up and running. Expenses diminish in future years as the chaps, and other necessary items will remain in ownership by the fair and used in future years.

c. Entertainment –

- Carolyn mentioned that the artist for the Friday night concert has been secured and confirmed. It will be announced during the upcoming crab feed. The committee is still working on something for a Thursday evening concert.

d. Operations –

- We need a superintendent for floriculture.
- Next year’s theme is “Rooted in the West.”
- The grant application deadline is coming up. No applications have been submitted yet.

- e. **Ramon's Report --**
 - The grant request to WSDA was approved for \$250,000 to fund concrete in both areas that are currently safety hazards.
 - Some additional funding is needed to complete the lighting over the food court.
 - Construction of the new barn has not yet begun. The contractor is getting numbers to Ramon, but nothing has been coming in. The potential exists whereby we may need to look for other contractors. Colby will call Ramon regarding American Standard, Ziggys, and Western Ranch.
 - f. **Carolyn's report** – Carolyn mentioned that the budget has been approved with some unfortunate events. Nikki was offered a part-time position, which she refused and has obtained full-time employment elsewhere. All off-season events were eliminated except for the NCW Fair and Cowboy Brunch with Santa. There are currently no off-season events planned.
 - Volunteer appreciation party is February 7.
 - Crab Feed is March 14.
- 3. Crab Feed Discussion** – Copies of last year's donation list, including contact information as to who is to reach out to previous donors. It is optimal that we do not want multiple board members contacting the same business or individual for donations. Everyone was asked to review the list carefully.
- Dessert Dash – Amy. Envelopes will be on the tables with coupons. Guests can use cash or charge funds to their bidder number. Whichever table has the highest bid gets to go first when their number is called out. We will need tables with desserts displayed to be viewed by guests.
 - Donations – A list of items for potential donations not previously donated was included with the agenda for members to review and pursue. Carolyn mentioned she is encouraging all members to obtain ten donations for the event.
 - If spouses are going to be working during the event, we need to get them registered. If they are not working, tickets need to be purchased for their attendance.
 - Margaret will organize the kitchen needs again this year. Leon mentioned that Marie and GB had offered to come and help with the crab feed. They had worked with Margaret's crew previously.
 - Ann will organize and see to the execution of the auctions again this year. She will contact Heidi to see if she and her husband will be available to help with auction security as they did last year.
 - Ramon is responsible for the set-up.
- 4. Nominating Committee** – There are two positions open for election: Vice President and Secretary, each for a two-year term. Since Adam has agreed to continue in the role as Vice President, and Ann has done likewise for Secretary, the Nominating

Committee saw no need for any additional search. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Margaret moved that they are each re-elected to a two-year term. Sheri seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. It was also noted that Leon did provide a letter of interest in continuing his term as a director for an additional three years.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The next board meeting will be held on February 12, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Whitehall, Secretary