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## PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

**MINUTES****SPRING MEETING**

April 12, 2018 – 11AM

CENTRE HALL, PA

David Hallstrom called the meeting to order. Kevin Bieber led the Pledge of Allegiance and Harry Reffner offered prayer. Roll Call - present were C Sherman Allen, John Berne, John Blaney Jr., Kevin Bieber, Roger Dirlam, Martha Ebersole, Susan Hahn, Seth Kensinger, David Hallstrom, Judy Kmetz, Dale LeVan, John McMullen, Jeanne Miller, Sally Nolt, David Reese, Harry Reffner, Jeff Romesberg, Bryan Utegg, George Witherite, and Samuel Zaffuto. Absent Jim Davis, Karen Dobson, Tony Frazier, Craig Lash, Debbie Stephenson. Honorary members, Bev Gruber, Bitsey Kopfinger, Byron Glessner, Bruce Koppenhaver, Ron Miller, and Jack Snyder. Members at Large – Tracy Barone, Andy Goodman, Gala Higinbotham. Guest from PSSA Leon Carchellio, Allen Bartlebaugh. Guest from Bureau of Market Development Laura England.

**MINUTES OF FALL & CONVENTION MEETINGS – Harry Reffner**

Minutes of all 3 meetings were posted on the website. The minutes of the Post Convention meeting had the chair of the Table Topics to Seth Kensinger. Roger Dirlam made the motion to accept all Minutes from the Fall Meeting Pre & Post Convention, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Blaney, carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Harry Reffner**

A transfer from Convention account to savings in the amount of \$5,724 should have been deposited to the Scholarship Fund.

Fair dues 12 Fairs still have outstanding invoices amounting to \$4,000.

Convention – Profit up this year, although attendance down slightly. Trade show continues to contribute to profit. Kevin's Seminar Committee was able to reduce the amount of speakers. Roger Dirlam made the motion to accept the treasure's report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Romesburg, carried.

**ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

- Courtesy passes to directors
- \$1,000 to IAFE Glen Falls, 32 plan to attend from Pennsylvania
- Scam being emailed regarding contribution to a child Fair Member, David, though Love Fondly, this is a scam. Notice send to all board members and Fairs.
- Jack Snyder returned to home, according to FaceBook.
- Fair Books available.
- Reimbursement to fairs, changes of personnel, address worked with Tracy, she will be addressing at zone meetings.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****TABLE TOPICS – Seth Kensinger**

2019 topics all ears for ideas, contact Seth. At our Fair visits enlist ideas for next year. Some TOPICS to be repeated along with new.

## SEMINARS – Kevin Bieber

Meeting held with the Seminar and Table Topic committee held before this meeting. Keynote speakers have 3 possible, will contact broker, \$10,000 plus travel. Suggested the budget committee bump up the line item. IAFE speakers waiting on their list of possibilities. South central Task Force new topic. Judges school on Wednesday. Barney Costner possible coming back. Will check the Glen Falls speakers. Thanked Bruce for AV last year. Had the 3 \$100 gift drawings to boost attendance at Saturday morning seminars, attendance up. One recipient returned the card. Sally made the motion to continue the gift drawings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John and carried.

## BAKING CONTESTS – Kevin Beiber

See separate report. Do not use the old PA Preferred banners.

## QUEEN – John Berne

See separate report.

## REPORT FROM THE PA DEPT. OF AG. – Tracy Barone, Laura England

Tracy reported 2016 capital improvements have been processed. 2017-2018 reimbursements have been processed. 2017-2018 capital improvements priority 1 and 2 have been approved at \$1,134,000. Youth Poster Contest Strength in our Diversity. Friends of the Fair are due 6/1/18. Fair guides were given out, however Sherman noted the Crawford dates were incorrect, will be reprinted and available at zone meetings. Harness racing additional funds available, sent to Harness racing Fairs. Lackawanna County Heritage Fair new for 2019. Northeast fair may be closing. Laura addressed the policy of the Department of Ag, reducing capital improvements if the sales of Confederate flags occur. She is asking for thoughts and opinions to take back to the Department. Much discussion. Secretary Redding ask Sally to make a recommendation regarding the flag. Needs clarification. Andy noted there needs to be more discussion before implementation.

## LUNCH

## REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS. – Andy Goodman

Governor's office Wagner/Mango heavy hitting campaign, currently neck and neck. He is expecting a blue wave in 2018. Republicans will still have a majority both in house and Senate. Expects Wolfe and Redding for the next 4 years. 21 house retirements, 9 running for different offices. Senate 5 running for 2 offices. Expect Wagner and Mango to be at your Fair. Fairs should not have a political preference with \$4M funding. Budget next 2-3 years will expand, property tax changes, sales tax on everything including Fair admission he will keep an eye on this. Election year hard to get property tax change. Regarding the proposed changes to the Fair Act being postponed in 2019 we have won the battle but not the war. Tourism new dollars proposed \$10M. Cruelty to animals and animal exhibitions, no push not moving. Labor Day school starts, teacher union against. Seasonal utilities no bill this session. 2019 \$2 billion deficit, there will be tax changes.

Confederate Flag keeping tabs on working with Rep. Millard. Secretary does not have authority, looking for language, Confederate flag big mistake. There should have been a broad base statement giving to fairs for the restriction, and giving money to fairs applying strings. If we fight tooth and nail what will be proposed next. They must prove in the statute they have the authority to implement this. Why just the confederate flag, why just Fairs. Andy offered to compose a letter to the Secretary. The Secretary indicated he receives a lot of phone calls regarding the flags. Martha motioned to write a letter with regards to our stand, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger, carried, copy to Tracy. President Hallstrom indicated the executive officers will review and implement. Showmen support the letter. Discussion this was a result of us not getting on board with the Fair Fund changes. Wages to Tracy, Fair Fund is restricted and should not be coming out of the Fund.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you from state Fair Queen Contestants: Maya Erwin – McKean, Haley Switzer, Caitin Porter – Franklin, Julie Edward – Albion, Raina Lockabill – Westmoreland.
- Thank you Denae Barszczowski Scholarship recipient.
- Secretary Redding support of PA Preferred Reception
- Hershey Thank You for holding Convention
- Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show sponsorship of a wagon and team at Farm Show

- IAFE Zone 1 Conference Glen Falls.
- Ephrata Fair 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary September 25th

REPORT FROM THE PA SHOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION – Leon Carchellio

Thank you for invitation to attend. Showmen will support Fairs. Any questions give them a call. Convention fantastic.

REPORT FROM ASSOCIATES REPRESENTATIVE. – Galla Higinbotham

Good Convention. Looking forward to good Fair Season. Encourage fairs to use the services of our associates.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

BUDGET – Ron Miller

Meeting with Hershey June 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10am budget committee will meet to prepare new budget.

FAIR PERSON – Bruce Koppenhaver

Harry to update website. Bruce will send out in June.

JUNIOR FAIR PERSON – C. Sherman Allen

Thanked the committee. Encourage Fairs to submit applications

PROMOTION & MARKETING – Judy Kmetz

Thanked Bruce for helping Starbright. Thanks to the Showmen.

**CONVENTION:**

SPOUSE PROGRAMS – John Blaney

Bag and Bingo good year, contribution to Scholarship.

COMMUNICATIONS – Martha Ebersole

Thanked committee. Fairs can donate for give away. Neat surprise “I Love Fairs” All blue ribbons from last year made into a quilt to be auctioned. Harry thanked the committee for the display of the ribbons last year.

ROOMS – Dr. Sally Nolt

Room block opened April 4<sup>th</sup>. No charge up front. Rooms canceled after January 16<sup>th</sup> will be charged cancellation rate.

SHOWCASE – Sam Zaffuto

Electronic application before mailing in August.

MEMORIAL DISPLAY – John Berne

Growing, encourage at Zone meetings.

PENN STATE AG COUNCIL – Jim Davis

Meeting later in the month.

JUDGING SCHOOL – Bev Gruber

See separate report.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS --

Meeting with Hershey June 14<sup>th</sup> for budget and 2019 Convention.

Sherman reported on the Zone 1 round tables as conducted by Shirley McIntire.

Discussion of sales tax on electric. Several fairs are obtaining refunds.

October 18<sup>th</sup>, next board meeting.

Adjournment at 1:57.

Respectfully submitted



Harry Reffner

Exec Secretary/Treasurer