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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

MINUTES**SPRING MEETING**

April 21, 2022 – 11AM

CENTRE HALL, PA

Sam Zaffuto called the meeting to order. Kevin Bieber led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ben Haagen offered prayer. Roll Call - present were C Sherman Allen, John Berne, Kevin Bieber, John Blaney Jr., Roger Dirlam, Martha Ebersole, Bev Gruber, Tony Frazier, Ben Haagen, Dr. Mike Kowalewski, Craig Lash, Jana Malot, Shirley McIntire, Jeanne Miller, Sally Nolt, Jim Reed, David Reese, Harry Reffner, Debbie Stephenson, Glenn Stoltzfus and Samuel Zaffuto. Absent David Cowden, Karen Dobson, Susan Hahn, and Judy Kmetz. Honorary members, David Hallstrom, Bruce Koppenhaver, John McMullen, Ron Miller, and George Witherite. Members at Large – Tracy Barone and Gala Higinbotham. Guest from PSSA Jimmy Snyder and Jimmy Houghton.

MINUTES OF FALL & CONVENTION MEETINGS – Harry Reffner

Minutes of all 3 meetings were posted on the website. Roger Dirlam made the motion to accept all Minutes from the Fall Meeting Pre & Post Convention, 2nd by Ben Haagen, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Harry Reffner

Referring to the Balance Sheet:

Balance Sheet:

1) Last year at this time our Balance sheet had a balance of \$278,487.37, compared to the current balance we have an increase of approximately \$45,000. Comparing to the 2020 balance we are approximately \$13,000 lower.

1) Maria Zaffuto was instrumental in hosting a Pennsylvania YPI meeting at Convention, through her efforts sponsorships paid for the meeting and a reserve has been placed in a savings account for future functions.

Scholarship Register:

1) A healthy balance, we currently will be able to award the 6 this year.

2) Contributions from the Convention Spouse's program amounted to \$4,000, Zone 3 and 4 plus Clearfield Fair donated \$1,275.

Convention Income/Expense

1) \$57,000 was transferred to either the general account or to savings in 2020 & 2021, this year \$31,000 will be available for transfer. Budget amount was \$19,500, so we are above the budget. Although the attendance was down by 200 registrations, the increase in the registration fee helped to lessen the drop in revenue. A decrease of \$5,000 was realized in the trade show registration, increasing the end booths helped to lessen this decrease.

General Income/Expense

- 1) Income is in line with the budget.
 - a) PA Preferred Baking income is expected at \$10,000, Fair Dues \$46,000 and the transfer from Convention \$20,000 - \$30,000 will keep us to the budget
- 2) At this time all expenses are in line with the budget. As indicated in the agenda the Legislative meeting at Milliron's will not be held until next year. The IAFE Zone meeting scheduled in Florida was under budget due to the Zone's request for a lower sponsorship.
Baking sponsorship checks should be available at the zone meetings. Expenses for the IAFE Zone 1 Conference is unknown at this time.

Roger Dirlam motioned to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by John Blaney, carried.

Association Update

Fairs

There are 108 fairs in the association. Fair Dues were \$46,000, with \$10,000 still outstanding. Dues decreased \$1,500 from 2021.

Our first Fair will be held this weekend, the PA Maple Festival and will pick up again next weekend.

Associates

We currently have 168 associates; we have experienced a decline since 2018 which had a high of 221. The pandemic was a major factor in the decline.

IAFE Zone Conference May 12 –14 Naples FL

We have been invited to participate in the 2022 Ag Progress days August 13-15.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) State Fair Queen Contestants Thank You
 - a) Clearfield Chloe Neal
 - b) Erie Rebekka Stull
 - c) Huntingdon Mackenzie Coffman
 - d) McKean Jenny Crowley
 - e) Solanco Fair Haleigh Bauer
- 2) Scholarship Awards Thank You
 - a) Emma Musser
 - b) Elizabeth Voight
- 3) IAFE Zone 1 Sponsorship
- 4) Friends of the PA Farm Show Sponsorship Feed Scurry
- 5) Acknowledgement of memorials for John H. Holbert and Luke Bruckhart

PA SHOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION – JAMES SNYDER

Would like to move Truckers to Thursday, have an estate planning seminar/table topic.

ASSOCIATES REPRESENTATIVE – GALLA HIGINBOTHAM

Not much to report, down in number. Well received. FairTalk comments.

PA DEPT. OF AG. – TRACY BARONE

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT – see separate report

Committee Reports

Budget – Ron Miller

Convention lower, we should look at the percentage that Fairs pay back to the Association will go to the By-Laws committee (Roger)

Legislative – John Blaney

See separate report

Animal Health – David Reese

Quarantine poultry, New York has outbreak. RFID tags shortage, can use metal tags. Rabbits could be affected but not currently, vaccine but no approved.

Baking Report – Karen Dobson

See separate report

Fair Person – Bruce Koppenhaver

Web is updated, will appear in FairTalk.

Junior Fair Person – C. Allen Sherman

Karen working on application will be available at zone meetings. More exposure at convention for winner. Zoom interviews improvements, will continue.

Spouse – Jeanne Miller

Is fine.

First Timers – George Witherite

Went well, talked to them all, 20 attended.

Communications – Sally Nolte

Form on line copies at each zone meeting couple of changes.

Rooms – Martha Ebersole

June 1st block opened, easier to cancel then obtain room with quota is filled.

Seminars/Table Topics – Kevin Bieber

3 weeks ago had a zoom meeting with the committee. Judges school, youth day, table topics worked well as performed. Table topics and seminars on Saturday was poorly received.

Saturday issue for seminars and table topics. Suggesting a closing on Saturday around 10:30 – 10:45 entertainment in the Chocolate ballroom. Utilize Saturday morning will like to give a try.

High level speaker, \$5,000 for closing speaker. Schedule change of table topics & seminars.

Lack of attendance on Saturday morning. What effect on Trade Show, drawing attendance.

Galla just don't know effect on the Show. Galla give a try. Eliminate 3 table topics on Saturday.

Reduce number of seminars & table topics. Saturday is a transition for fairs as they are leaving.

Youth day will continue. Roger make the motion to go with Kevin's proposal of Saturday closing for one year, Tony seconded. Carried Sam entertainment on Saturday may be difficult, as groups are leaving for paying gigs. Would trade show booths fees be reduced, Harry again stated the Trade Show is where we make our profit. Keynote speaker and music is needed.

Showcase

How to apply, Sam outlined the procedure. Some thoughts of putting on the website.

Memorial -- John Berne

Remind at zone meetings of the table.

Msgr Scholarship – Sally Nolt

On web, contact schools.

Queen – Karen Dobson

See separate report.

Sponsorship – Debbie Stephenson

Decision maker will again be the keynote sponsor.

Tourism – Bev Gruber

March meeting good attendance from various venues. Getting officers. 250 celebration of the USA.

Council of Farm Orgs

Bev recommended a letter be sent to the council that we do not wish the organization to be dissolved.

Ag Council – Jana Malot

Spring meeting next week. During COVID tried to keep activate.

PA Farm Show – Kevin Bieber

See separate report.

Judging School – Jana Malot

Lighter turn out. One will be a table topic will work with Kevin. 4-H & youth will be on the agenda, needs ideas. Wine judging was popular. Ask zones for their suggestions contact Jana or Harry.

Old Business

IAFE Zone 1 Chair, Bev mentioned Andy from New York is a candidate.

Good of the Association

Little stage at convention blocked view used for photographer. Special license for photos,

Lasers cannot be sold.

PA Fairs on Parade Sam has coordinated with Lighting Audio to display photos of our Fairs during the Thursday night banquet, see separate report.

Thank you to Sherman from Queens, State College and McClure Bean Soup.

Recognize Dave Mallard at Convention.

Debbie motioned for adjournment, 2nd by Roger, adjournment at 2:15.

Respectfully submitted



Harry Reffner
Exec Secretary/Treasurer