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## PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

### MINUTES

#### PRE-CONVENTION MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2024 -4:45PM

HERSHEY, PA

President Martha Ebersole to called the meeting to order. Invocation was offered by Karen Dobson the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Kevin Bieber. Roll Call - present were Kevin Bieber, Christy Burkholder, Dan Dickey, Roger Dirlam, Karen Dobson, Martha Ebersole, Tony Frazier, Beverly Gruber, Ben Haagen, Dr. Mike Kowalewski, Judy Kmetz, Craig Lash, Shirley McIntire, Jana Mellott, Jeanne Miller, Sally Nolt, Charles Nutaitis, Jim Reed, Harry Reffner, Debbie Stephenson, Dave Wilcox, and Sam Zaffuto. Also in attendance – Gala Higinbotham, Tracy Barone, Andy Goodman, Kelly Lange, Casey Fellingner, Sherman Allen, Ron Miller, David Hallstrom, Bruce Koppenhaver, John McMullen, Tom Murray. Count for Sunday Breakfast (35).

MILLIRON & GOODMAN – See separate report from Kerry.

#### CONVENTION REVIEW –

- Seminars Kevin – Problem with Hershey picking up our speakers at the Airport. Rey's flight was delayed 2 hours, Hershey personnel went off their shift between 10:30 and 11:30. Kevin picked her up. Seminar/Table ready.
- Communications Martha Ebersole– Ready.
- Showcase Sam Zaffuto– 19 acts for tonight. 6:30 good selection.
- Credentials Craig – All ok
- First Timers Ben – Harry to give list of those registered who may attend.
- Queen Report Judy Kmetz – 59 contestants. Miles traveled 7244, Chloe visited 29 Fairs thank you to PSACF for sponsoring \$2500 mileage. Fund raising 50/50 tickets. Live streaming Coronation.
- Spouse Jeanne Miller – Baskets in coming in. Felting and Traveling vineyard.
- Junior Fair Person Ben – 4 strong candidates Jordan Anderson's sister will be accepting the award as Jordan is in College out West.
- Associates Galla Higinbotham – Come to the showcase tonight.

Lobbyist

2023 was a good year and 2024 will be better. Election year expect political action, year Presidential, Bi-partisan friends on both sides Andy wants to keep it that way. House 203 up for election, Senate 25 of 50. 14 members not coming back 3 state Senators. More will be announced as to running or not. Reason tired of running; politics have become more polarized 90% turn over not staying. Too early to crystal ball, big city blue rural red. Make all politicians welcome to your Fair. Benefit to county Fairs the line item has been maintained. Possible increase is more complicated through racing fund, Tracy working on. New impact study, fair Caucus to generate support for fairs being reorganized. Representative Leadbetter, Senator Fleming. Want to educate new members, will be informal. March 19<sup>th</sup> letter sent to Fairs, good start.

Tracy

Ashley Fehr appointed good to work with. New economic study been worked on, \$100,000. Fairs will be asked to supply input.

President's remarks

Hospitality Room 5806 Friday will open at 7:30, Board Picture, PSACF banquet, Board photo, Memorial service and annual meeting followed by Fair Advisory meeting, Executive Breakfast.

Good of Order:

Jana 96 attendees for Judging School

Judging of Communications, start at 8:00 to allow attendance of the opening ceremonies.

Move to adjourn by Jeanne, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev, meeting adjourned at 5:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Harry Reffner

PSACF Executive Secretary/Treasurer