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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FAIRS

MINUTES POST-CONVENTION MEETING JANUARY 21, 2024 – 8:00 AM HERSHEY

The Post-Convention meeting was called to order by President Martha Ebersole. Invocation by Karen Dobson. Kevin Bieber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The 2024 PA Fair Queen Erica Teagarden (Washington County Agricultural Fair) gave her background and her presentation.

Roll Call - present were Kevin Bieber, Christy Burkhouse, Dan Dickey, Karen Dobson, Martha Ebersole, Tony Frazier, Beverly Gruber, Ben Haagen, Judy Kmetz, Dr. Mike Kowalewski, Craig Lash, Jana Mellott, Shirley McIntire, Jeanne Miller, Sally Nolt, Charles Nutaitis, Jim Reed, Harry Reffner, Debbie Stephenson, Jeff Walason, Dave Wilcox and Sam Zaffuto. Excused Roger Dirlam, Dr. David Reese. Also in attendance - C. Sherman Allen, David Hallstrom, Galla Higinbotham, Bruce Koppenhaver, and Ron Miller. From PSSA Mary Ott and Lloyd Serfass.

CONVENTION

REGISTRATON (Harry Reffner) -

Registration 1511 over 100 registered during Convention, 2023 we had 1386.

Thursday Banquet 841 as compared to 2023 of 780

Friday Breakfast 204 compared to 2023 of 174

Saturday Banquet 910 as compared to 2023 of 823

Bev – 34 Fairs at the Annual Convention, should be at least 1 person from each Fair. Sign of Fair's name to be seated. Delegates would have a Badge ribbon.

COMMUNICATIONS (Martha Ebersole)

PSSA (Lloyd Serfass)

Convention went very well, table topics memorials. Discussion as to no PSSA members were listed in Memorial. Harry explained the Memorial was part of the Registration packet for all. Comments from other members of PSSA lack of names. Lloyd will address for next convention. Need anything give him a call.

SHOWCASE/ENTERTAINMENT (Sam Zaffuto)

Lots of good entertainment, 21 acts, 18 acts Wednesday with smooth, thanked Galla for putting it together. Lighting Audio went smooth. Disney group at Opening Celebration, Doo Wop band at PSSA.

FAIR PERSON (Bruce Koppenhaver)

Shirley Moyer was selected.

QUEEN PROGRAM (Judy Kmetz)

See Separate report.

FIRST TIMERS (Ben Haagen)

28 in attendance great group. Harry will give us a list of those registered for the First Timers.

SEMINARS/TABLE TOPICS (Kevin Bieber)

Really pleased with attendance of Seminars & Table Topics. Fairly full house. Jim Reed takes care of table topics. Marla great speaker only cost was \$3,000 five sponsors. Really enjoyed the Convention all works together. Warren sponsored pizza, soda. Family Feud 25 for Youth day. Instead of survey 5 minutes in person. Really good verbal feedback. Heard that some did not know about youth day. Really pushed hard at zone meetings and FairTalk. Thanks to Warren. Jim Reed gave statistics for the meetings. Suggestion trucking do round table enforcement officers. Another concern of your fair Service dogs & support dogs.

SPOUSE (Jeanne Miller)

50 baskets income \$5,560. Felting Friday had 31. Bingo \$1,189 41 in attendance. Traveling Vineyard on Saturday will do next year.

SPONSORSHIP (Debbie Stephenson)

Working with Sheetz. Thanked Jeanne for a sponsorship from a funeral home. Coming back next year as sponsor West Group. PA Preferred did a sponsorship for \$1,500, they did the same amount for the Queen program.

PSACF ASSOCIATE (Gala Higinbotham)

Lines comments with PSSA open, wonderful. Coronation passion for what they do. Congratulations to Shirley as Fair Person. Email First timers, not possible as emails are not available (Harry). Trade show be grateful for what we have. Sticker game amazing really works. Keep using associates. Dick does fabulous work. Booths up back lonely. Memorial service touching. Testing with youth social media. Last year the Sizzle all about trade show.

Judging School (Jana Mellott)

88 pre-registered 96 attended. Ideas for next year only 1 person in honey 2nd session. Can we charge a late fee for late registration? Harry indicated that a late fee is charged for Trade Show and Convention registration, would be no problem for Judging School due to additional work involved.

YP (Sam Zaffuto)

3 years. YPI was changed to YP by IAFE. \$645 was raised from their fund raising Mentor meeting really appreciated 18 YP attended, 8 or 10 mentors very good experience. 38 for the networking lunch. Going well. A lot of networking. Speed dating, lunch new faces about 20. Developing a network. Friday left with a gift Fundraising gift cards \$20 value, over \$500. Gift cards were used in an egg hunt. \$645 raised. YP is growing here in Pennsylvania.

OLD BUSINESS

PA HOST OF A FUTURE IAFE ZONE 1 MEETING – Kevin Bieber

Available years 2026 or 2027 Committee name to work on. Someway to move away from Eastern Pennsylvania Jim Reed motioned to look for a possible meeting, 2nd by Jeff Walason, carried. Amended to pick a committee to determine date and details for the meeting. Martha will appoint the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL YEAR TO HERSHEY CONTRACT/PSAV CONTRACT – Harry

Harry presented the contracts for the 2030 convention. Ben Haagen motioned to extend the contract, 2nd by Debbie Stephenson, carried.

2023 – 2024 Committee Assignments – Martha

Please let her know if you want to change your assignment, Harry will email when list is available.

ROOMS - Sally Nolt

Sally reported that 200 rooms were canceled the week before Convention, Michelle was swamped by the number.

CHANGE OF SCHOLARSHIP NAME

After discussion of removing Msgr Mignot name from the scholarship, Ron Miller spoke and said there was not need to change. Bev Gruber motion to retain the name, 2nd by Ben Haagen, carried.

STATE BOARD MEETING – April 11

ZONE MEETINGS:

- Zone 4 - April 17 Yoder's
- Zone 3 - April 18 Westmoreland Fair
- Zone 1 - April 19 Jefferson County Fair
- Zone 2 - April 20 Beaver Community Fair

STATE BOARD MEETING – October 10

ZONE MEETINGS:

- Zone 4 - Oct 16 Yoder's
- Zone 3 - Oct 17 Westmoreland Fair
- Zone 1 - Oct 18 Jefferson County Fair
- Zone 2 – Oct 19 Bloomsburg Fair

SPOUSE PROGRAM Discussion as to dispersion of funds. Jeanne motioned that money from the spouse program be used for Youth program. Keeping in mind that the Scholarship fund must retain \$12,000. 2nd by Jeff Walason, motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The 2024 Fair Queen is present for Fairs, but don't forget the other Queens who are great ambassadors. Jeff Walason

Junior Fair Board what do you do when they age out? Do not slam door when they go to college.

Senator Vogel has posted that he is planning on coming out to visit Fairs next year.

Kevin Bieber motioned for adjournment, 2nd by Bev Gruber. 10:04.

Respectfully Submitted



Harry Reffner
PSACF Executive Secretary/Treasurer