

DATES TO REMEMBER

—2024—

January 5

- PA Preferred Reception

January 6—13

- PA Farm Show

February - 6

- Cornucopia

January 17—20

- 111th Annual Convention Hershey

April 11

PSACF Board Meeting-Pleasant Gap

April 17

Zone 4 Mtg. Yoder's Restaurant

April 18

Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

April 19

Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair

April 20

Zone 2 Mtg. - Beaver Community

May 16—18

IAFE Zone 1 meeting Springfield MA

October 10

PSACF Board Meeting-Pleasant Gap

October 16

Zone 4 Mtg. Yoder's Restaurant

October 17

Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

October 18

Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair

October 19

Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair



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NO. 4

CONVENTION TABLE TOPICS, SEMINARS AND YOUTH DAY, ARE ALL SET

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

After many months of hard work by the Seminar and Table Topic Committee, the convention schedule is all set. It is our hope that you will agree that there are plenty of seminars that will provide good learning opportunities for you and your fair. It is also our hope that you will participate in as many of the table topics that you can in order to share and learn new ideas that will help our fellow fairs. Please remember that the Table Topics are strictly a conversation-based forum that allows everyone to speak and share their ideas and concerns. You will find that most table topics are run twice throughout the convention.

As for the seminars, please make sure you get to as many of them as you can. You will find a full convention line-up in this edition of FairTalk. Have something on your mind about your fair or procedure or just anything fair related in general? If so, please make sure you attend Shirley McIntire's forum on Saturday morning. This will be an opportunity to share and or express concerns and ideas regarding our fair industry. The subject is "wide open" as this forum is designed to "bounce" ideas and or concerns off of other fairs. Feel free to come and go from this session as you need. Once again, it is a great opportunity to "Just Talk Fairs".

Thank you so much to the Warren County Fair for their gracious sponsorship of this years Youth Day. Youth Day is held on Saturday morning into the early afternoon. The session includes some great seminars from our State FFA Officers as well as a pizza lunch party and some games. Each participant will receive a portfolio courtesy of the Warren County Fair. Please make sure you register your youth for this day. Thank you Warren County for your sponsorship!!!! So, just one more item. I will see you all in Hershey !!!!!

PSACF OFFICERS - 2023-2024

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Judges School 2024 State Fair Convention Hershey, Pa.

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs will be holding its annual judge's school as a preempt to their annual convention in Hershey, Pa. The judge's school will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 starting at 1:00 p.m.

Jana Mellott is serving as the chair of the Judging school again this year. Some of the topics for this year's judging school are Apiary, Baking and Canning, Queen Contest, and Hay and Grain. The final topics added are Christmas Trees and Wreaths and Floral.

Send any registrations to Jana Mellott PSACF 1432 Trails End Road Harrisonville, Pa. 17228 Please make your payments out to PSACF. If any attendees would like to be added to the PSACF list of judges, the registrant must include their personal contact information. Deadline for registration is January 1, 2024.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jana at auntjana@embarqmail.com or (717) 571-8637.



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From our President



Thanksgiving has come and gone, hopefully you didn't eat so much that you felt like a stuffed turkey. We all have something to be thankful for, family, friends, a home. And as fair people we should be thankful for things like volun-

teers, sponsors, and farmers. If there are any fairs out there that open up their fair building to serve a Thanksgiving meal to the public, thank you.

Christmas is right around the corner, with all the hustle and bustle of the season don't forget to take time for yourself. Sometimes we forget to enjoy life and do things for ourselves, we all have way too much stress. And just as fast as Christmas is here, we'll be celebrating the new year.

Hopefully you've not been too busy to register for the State Fair Convention, being held January 18-20 in Hershey. This event kicks off our fair year and gives us the opportunity new ideas and networking with other fairs and

friends.

Remember to register your youth and Jr. Fair Board members to youth day on Saturday January 20, 2024. This is a great opportunity for the youth to network, get new ideas, and meet people from fairs all over Pennsylvania. We are happy to have a sponsor for this event, thank you Warren County Fair.

There are 107 fairs in Pennsylvania, we each are different but very much the same. We're united, joined together politically for a common purpose or by common feelings.

We never have to stand alone there are others out there to help. We all need to work together to make fairs move forward young, old, male and females we all have great ideas and can get the job done.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Can't wait to see you all at Convention January 18-20 2024 in Hershey.

Martha

Spouse Programs Friday January 19 Needle Felting 101—Linda Grove

What is needle felting? Needle felting is when you take wool roving or wool yarn and a felting needle and turn it into a fiber art piece. If you can move your hand up and down you can create wool art.

We are going to turn wool balls into tree ornaments or bowl fillers.

Linda will also bring examples of other ways you can needle felt. By using cookie cutters to make ornaments or trace onto wool felt and make table runners or candle mats.

Anyone can do this craft. It is a great way to relieve stress!

Saturday January 20 Traveling Vineyard — Jeanne Miller

Plans are to have Traveling Vineyard at the presidential suite Saturday from 2 - 4 pm. Will have more info for the next issue.

Reminder please bring a basket for the raffle. Bingo on Thursday Vera Bradley bags and Longaberger baskets Please bring a small item to be given as a consolation prize at the spousal events.



2024 PA STATE FAIR QUEEN CONTEST SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

Raffle Table Set Up

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

12:00pm – 4:00pm	Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
2:45 – 3:15pm	Queen Contestant Check-in for Orientation Contestants drop off Auction Gift Cards (<i>Orientation check-in table</i>)
3:15pm – 4:00pm	Queen Contestant Orientation
6:00pm	Line Up for Stage Introduction Competition
6:15pm	Stage Introduction Competition
6:45pm	PSACF Annual Banquet
Immediately after Banquet	Queen Contestants Group Photo

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

7:00am – 12:00pm	Interviews - Morning Session <i>2024 Fair Queen Contest Packets available in Tower Suite 1 Interview Waiting Area</i>
10:00am – 4:00pm	Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
11:00am – 12:00pm	Seminar - Young Women's Leadership
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Interviews - Afternoon Session <i>2024 Fair Queen Contest Packets available in Tower Suite 1 Interview Waiting Area</i>
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Seminar - Young Women's Leadership
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Round Table/Idea Exchange for Queen Coordinators <i>2024 Fair Queen Contest Packet Distribution at Round Table</i>
5:30pm – 6:15pm	Judges Reception with Contestants
7:00pm – 9:00pm	PA Fair Queen Chloe Bomgardner's Party with Contestants

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

7:30am – 12:00pm	Speech Competition – Morning Session
9:00am – 12:45pm	Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
10:00am – 11:00am	Queen Program Seminar – Panel Discussion
12:30pm	Drawing for Raffle Table items
1:15pm – 3:00pm	Speech Competition – Afternoon Session
4:30pm	Rehearsal for Coronation
6:00pm	Coronation Banquet (<i>Reserved Seating - Ticket Required</i>)
7:15pm	Line Up for Coronation
7:30 – 8:45pm	Coronation Ceremony
9:00pm	Media Photos / 2024 PA Fair Queen Meeting with State Coordinator

Visit the PA Fair Queen Program's Basket Auction and Raffle Table in the Great Lobby.

A 50/50 cash raffle drawing will be held Wednesday through Saturday.

Tickets can be purchased as follows:

Wed, Thurs, and Sat. evenings - Chocolate Ballroom Lobby

Fri 11:00 am – 3:30 pm - Great Hall across from Trade Show entrance



111th ANNUAL CONVENTION PA State Association of County Fairs and



PA State Showmen's Association
The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey PA
Wednesday - Saturday, Jan. 17 – 20, 2024

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2024 Convention reservations will now be accepted by the Hershey Lodge. Deadline is December 15, 2023. For lodging:

Call Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108, and ask for the room block for the PA State Association of County Fairs, January 16 - 21, 2024.

Rooms will be available by 4:00pm and check out at 11:00am daily for all.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

ADVANCE REGISTRATION is essential to the smooth operation of the convention. Registration is:

\$40 (received on or before December 15, 2023)

\$60 (received after December 15, 2023)

MEALS

Meal(s) that are purchased are not refundable; there will be a bulletin board near the registration area for you to place a "for sale" notice if you wish to resell them. A limited number will be available for purchase at convention.

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

MEALS ON YOUR OWN-ALL

9:00am-1:00PM "Serv-Safe" (see newsletter article for details – PA Showmen or fairs who are members of PA Showmen [1 person per fair may register; others to be considered after deadline if space available])

11:00am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

12:30pm Judging School Orientation Session

1:20pm – 2:30pm First Session of Judging School

2:35pm – 3:55pm Second Session of Judging School

2:00pm-3:00pm Seminar – "Fairs 101"

3:00pm-4:00pm Table Topics 1,8

3:15pm-4:15pm Seminar – "Blue Ribbon Guest Service Tips"

4:00pm-8:00pm Enter Communication Exhibits

Trade Show Set-up

4:45pm PSSA Board Meeting

4:45pm PSACF Board Meeting

6:30pm-10:00pm ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE

Thursday, January 18, 2024

MEALS ON YOUR OWN-BREAKFAST & LUNCH

8:00am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

8:00am-9:00am Enter Communication Exhibits

8:00am-10:30am Trade Show Set-up

8:30am-9:00am First-Timers Session

9:00am-9:30am Opening Entertainment

9:30am-10:45am Opening Ceremony

Keynote Speaker – Marla Calico

10:30am-4:00pm Trade Show Open

Communication Exhibits Open

(Badge Required)

10:30am-4:00pm PA Dept. of Agriculture display, etc.

1:00pm-2:00pm Table Topics 6,7,10

1:00pm-2:30pm Seminar – Animal Health Updates

1:00pm-3:15pm Spouse Program - "Bag & Basket" Bingo

1:30pm-3:00pm

1:30pm-3:00pm

2:00pm 3:00pm

2:15pm-3:15pm

3:15pm-4:30pm

3:30pm-4:30pm

4:00pm

5:30pm

5:45pm

6:15pm

6:45pm

Meeting – Sire & USTA

Seminar – Parliamentary Procedures

YP Mentor Speed Dating

Table Topics 9,11

Seminar – Roles & Responsibilities of a Board

Table Topics 3,6,12

Associates Gathering

PSACF & PSSA Board

Group Photos

Hospitality Time & Cash Bar

PSACF ANNUAL BANQUET

Dinner (reserved seating-ticket required-\$43)

Friday, January 19, 2024

MEAL ON YOUR OWN-LUNCH

7:30am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

7:30am

COMMUNICATIONS BREAKFAST

meal (served) 7:30am; awards 8:15am-9:00am (ticket required-\$21)

9:15am -11:30am

Memorial Service /

PSACF Annual Meeting

11:30am

Fair Advisory Committee Meeting

11:00am – 12:30

YP Idea Swap, Networking & Lunch

10:30am-4:00pm

Trade Show Open

Communication Exhibits Open

(Badge Required)

10:30am-4:00pm

PA Dept. of Agriculture display, etc.

1:00pm-2:00pm

Table Topics 2,5,10

1:00pm -2:15pm

Seminar – "60 Tips in 60 Minutes"

1:30pm -2:30pm

Seminar – Trucking Regulations

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Seminar – Capital Improvement Grants

2:15pm-3:30pm

Seminar – "Special Baking Contests"

2:00pm-3:30pm

Spouse Program – Needle Felting 101

2:15pm-3:15pm

Table Topics 3, 8, 9

2:30pm-3:45pm

Seminar – Human Trafficking

3:30pm-4:30pm

Table Topics 4,7,12

6:15pm

Hospitality Time & Cash Bar

6:45pm

PA SHOWMEN ANNUAL BANQUET

(Reserved seating-ticket required-\$57)

Saturday, January 20, 2024

MEAL ON YOUR OWN-BREAKFAST

7:30am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

9:30am -11:30am

Seminar – Let's Talk Anything Fairs

9:00am-10:30am

Seminar – Food Safety Updates

9:00am-Noon

Trade Show Open

Communication Exhibits Open

(Badge Required)

11:30am-12:30pm

PSSA Annual Meeting

Noon-12:30pm

Communication Exhibits Released

12:30pm

Auction Drawings - Winner must be present

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Spouse Program – Traveling Vineyard

6:00pm

QUEEN CORONATION BANQUET

(Reserved seating-ticket required-\$52)

Saturday Youth Day, January 20, 2024

9:00am - 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 21, 2024

8:00am

PSACF Exec. / Conv. Breakfast

SPOUSE PROGRAM

Felting 101

Presented by Linda Grove (Huntingdon County Fair)

What is needle felting? Needle felting is when you take wool roving or wool yarn and a felting needle and turn it into a fiber art piece. If you can move your hand up and down you can create wool art.

We are going to turn wool balls into tree ornaments or bowl fillers.

Linda will also bring examples of other ways you can needle felt. By using cookie cutters to make ornaments or trace onto wool felt and make table runners or candle mats.

Traveling Vineyard

Presented by Traveling Vineyard

Plans are to have Traveling Vineyard at the presidential suite Saturday from 2 - 4 pm.

TABLE TOPICS

1. Volunteer & Community Meetings
2. Sponsorships & Grants
3. Facebook Video (step by step how to)
4. Digital Scrapbook
5. Fair Queens
6. Marketing Your Fair, Traditional & Social Media
7. New Contest Ideas
8. Demo Derbies / Junk Car Races / Tractor Pulls
9. What was your "challenge" this year
10. Farm Bureau
11. Benefit Auctions & Other Fundraisers
12. Are we adjusting our fairs to society today? & How?

SEMINARS

Judging School

Session choices for this year are as follows:

- Apiary, Baking and Canning
- Queen Contest
- Hay and Grain
- Christmas Trees & Wreaths
- Floral

Serv-Safe

The Food Safety updates will be presented by Paster Training, Inc. Paster Training Inc.'s trainers are the best and most passionate in the business. We are thrilled about the opportunity to provide your association members with a 4 hour food safety review session and proctoring of the ServSafe examination.

Trucking Regulations Update

John Rigney from the Pa. Motor Truck Association, located in Camp Hill, Pa. will give the latest updates for the industry.

Fairs 101

Presented by Tracy Barone

Review of requirements under the Fair Act, state premium guideline book, fair reimbursements, and frequently asked question. Additionally, we'll open the floor to attendees to share their best management practices and good ideas.

Fairs Capital Improvement Grants

Presented by Tracy Barone

Information regarding planning, applying for and reporting on Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grants.

60 Tips in 60 Minutes

Presented by Marla Calico

Food Safety Updates

Changes and Updates from the PA Dept. of Agriculture.

Parliamentary Procedure

Presenter: Presented by Joe Yedlik, CVFM – Great Jones County Fair, IA

Does it seem like some of your meetings are "out of order"? Do some of the members seem to have a problem following the "rules"? Maybe Robert's Rules of Order can be of assistance. Our presenter will take a look at how to conduct an efficient and successful meeting through the use of proper parliamentary procedure. He will explain how to start with the basics and then advance your skills to the level necessary for your specific meeting environment. It's never too late to get your membership and your meetings back on track if you focus on the fundamentals. Joe is a retired county extension director and former high school aged instructor/FFA Advisor with over forty-four years of professional experience in education and positive youth development. It was during those years as a high school ag instructor that he began honing his knowledge on parliamentary procedure, and he literally never quit.

Human Trafficking Risks at Fairs

Presented by South Central Task Force

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the United States. Education about human trafficking is vital to understanding what it is and who can be a victim of human trafficking. The presentation will cover sex and labor trafficking, indicators, statistics, victim vulnerabilities, as well as some case examples.

Animal Health Rules

This presentation will cover the PA Department of Agriculture Animal Health Requirements and Recommendations, biosecurity considerations, and the Animal Exhibition and Sanitation Law. Information on the new exhibition swine and poultry quarantine orders will also be presented. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion for fair managers challenged with incorporating these requirements into their programs

Special Baking Contests

Presented by Kevin Bieber (Oley Valley Community Fair) and Karen Dobson (Kimberton Community Fair)

This is the annual seminar to update everyone who runs any of the Special Baking Contests at your fairs. This is also the perfect time to come and ask questions regarding any of the contests.



Roles & Responsibilities of a Board

Presented: Rey O'Day, NICA Executive Director

Ever wondered "What's My Job" as a Board member? In the words of Bill Chaney "The Board's Job is not to run the organization, but rather to ensure that it is well run." In order to do that, Board Members need to know their role and responsibilities, the tools to use, the art of effective delegating, how to determine their operating style, and how to participate effectively in meetings. Moreover, Board Members who commit to understanding the power of building robust relationships between CEO's or Executive Director's and their Boards will find they serve productive and well-run organizations. "Trust" is the core value and "Speaking as One Voice" is the action. Come meet Rey, who has a lifetime of experience working successfully with Boards.

Blue Ribbon Guest Service Tips

Presenter: Rey O'Day, NICA Executive Director

WE are in the business of making good memories, which means we all share the responsibility for being friendly and helpful. Philosophically we agree that providing excellent customer service for our fair and event attendees is something we want to do on a consistent basis; however, in our "busyness" we don't always remember to do it in the moments when it is necessary. Our guests need to feel welcome, comfortable, understood, and important. This is a session of useful, practical tips like "Know Your Neighborhood" and the "10/4 Greeting" that are simple and easy to implement. Learn how to provide Blue Ribbon Service Experiences that are so compelling that our guests can't stop talking about them to others.

Let's Talk Anything Fairs

Moderators: Shirley McIntire

We invite you to come in and talk "Anything Fair Related". This topic of discussion is wide open and will be moderated by Shirley and Marla. You are encouraged to come to this and share ideas, problems or anything fair related. What better place to "bounce" ideas and problems you may be having off of others. Just remember, there may be another fair that has the same idea or problem you have.

YP Event

– Maria Zaffuto

We will once again be having our annual Young Professional Lunch and Peer Networking Event on Friday of convention. A free lunch will be offered courtesy of our sponsors.

We are also looking forward to once again hosting the Mentor Speed Dating and Network Session. This session was a huge hit last year with special requests to bring it back for another year.

Youth Day

– PA State FFA Officers

Answering Tough Questions

1) Five easy steps - learning how to answer questions that you don't have an answer to in public situations and business places.

2) Professional Social Situations

Etiquette when meeting professionals, representing an organization and building relationships with future employers and business professionals.



Warren County Fair is the proud sponsor of the Saturday Youth Day to be held at the 111 PSACF Convention. The Pennsylvania FFA officers will be conducting the sessions for the day. Our Youth are the future of the 107 Fairs across Pennsylvania. Pizza and soda will be provided.



By: Maria Zaffuto

We are excited for all of the upcoming opportunities at this year's convention for the Young Professionals. PSACF Young Professionals is a group for those age 21-40 working, or volunteering in the fair industry. It is a place for individuals in this age group to learn, network and support each other while gaining industry experience. Thanks to the generous sponsors of YP, and their support of furthering industry education among young people, we were able to support a young person by giving away a free 2024 convention registration. Congratulations to Mitch Minich, from the Jefferson County Fair, on winning the free registration!

We are also looking forward to this year's YP fundraiser. The fundraiser will take place at the convention and will be a drawing for a lottery ticket and gift card frame. Tickets will be available for purchase on Thursday and Friday of convention. The winner will be drawn at the Lobby Jam on Friday night. To make this fundraiser possible, we are in need of gift card and lottery ticket donations. If you or your fair are interested in sponsoring YP and this fundraiser, please purchase lottery tickets, or a gift card to a store or restaurant of your choice that is found across the entire state and bring it to the convention. Good examples are Walmart, online stores such as amazon and online clothing stores and chain restaurants. Please place your gift card and lottery ticket donations in an envelope with your name, or your fair name and label it YP gift card and drop it off at the convention registration desk no later than Thursday at noon. If you plan to donate, please email Maria Zaffuto at mariazaffuto@gmail.com so we have a good idea of how many gift cards and lottery tickets to expect. We are so appreciative of your support of this fundraiser! Thanks to those who have already committed to donating. It is going to be a great fundraiser! We couldn't do it without your generosity!

For the Young Professionals attending the convention, we encourage you to join us for the YP events. All are welcome! Back by popular demand this year is the Mentor Speed Dating and Networking Session held on Thursday. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet and learn from several established professionals across various aspects of the industry as attendees rotate through quick conversations with individuals around the room. Also, on Friday of the convention, we will again be having our YP lunch and idea swap. Join us for a free light lunch, idea sharing and networking. This was a successful session last year with great ideas shared and connections made. Check the convention schedule for times and locations. We are excited to have over 35 young professionals signed up on our email list. Let's keep it growing! We look forward to welcoming new individuals to all of our events this year!

2023 Scholarship

This year there were very strong applications for the 2023 scholarship. The PSACF Board voted to add one additional Scholarship due to the closeness of two applications.

The Scholarship Committee selected the following:

Zone 1 Taylor Rafferty - Jefferson County Fair

Zone 2 Natalie Campbell Gratz Fair

Zone 3 Evangeline McGargle Huntingdon County Fair
Adria Russell Huntingdon County Fair

Zone 4 Chloe Bomgardner Lebanon Area Fair
Abigail Nissley Elizabethtown Fair
James Voight Lebanon Area Fair



SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

- by Karen Dobson

The PA Farm Show theme for 2024 is “Connecting Our Communities”. PSACF will once again be connecting bakers from across the state by hosting the four Special Baking Contests at the Farm Show: Incredible Angel Food Cake, Blue Ribbon Apple Pie, Homemade Chocolate Cake, and PA Preferred Cookies, Brownies or Bars. Eligible contestants already won a blue-ribbon in the preliminary competitions at their 2023 fair. They now have the opportunity to compete for the coveted state title in their contest category and a \$500 grand

prize!

Eligible contestants must bring the official Special Baking Certification Form issued by the PA Fairs Special Baking Committee, their baked good entry, and a copy of the recipe on the entry days. The same Contest Rules given to the local Fairs for the 2023 preliminary competition will also be used for the 2024 PA Farm Show competition.

All PA Farm Show Certification Forms for these four special baking contests were mailed to the winning contestants by the PA Fairs Special Baking Contest committee. The mailing was done based on the addresses provided by the fairs in their Contest Summary forms submitted by November 15. Email notifications were sent to contestants for whom email addresses were provided by the fairs. Contestants do NOT register directly with the PA Farm Show; these contests are organized and managed by the PA Fairs Special Baking Committee.

Entries are accepted in the Family Living Area, Main Hall, Farm Show Complex, according to the following schedule:

Apple Pie - 1st Place \$500

Entry Time:

Fri. Jan. 5, 3:00-5:00 pm or

Sat. Jan. 6, 8:00-9:00 am;

Judging: SAT. JAN. 6: **9:30 am**



PA Preferred Junior Baking Cookies/Brownies/Bars - 1st Place \$500

Entry Time:

Fri. Jan. 5, 3:00-5:00 pm or

Sat. Jan. 6, 9:00 am–12:00 pm;

Judging: SAT. JAN. 6, **12:30 pm**



Homemade Chocolate Cake - 1st Place \$500

Entry Time:

Fri. Jan. 5, 3:00-5:00 pm or

Sat. Jan. 6, 9:00 am–12:00 pm;

Judging: SAT. JAN. 6, **3:30 pm**

See Special Baking Contests next page

From Special Baking Contests previous page

Angel Food Cake - 1st Place = \$500

Entry Time:

Sat. Jan. 6, 3:00-5:00 pm or

Sun. Jan. 7, 8:00-9:00 am;

Judging: SUN. JAN. 7: **9:30 am**

If the fair's first-place winner is not able to attend, the Committee will invite the next place winners to attend.

Each participating fair's Special Baking Contest summaries were due by November 15. Fairs that submitted the forms will receive their special baking reimbursement checks after convention. Each fair's premium amounts will be calculated based on the number of awards given at the fair.

A reminder that the Annual Baking Contest seminar will be held at the 2024 PSACF Convention on Friday, January 19 at 2:15 pm. We encourage your fair to send a representative to receive the 2024 participation packets and to learn about any changes or updates for the next fair season.



11/30/2023 Marla Calico, CFE, President and CEO of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), Announces Retirement Effective December 31, 2024 Salt Lake City, UT – After a memorable tenure marked by innovation and dedication, Marla Calico, CFE, has announced her retirement as the President and CEO of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), effective December 31, 2024. With her leadership, the IAFE has seen unprecedented growth and advancement in the fair and exposition industry.



All of the Zone 1 attendees at the IAFE convention in Salt Lake City.

PA Fair Queen Program - by Karen Dobson

The PA Fair Queen Program and 2023 PA Fair Queen Chloe Bomgardner are excited to be hosting **59 contestants** for the 2024 state competition. **Contestant Handbooks, Schedules and required Forms** will be posted to the Queen Program's website.

<https://sites.google.com/view/pastatefairqueen/home>

The information will only be available online. No password will be required to access the documents. No Handbooks will be mailed.

The contest event schedule will run from Thursday afternoon January 18 through Saturday evening January 20. The PA Fair Queen Program values the health and safety of all who will be participating in or attending any of the 2024 PA Fair Queen State Competition events. Therefore, any recommended or mandated COVID safety protocols at the time of the contest will be followed.



****REMINDER**** *The contestants' attire for the Thursday night Stage Introduction competition on January 18 will again be "professional dress" i.e. an outfit that would be selected if attending an important state banquet as the PA Fair Queen.*

NO EVENING GOWNS for Thursday night.

Evening Gowns are required for the Saturday coronation ceremony.

The Contest Information Packet for the 2024 fair season will be available for pick-up at Convention. It will also be made available online after convention.

There will be several opportunities at Convention to learn more about all things fair queens!

Wednesday, January 17: Queen Contest Judging school session - presented by Tamzen Butler
Sonntag of Carlisle, PA. *(separate registration and fee required to attend; contact Jana Mellott at 717-571-8637)*

Friday, January 19: 1:00 pm - Table Topic – *"Fair Queens – What Do We Do With Them At The Fair?"*
– moderated by Tiffany Painter-Newland

Friday, January 19: 3:30 pm - Annual Fair Queen Coordinators' meeting - great opportunity for to network, share ideas, and pick up the 2024 contest packets.

Contestants are also encouraged to participate in the seminar and activity scheduled for the Youth Day to be held on Saturday if it does not interfere with their Speech competition schedule.



****NOTE**** *There is a NO GIFT policy for contestants. This includes handing out gifts to other contestants during the Contestants' Pizza Party. We want to remove any unnecessary expectations and be sensitive to the fact that not everyone may be able to afford gifts.*

The PSACF/PSSA Convention is the primary opportunity for the Fair Queen Program to fundraise. Activities such as the **Basket Raffle, 50/50 Cash Raffle and Live Auction** provide much needed revenue to ensure the program continues to be one of the top commodity

See Pa Fair Queen Program next page

From PA Fair Queen Program previous page

programs in the Commonwealth. The popular **50/50 Cash Raffle** will be held every evening Wednesday - Saturday. Our fundraising will offer some exciting items – see list below! Gift baskets, auction items and gift certificates are still being accepted as well as tax-deductible monetary contributions. Contact **Amy Hawn - 814-386-1860** to learn how you, your fair or your business can participate.

We will once again be offering two **“Dining Out” Gift Card Packages** for the Live Auction at the Saturday coronation banquet.



****REMINDER**** Each contestant will be asked to donate a **\$25 chain restaurant gift card** (*ex: Olive Garden, TGI Fridays, Applebee's, etc.*) towards these prizes.

We look forward to introducing our 59 contestants to you at the 2024 Convention and showcasing the bright future of Pennsylvania.



PA FAIR QUEEN PROGRAM BASKET RAFFLE & LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

Michael Kors Clutch Purse
Quilt – King Bed Size
Lap Quilt – 60” x 62” Deer theme
Lap Quilt – 53” x 70” Purple theme
Artwork by Rita Millard
Jewelry
Outdoor Fire Pit
Lottery Tickets Board
Restaurant Gift Card Boards (3)
Wooden American Flag Wall Hanging
Rooster metal sculpture



Message from Our Associates



Greetings everyone!

Hope it was a good season for everyone. And here we are in holiday season and then...convention time again!

Be sure to get a front row table for the ever-popular Wednesday night talent showcase. Starting at 6:30 PM, the showcase promises to be a highlight of the convention with much diversity: all sorts of music, bands, juggling, marionettes...and more. We fair associates invite everyone – especially those who are attending for the first time – to visit the Trade Show! And plan to spend some time there to see everything we have to offer to make your fair a success!

The Trade Show is open Thursday and Friday 10:30 – 4:00 and 9:00 – 12:00 on Saturday.

In the trade show, you will find acts and attractions, booking agents, musical attractions, equipment companies, carnivals, sound & light companies, fair supply and insurance companies, food concession suppliers...and the list goes on. There is something for every fair and for every budget – small, medium and large.

The deadline for reserving a booth in the Trade Show is December 15th. If you happen to miss the deadline or your plans changed and you wish to have a booth, contact Dick Horstman (724-729-3701). He is great to work with and will do his best to accommodate you.

Note to all associates: our annual meeting will be in the trade show on Thursday right after the trade show closes at 4:00. We'll keep it brief and look forward to seeing you. It will be good to see all the familiar faces and welcome the new associates.

There is a memorial area as you first enter the trade show. Associates and fairs are encouraged to place a picture in memory of those we lost over the past year. Enjoy all the many fair displays.

Stop in and have a cup of coffee, thanks to W. A. DeHart who is providing complimentary coffee in the Trade Show.

Be sure to play the popular “Sticker Game” sponsored by the state fair board. Attendees are encouraged to collect stickers throughout the Trade Show, which then makes them eligible for wonderful cash prizes on Saturday afternoon’s drawings.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2024 convention! A very merry wish for a great holiday and Happy New Year!

Galla dangalla@uplink.net

**Fill all your fair needs and
SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATES
VISIT**

The Trade Show

**Your #1 source for fair industry
Goods, services and entertainment!**

Zone Awards

Zone 1



Left Shirley introduces Eric Watson of the Jefferson Township Fair as Zone person of the year. Right Shirley presents the Junior Fair person of the year to Madison Anderson of the Albion Fair

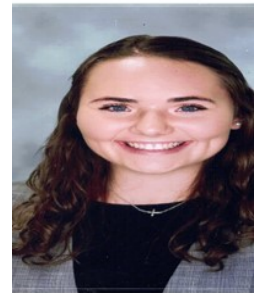


Zone 2



Mark Pease and wife Sue of the Harford Fair Zone

Zone Two Junior Fair Person was Jordan Anderson from Center County Grange Fair.



Zone 3



Mr. Baron, Junior Fair person Nathan Baron from Hookstown Fair, and Patsy Dailey..



Zone 4



Dena L. Kauffman from the Oley Valley Community Fair receiving the award from Kevin.

Kevin presenting the Junior Fair Person award to Kaleb Keefer from the Franklin County Fair.



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the right options **you need to be successful.**

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Educational Shows

Ground Attractions

Comedians

Major League Eating
Competitions

Strolling Acts

Wrestling

Simulators

Tribute Shows

**Media
Personalities**

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Virtual Reality

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Stunt Shows

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info@varietyattractions.com



Pennsylvania Fair Queen Program 2023 Fundraising

**Great opportunities to invest in the
next generation of PA's finest young women leaders**



Individuals, Fairs and Businesses can participate as follows:

- ☐ Donate a **Gift Basket** for Convention
- ☐ Donate a **Live Auction** item for Coronation
- ☐ Contribute a **Monetary Donation**
- ☐ Help at the **50/50 Nightly Cash Raffle** Table
 __ Wed __ Thurs __ Fri __ Sat
- ☐ Help at the **Basket Raffle** Table at Convention
 __ Thurs __ Fri __ Sat



Please indicate your preference above and return form by November 30.

Mail Form & Checks To: **Amy Hawn**, 9669 Kyper Road, Petersburg, PA 16669

FOR MONETARY DONATIONS – **CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PA STATE FAIR QUEEN PROGRAM"**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING NEEDS

Contact Amy Hawn at 814-386-1860 (Baskets/Auction) or Ruth Trumbetta at 724-433-3571 (50/50)

PA State Fair Queen Program is a non-profit corporation with 501(c)3 tax exemption status



ATTENTION FOOD HANDLERS!

PSSA is hosting an educational seminar in conjunction with our annual Hershey Convention.

Paster Training will again be taking care of the instructional portion of the class as well as proctoring the exam on Wednesday January 17, 2024. Cost \$175 and includes study materials and test. The course is open to all PSSA and PSACF members. Class size is limited to 35 persons.

Study materials will be mailed directly to you and you will be able to study at your own pace and on your own schedule. A wrap-up session of materials review, current updates and questions and answers will be given at Hershey on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, and testing for your license will take place on site. The time allotted for the session is 4 hours after which you break for lunch on your own at the Lodge.

Registration deadline is November 18, 2023. (Registrations received after the deadline will be held on a waiting list pending any cancellations.)

SERV SAFE EDUCATION/REGISTRATION

Sponsored by PSSA

COURSE DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 (approximately 4 hours)

COURSE TIME: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Check In @ 8:30 am

LOCATION: Hershey Lodge, 325 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033

COST: \$175.00

PAYABLE TO: PSSA Scholarship Account

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

Email is required for downloading your own ServSafe certificate upon successful completion/passing of the test. Email_____

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION RESERVATION AND INCLUDE CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO PSSA TO:

Donna M. Kramer
Treasurer
318 Vinemont Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

Welcome New Associates!

Attractions, Miscellaneous

A3 Entertainment

317 Ontario Street Monessen PA 15062

Phone: (928) 259-1920

WebSite: a3entertainment.net E-Mail: a3entertainment@yahoo.com

Info: Grounds attractions - Pioneer Experience educational activities, Carnival Corner old-fashioned games, and Craftie Co-plays constumed/stilt characters

The Barnyard Cackle Review

700 Stoner Rd Englewood FL 34223

Phone: (941) 416-4581

WebSite: E-Mail: thebarnyardcacklereview@gmail.com

Info: Educational, entertaining and interactive show

John Bundy

140 Palmer Ave South Plainfield NJ 07080 Phone: (908) 756-7030

WebSite: <https://www.illusionbiz.com/> E-Mail: info@illusionbiz.com

Info: Marionette Show

Hot Glass Academy

141 E. Furlow St, Apt C Americus GA 31709 Phone: (585) 704-6942

WebSite: hotglassacademy.com E-Mail: info@hotglassacademy.com

Info: Glass blowing demonstration and glass art exhibit.

Join The Circus Forza Ent

1811 Englewood Rd Suite 276 Englewood FL 39223

Phone: (941) 416-2598

WebSite: E-Mail: forzaent@yahoo.com

Info: We offer a fun and interactive circus show full of audience participation.

Attractions, Thrill & Stunt Shows

Monster Truck Nitro Tour

429 Monroe St. Oconto WI 54153

Phone: (920) 819-2023

WebSite: www.monstertrucktour.com E-Mail: bookit@monstertrucktour.com

Info: Producer of Motorsports events to include Monster Truck Shows, FMX jumping shows, Monster Truck rides.

Carnivals (rides)

Bartlebaugh Amusements Inc

PO Box 984 State College PA 16804 Phone: (814) 251-1046

WebSite: bartlebaughamusements.com E-Mail: bartshow@aol.com

Info: Traveling carnival

Equipment

Baughman Bros. Bleachers

PO Box 205 Jay NY 12941

Phone: (315) 427-8085 Fax: (518) 647-8208

WebSite: E-Mail: kebaughman@icloud.com

Info: Provide aluminum bleachers, grandstand benches & bleacher renovation.

Events

Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry

650 Main St Clarion PA 16214

Phone: (814) 226-9161 Fax: (824) 226-4903

WebSite: www.clarionpa.com E-Mail: tracy@ClarionPA.com

Info: Home of the Autumn Leaf Festival - 70 years and growing!

General Recreation, Inc.

PO Box 440 Newtown Square PA 19073 Phone: (800) 726-4793

WebSite: www.generalrecreationinc.com E-Mail: andy@gen-rec.com

Info: Recreation equipment bleachers, shade structures

Musical Attractions

Floyd Foster

PO Box 1132 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: (717) 303-870 Phone 2: (215) 206-4031

WebSite: floydfosterfehr.com E-Mail:

floyd@floydfosterfehr.com

Info: Male Vocalist singing a variety of country/or Southern Gospel music with backup singer.

Honky Tonk Jukebox/Bindley Hardware

1810 Chislett St Pittsburgh PA 15206

Phone: (412) 913-9849

WebSite: jonbindley.com E-Mail: jonbindley@gmail.com

Info: Live music entertainment - country music, bluegrass, honky-tonk.

Interludes with Impact

21636 Kelso Drive Hagerstown MD 21742

Phone: (301) 991-7799 Fax: (443) 563-1018

WebSite: www.interludeswithimpact.com E-Mail: iwf@woodsetter.com

Info: Presenting music & movies for worthy causes on our mobile stage (Maryland, South Central Pennsylvania)

Jeff Corle Music

1646 Arrow Road Windber PA 15963

Phone: (814) 467-4771

WebSite: jeffcorlemusic.com E-Mail: jeffcorle@jeffcorle.com

Info: Independent Country Music solo artist/Singer-Songwriter

From "New Associates" previous page

Jenny Grace

471 Sunbury St Minersville PA 17954

Phone: (570) 691-4039

WebSite: jennygracemusic.com E-Mail:

squeakondrums@comcast.net

Info: Country music artist/songwriter/entertainer

Katz 22 Band

218 West Locust St Enola PA 17025 Phone: (717) 645-6132

WebSite: katz22band.com E-Mail: katz22band@gmail.com

Info: Classic Rock/Dance Cover Band 4 members

Pratt & Szallar

212 W. 3rd St Greensburg PA 15601 Phone: (724) 972-3351

WebSite: www.garyprattmusic.com E-Mail:

garyprattmusic@aol.com

Info: Energetic Country Duo & Band featuring Indie charting originals, new & classic cover music.

Wander No More

278 Deitrick Rd New Columbia PA 17856 Phone: (570) 718-

9047 Phone 2: Fax: WebSite: E-Mail:

Info: Christian Rock Band

Special Services

5centride

1734 Lincoln Drive Williamsport PA 17701

Phone: (615) 477-5432 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.fivecentride.com E-Mail: fivecentride@yahoo.com

Info: Custom carnival art & merchandise



-2023 State Jr Fair Person Jordan Anderson

Jordan Anderson says she has been coming to the fair since she was six weeks old. Her family has always exhibited dairy cattle and when Jordan was eight years old she joined 4-H and began showing as well. In 2021, Jordan was awarded the prestigious Joe Hartle Memorial Dairy award. This award is given to a 4-H/FFA exhibitor who has a great work ethic, a love for the dairy industry, and an individual who is seen as a mentor for younger exhibitors.

Jordan has always taken great pride in her work and says this has taught her the meaning of hard work and perseverance. As an older exhibitor, she can often be seen helping the younger members and offering a word of encouragement.

Jordan has been an active participant at Grange Fair since 2012.

Jordan held a pancreatic cancer t-shirt fundraiser to honor a 4-H leader who had passed away from pancreatic cancer. It was a very successful event. She had urged everyone who bought a t-shirt to wear it at the Grange Fair Junior Livestock Sale which was evident by the purple t-shirts in the crowd that day.

Over the years, Jordan has held numerous offices in both 4-H and FFA. In 2021, Jordan was honored to be selected as a state FFA officer. She served as Pennsylvania FFA State Chaplain for 2021-2022. In 2022, Jordan had the opportunity to attend the first ever "Youth Day" at the PSACF Convention and speak about advocacy for youth involvement in our fairs. As a state FFA officer, it gave Jordan many opportunities to speak and advocate for fairs and agriculture. In January 2023, Jordan was thrilled to receive the Monsignor John Mignot scholarship. Jordan is currently attending the University of Wyoming majoring in agricultural communications.

From the PA State Fair Queen



Greetings!

As I sit here writing my fourth and final article for the PSACF Fairtalk Newsletters, I can't help but smile as I think about all of the people I have met, miles I have traveled, fairs I have visited, and opportunities I have taken.

It is hard to believe that 2023 is almost over, but it is even harder to believe that my reign as the 2023 Pennsylvania State fair Queen is coming to an end. My childhood dream turning into a reality just 11 short months ago, still seems surreal, however I have been blessed beyond measure with this opportunity representing Pennsylvania's rich agricultural heritage and tourism enthusiasm. The night of my crowning still feels like a blur. My year was full of so much excitement. It is bittersweet thinking about next fair season as I will not be visiting as many county and community fairs, however I know that I will not give up on promoting and advocating for both the agricultural and tourism industries as I move forward with my life.

As the coronation comes closer, I often ponder the question that is asked a lot. "What are your plans for after your reign?" After my reign I plan to attend college following my dreams of becoming an ag teacher. My dream of influencing the future generations of agriculturists relates immensely to my reign as the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen as I have had the opportunity of representing the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and all 107 county and community fairs across the state.

With it being December, that means it is almost time to crown the next Pennsylvania State Fair Queen to represent the PSACF. The coronation is quickly approaching and all of the county and community fair queens are making their final touches as they prepare for the state contest. This contest is no small event, however, as there are countless things to prepare for, to include a 3-5 minute speech presentation, an on stage introduction, an interview, a scrapbook, and the resume including a biography, fair involvement and an essay, "What my Fair Means to My Community". My best wishes go out to all of the girls putting in countless hours to do their best representing their home fairs.

As I stood in these queens' shoes last year, I was given a piece of advise, "Do your best and remember your 'Why'." This is the best piece of advise I have ever received as I was running for the title last year. I truly believe running for the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen title isn't about the crown and sash, however, but about the opportunity to represent the industries PA fairs hold so dearly. I have considered it a true honor representing all of you this past year, and am looking forward to see who will be the next representative of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs for the upcoming fair season.

*With Love,
Chloe Bomgardner
2023 PA State Fair Queen*



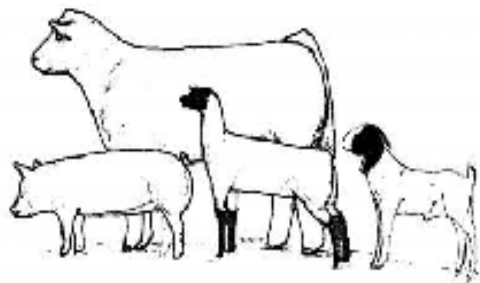
Tom Mainzer
Director of Agricultural Partnerships

Agriculture is the #1 economic industry in Pennsylvania. Our local fairs throughout the state help celebrate the hard work and heritage of our agriculture industry. They are an important piece of the tradition which farms and families dedicate to feeding our neighbors both in and outside the Commonwealth.

Our farms grow the food that can meet the nutritional needs of all Pennsylvanians. With over 52,000 farms across the Commonwealth, none of our neighbors should be struggling with hunger. However, there are still 2 million Pennsylvanians, including 600,000 children, facing food insecurity. Our food banks and their local partner agencies are working diligently to address increased need in their communities.

Feeding Pennsylvania (www.feedingpa.org) helps promote and aid our nine member food banks covering all 67 counties to secure resources to reduce hunger and food insecurity across the state. We also advocate on the issues of hunger and food access within the Commonwealth. Feeding PA also manages the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) Program, providing funds to food banks to procure Pennsylvania grown, raised, and processed foods for our neighbors in need.

During the 2023 PA Fair Season, the food banks and partner fairs and junior livestock auctions were able to continue collaborating on the *Bid-Buy-Donate* program. The *Bid-Buy-Donate* program allows winning bidders to donate animals to their local food bank. PASS Program funds help cover costs for processing, packaging, and transporting the final meat products to our neighbors in need.



Youth contestants sell their animals and receive the funds from the sale of the animal. Those who win the bid and donate their animal may be eligible for a tax benefit. We use local USDA-certified processors, and the food banks receive meat products. Animals typically include finished cattle, hogs, goat, and lamb.

Over the course of the 2023 season, 21 fairs participated in *Bid-Buy-Donate*. In total, 355 animals were donated resulting in approximately 47,000 pounds of donated meat products to our charitable food network! We are proud of these results and look forward to continuing our efforts with current partners and expanding to new fairs/auctions in 2024!

I look forward to discussing this program with anyone interested in participating next year, including fair administrators, livestock superintendents, local agricultural educators (including FFA and 4-H), and local USDA-certified meat processors.

Feel free to contact me if you are interested in the *Bid-Buy-Donate* program. My contact info is below, and Feeding Pennsylvania will also have a trade show booth at the 2024 PA Fair Convention. I wish you a joyful Christmas holiday season and all the best as you move forward with preparations for the 2024 Pennsylvania Fair Season!

For further information, please contact Tom Mainzer at 717-257-9850 or tmainzer@feedingpa.org.

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M&G LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-PSACF

HARRISBURG OVERVIEW

With a very divided state government (a one-seat Democratic-Majority in the House, a Republican-controlled Senate, and a Democratic Governor), the 2023 budget season was expected to be less amicable. Below is a brief recap on the most recent developments.

On June 30th, the Senate amended the general appropriations budget bill, HB 611. Senate Republican leadership claimed that they had a deal with Governor Josh Shapiro. They would support a significant portion of the Democrat's requested line items, so long as he would support the inclusion of a \$100 million dollar line item for a school voucher program.

Shortly after the Senate passed the bill and sent it over to the House, Governor Shapiro reneged on his agreement and promised the Democratic-led House that he would line-item veto the school voucher program. To Senate Republicans, he argued that there wasn't enough support for the voucher program. He argued that to pass an on-time budget, they would have to disregard the school voucher program. With 86 Republicans in opposition, the House passed HB 611.

As part of normal operating procedure, each chamber is required to sign the bills that they've passed. Because Governor Shapiro reneged on his agreement with the Senate Republicans, Senate leadership refused to reconvene to sign the bill and send it to the Governor's desk. However, after mounting pressure from public schools, county human service program providers, and others who depend on state funding, the Senate reconvened on August 3rd, signed the bill and sent it to the Governor's desk.

The Governor quickly signed HB 611 into law, allowing state departments to start distributing some of the funding and prevent various disruptions in schools and human services programs. **But the budget package is not quite finalized.** The general appropriations budget bill is simply the spending portion of the budget package, detailing how much funding shall be allocated to each line item. However, many line items require additional authorization through a supplemental fiscal code bill, detailing *how* the money should be distributed within each line item.

On August 30th, the Senate reconvened to debate two fiscal code bills, HB 1300 and SB 757. HB 1300 directs funding to many non-controversial and bipartisan line items. SB 757 addresses the more controversial priorities, including funding for educational options for students in failing schools. Both bills were passed by the Senate and sent over to the House.

On October 4th, the House amended HB 1300 and sent it back to the Senate for consideration. Since then, there has been no additional discussion regarding the fiscal code. However, we are anticipating that the legislature will finally complete the 2023-24 budget during the last week of session in December. There are 3 scheduled session days remaining this year.

After the December session days are completed, we are expecting that Representative John Galloway (D-Bucks) will resign from his seat. He was recently elected to become district judge. This resignation will bring House Democrats back to 101 seats, an even split with Republicans, who also hold 101 seats.

We are about half-way through the two-year legislative cycle.

LEGISLATION

Food Safety Mandates for Nonprofits Serving Food 12 Times a Year or Less

SB 160 (Brooks, R-Mercer): Amends Title 3 (Agriculture) by exempting nonprofits from retail food facility licensing if they operate on no more than 12 days per year.

If this legislation passed, fairs that operate concessions for more than 12 days would still need to have a license, but those that operate for less than 12 days wouldn't need a license.

The bill was introduced and referred to the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on January 19th, 2023. Keep in mind, similar language has been introduced several times and never received consideration in committee, so all previous introductions have died.

See M&G update next page.....

From M&G previous page.....

Solicitation of Funds for Volunteer Fire Companies

[HB 794](#) (Ecker, R-Adams): Amends the Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act (Act 202 of 1990) by exempting volunteer fire companies from audit requirements regardless of whether they utilize a 3rd party fundraiser, which only handles tasks such as mailers, and the money received goes directly from the contributor to the volunteer fire company.

We've incorporated language to amend the definitions of "professional solicitors" and "solicitation," with the goal of clarifying that showmen are not to be considered "professional solicitors" and would not have to register with the Department.

The bill was introduced and referred to the House State Government Committee on April 3rd, 2023.

Our language is in response to a Commonwealth Court case between the Department of State and a showman business. Unfortunately, the Court decided (7-0) that the showmen are to be considered professional solicitors and register with the Department. If implemented across the state, this would change the entire business model of every showman business. They would have to keep a registration of all "contributors," submit all contracts to the Department, pay fees, etc. As far as we are aware, the Department hasn't approached any other showmen with this, but they may be encouraged now with the recent ruling. So we are moving forward with our bill to clarify that they are not solicitors.

Because Republican-sponsored bills are struggling to gain traction in the House, we've asked a couple of Senators (Republican and Democrat) to seek written clarification from the Department of State. Ideally, we would like to see if they can explain the change in the Department's interpretation of the law and if they plan to apply the same interpretation to all showmen businesses in the future. We'd also like to see if the Department would be willing to work out realistic rules so that the showmen can operate as simple suppliers or vendors without the threat of being regulated by the Department.

Increasing the Minimum Wage

[HB 1500](#) (Dawkins, D-Philadelphia): Amends the Minimum Wage Act requiring the tipped minimum wage to be 60 percent of the cash wage and gradually raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by Jan. 1, 2026, and increasing each Jan. 1 based on the Consumer Price Index.

The bill was quickly introduced and passed only 8 days later by the full House on June 20th. It was sent to the Senate for its consideration.

The buzz surrounding this bill quickly died off during the budget discussions and has not been a priority in any recent talking points in the Capitol.

Protecting the Public from Contact with Wild Animals

[HB 1451](#) (Hohenstein): Amends Title 34 (Game) by prohibiting menagerie and exotic wildlife permit holders to permit the public to feed or have direct contact with exotic wildlife or wildlife, EXCEPT for ruminants.

Ruminants are defined as "even-toed ungulated mammals that chew the cud regurgitated from their rumen. The term includes cattle, sheep, antelopes and deer and their relations. The term does not include giraffes."

The restrictions would not apply to a nationally recognized circus.

The bill narrowly passed the House with a vote of 109-94. It is now waiting for consideration by the Senate Game & Fisheries Committee.

Banning Traveling Animal Acts in Pennsylvania

[HB 1114](#) (Shusterman, D-Chester): Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses) by prohibiting the transport of animals for the purpose of a participating in a traveling animal act.

The bill was introduced and referred to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on May 5th, 2023.

See M&G update next page.....

From M&G previous page.....

LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

We are working to rally a core group of legislators who will continue to champion the fairs in the Capitol and reorganize a more official fair caucus.

This will be a bicameral (House and Senate), bipartisan (Republicans and Democrats) caucus. We have secured Representative Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia) and Senator Lynda Culver (R-Columbia) as the Republican co-chairs. Both represent the Bloomsburg Fair. And fun fact: Senator Culver served on the original fair caucus (under Representative David Millard) when she was a state Representative! Representative Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin), a former employee of the state Department of Agriculture, will also be a co-chair of the caucus.

Before the holidays, the caucus chairs, PSACF, and our team will hold an introductory meeting. We will decide on a caucus name, develop a mission statement, and identify a few goals to work on throughout the next year.

Legislative caucuses tend to be relatively informal but provide a solid foundation and list of fair supporters and advocates in the Capitol. Caucus members will be able to help with future line-item requests as well as any other legislative issues that the fairs may encounter.

As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to represent you in the 2023-24 legislative session.

In Memory

William Lord

William Edward Lord, age 69 of New Castle, PA, formerly of Smethport, PA, passed away the evening of Dec. 2, 2023, at Edison Manor.

He volunteered for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and at the McKean County Fair, selling raffle tickets for 40 years.



Update from The Zones

1

Zone One – Shirley McIntire

Another year is almost behind us. Having visited several fairs in our zone, it is wonderful to see how active the youth have become in each fair. Several fairs now have Jr. Fair Boards and hopefully more will have enough youth with adult leaders to guide them to continue at their fairs. They ARE the future of our fair industry. We welcome them with open arms. We must always take the time to listen to their suggestions. Without youth the industry could fade away, which we certainly do not want.

To date, Zone 1 has a Round Table session semi-annually. There was a session at last year's convention called "Let's Just Talk" – which we call round table. It is just a matter of sharing ideas, of what has worked at each fair and maybe what could work after talking with people from other fairs to see how they fixed a problem. Again, "Let's Just Talk" will be at our January convention and we welcome all to attend if time permits. In addition, volunteers have become very important people for each fair. Even though they sometimes are difficult to find, someone needs to be able to find community members to help.

Zone 1 held their fall meeting, Oct. 20th at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds with great attendance. We had people from 23 out of 29 fairs in our zone who attended. Martha Ebersole, Craig Lesh, Harry Reffner and Tracy Barone were all in attendance. Each had important information to share for those attending.

Also, the Zone 1 Person of the year award was presented to Eric Watson, Jefferson Township Fair. The Jr. Fair Person of Zone 1 was awarded to Madison Anderson of Albion Fair. Jami Kampher was elected to fill the position as Zone 1 representative for the Queen contest. With our 2024 convention JUST around the corner – Happy Holidays to each of you from all the directors in Zone 1. We hope to see you in Hershey in January.

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Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

It is hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner. I think fairs overall had a great season.

The Fall Zone Two meeting was hosted by Montour Delong Community Fair. I would like to thank all of them for hosting this meeting. They had a great meeting with compiled reports on fair visitations given on each of the fairs. Sorry that Luzerne County Fair experienced flooding. We had twenty-two out of twenty-four fairs in attendance. It was one of the best ever. Kudos to all. Also, thank you to Ben Haagen, Zone Two Secretary, for running the meeting in my absence.

The theme for 2024 is "Pennsylvania Fairs Flourishing with Opportunities Rooted in Agriculture".

Zone Two Fair Person was Mark Pease from Harford Fair. Zone Two Junior Fair Person was Jordan Anderson from Center County Grange Fair.

The Zone Two Spring meeting will be at Beaver Community Fair on April 20, 2024. The Fall meeting will be at Bloomsburg Fair on October 19, 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my directors and fairs for all of their work to make Zone Two special. With that said, I wish everyone a great holiday season and a happy New Year.

See you at the Convention in January

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Zone Three— Debbie Stephenson

Zone 3 held their fall meeting on October 19 at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds at 6:30 PM. Election was held for our Zone 3 representative to the State Fair Queen Committee and Ruth

Trombetta is that person. Congratulations! The zone 3 committee had a very hard decision to make on the Jr Fair Person of the Zone and it was Nathan Baron, from the Hookstown Fair. Thanks to the fairs that sent in their choices for the board to decide. Please keep in mind this is an every year application and there are a lot of talented young people to submit. We had our president Martha Ebersole, Vice President Craig Lash, Secretary Treasurer Harry Reffner all speak regarding 2024 convention, items for submission from fairs for topics such as billboards, fair books, websites, scrapbooks, reservations and so much more. Table topic changes for this year and seminars to attend. Department of Agriculture Tracy Barone spoke on the timely matter of your Reimbursement Applications that were due. Many fairs generously gave door prizes and we are grateful for those. Thank you all so much! We will host our next spring meeting April. 2024 at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds a reminder notice will be sent out to all.

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Zone Four— Kevin Bieber

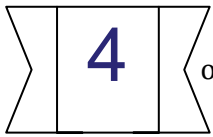
Well, another fair season has come to an end. It is the hope of the Zone 4 Director's that you had great fair and the weather cooperated for you.

The Zone 4 Director's also would like to thank you for all the hospitality you provided during our visits. The fair visitations provide each of us an opportunity to see and hear what was new that year at your fair as well as what you have planned for your fair and fairgrounds for the future. Every fair in Zone 4 should be proud of your accomplishments and hard work over the years. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kaleb Keefer from the Franklin County Fair as he was named the Zone 4 Junior Fair Person of the Year. Kaleb is now eligible to become the State Junior Fair Person of the Year. Good luck Kaleb. On that evening at the Zone 4 meeting, Dena Kauffman of the Oley Valley Community Fair was named the Zone 4 Fair Person of the Year. Congratulations as well to Dena for her award. We know that there are plenty of hard-working individuals out there that would also be deserving of these awards. Please consider their nomination next year.

Also, a special congratulations to 3 of our Youth from Zone 4 as being selected as Scholarship Winners. Congratulations to Chloe Bomgardner and James Voight of the Lebanon Fair as well as Abigail Nissley of the Elizabethtown Fair. Best of wishes to these individuals as they are the future of our fair industry.

See Update next page.....

From Update previous page....



Before we know it, we will once again be congregating in Hershey to partake of the annual PSACF/PSSA Convention.

If you have never been to convention, I highly encourage you to come see

what all your association has to offer at this convention. During these conventions many ideas are had and shared from fair to fair. We certainly hope you can find time in your busy schedule to come join us.

The Zone 4 Director's would like to express a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season to all of you. Please take some time and enjoy your family and friends during this wonderful season. I will see you in Hershey in January !



PSACF Association Update

This being the last issue of Fair Talk for 2024, I glanced at the web site and see that there are 31 days until Convention.

Calls for the tradeshow are coming in from a number of Southern states. We also have a group coming from the Calvert County Fair in southern Maryland, a group from the Delaware State Fair, and several from IAFE, including our keynote speaker Marla Calico.

2024 Directory

The 2024 Directory updates are at the printer and should be back to me for editing. Next will be finalizing the Convention Program book.

Junior Fair Person of the Year

Congratulations to Jordan Anderson from the Centre County Grange Fair for being selected as the Junior Fair Person of the Year.

2024 Rooms

Working with Michele at Hershey, our room block was full the first of October. The wait list has slowly declined. The [HILTON GARDEN INN HERSHEY HI](#) The Hilton Garden Inn Hershey reached out to me to offer a block of rooms, the Inn is 1.8 miles away from Hershey.

Theme The 2024

Pennsylvania Fairs: Flourishing with Opportunity Rooted in Agriculture. A logo is on our website and can be copied for your use.

Fair Advisory Committee Meeting

Again this year the Committee will be meeting after the Annual meeting, you will have an opportunity to learn about the Capital Improvement project matching fund grants.

Judging School

You can still register for the school, see registration in this issue.

Harry

