

DATES TO REMEMBER

— 2022 —

August 31

- FAIRTALK material for September due September 1
- Showcase apps. For 2020 Convention mailed September 24 (week of)
- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

October 1

- Junior Fair Person of the Year apps. Due

October 15

- Showcase apps. Due
- 2022 Request for Fair info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed.

October 20

- PSACF Board Meeting- Centre Hall

October 26

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Shady Maple

October 27

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Williamsburg

October 28

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg - Jefferson County Fair

October 29

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair

November 1

- Fair Person of the Year apps. Due
- Communications Competition apps due
- Queen Competition Applications due

November 15

- Reimbursement apps.—Fair Fund due
- Baking Contests Summaries due

November 27—30

- IAFE Convention and Trade Show Indianapolis IN

November 30

- FAIRTALK material for December issue due

— 2023 —

January 7—14

- Pa. Farm Show

January 18- 21

- Convention — Hershey



VOL. 36

June 2022

NO. 2

SEMINAR / TABLE TOPIC COMMITTEE CONVENTION PLANNING IN PROCESS

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

As usual for this time of the year, your convention seminar and table topic committee is hard at work in putting together another strong lineup of seminars and table topics. To date we have had two “brain storming” conference calls to present ideas on what we feel would be good topics for the seminars and table topics that are presented in Hershey.

We are also currently in the process of getting ready to sign a contract of a Keynote Speaker as well. More information on the Keynote Speaker will be presented in the next issue.

I was very pleased to read the surveys that you filled out at convention while attending the seminars and table topics. It was very encouraging to read and hear that you liked the new discussion format for the table topics. Well, good news, we will be continuing that practice again.

Although I know this is a short article with not much information on the topics and speakers, I ask that you please tune into the next edition as that will highlight much more of what you can expect at Hershey come January.

Until then, our committee wishes you a very happy fair season !!!!!

2022 Fair Theme



PSACF OFFICERS - 2021-2022

President

Samuel J. Zaffuto
355 N. Park St.
Sykesville, PA 15865
(814) 894-5723

Vice President

Martha Ebersole
640 Dellville Rd.
Duncannon, PA 17020
(717) 834-4435

Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

Harry Reffner
128 Cumberland Road
Bedford, PA 15522
(866) 814-6985

Immediate Past President

Dr. Sally K Nolt
25 Iris Circle
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
(717) 367-7256

PSACF DIRECTORS - 2021-2022

C. Sherman Allen
11283 St Hwy. 285
Conneaut Lake, PA 16316
(814) 671-9947

John Berne
PO Box 141
Crosby, PA 16724
(814) 887-5396

Kevin D Bieber
PO Box 105 613 Main St.
Oley, PA 19547
(610) 987-6529

John D Blaney, Jr
247 Curfew Rd
Perryopolis, PA 15473
(724) 677-2228

David W. Cowden
168 Skyline Dr.
Hickory, PA 15340
(724) 356-2577

Roger Dirlam
250 Sunrise Ave.
Honesdale, PA 18431
(570) 493-2745

Karen Dobson
9 Ebelhare Rd
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 469-0263

Tony R. Frazier
27 Hunt Club Drive
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
(570) 784-9158

Beverly Gruber
5265 Sell Rd
New Tripoli, PA 18066
(610) 393-0294

Ben Haagen
485 Snyderstown Rd
Howard, PA 16841
(814) 383-4428

Susan Hahn
1424 Church Rd.
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
(610) 863-6816

Judy Kmetz
353 Smith Pond Rd.
Shavertown, PA 18708
(570) 675-2952

Dr. Michael Kowalewski
862 Cudo Rd.
Montrose, PA 18801
(570) 278-9250

Craig Lash
246 Dairy Ln
West Newton, PA 15089
(724) 872-8967

Jana Malot
1432 Trails End Road
Harrisonville, PA 17228
(717) 571-8837

Shirley McIntire
1479 Franklin Road
Jackson Center, PA 16133
(724) 699-0797

Jeanne Miller
299 Riley Dr.
Girard, PA 16417
(814) 774-5703

Jim Reed
122 Coal Hill Lane
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
(724) 967-6627

Dr. David Reese, DVM
10 Dry Run - Left Branch
Pine City, NY 14871
(607) 733-3154

Debbie Stephenson
667 Washington Rd.
Prosperity, PA 15329
(724) 627-4752

Glenn Stoltzfus
1906 Airy Hill Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545
(717) 405-0698

MEMBERS AT LARGE

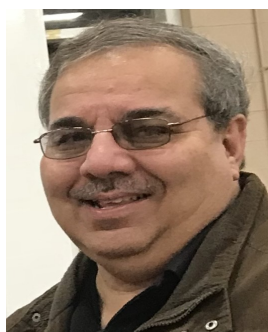
Milliron & Goodman LLC
Andrew Goodman
200 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 232-5322

Tracy Barone
Fair Fund Admin.
2301 N. Cameron St.
PA Dept. of Agriculture
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 772-3094

Galla Higinbotham
5075 Wrenwood Ln
Alexandria, PA 16611
(814) 669-4443

FAIRTALK published four times per year by the Association. Send information for the publication to:
Harry Reffner
128 Cumberland Rd,
Bedford, PA 15522

From our President



It's hard to imagine but most fairs are already busy planning for their 2022 events. Let's hope that we all have good weather and successful fairs. Remember that June 30 is the deadline to submit an application for matching funds from the Department of Agriculture through the Fair Fund Act. June 30 is also the last day for someone from your fair to submit an application for the Msgr. John Mignot Memorial Scholarship program. PSACF is offering up to six \$1,000 scholarships for eligible youth volunteers from your fair. Please encourage anyone from your fair who is eligible to submit their application. The application and additional information can be found on the state association's website: www.pafairs.org. Don't forget that 2022 is an election year for PSACF. If you are interested in serving your state association as an Executive Committee member, elections will be held at our fall zone meetings. Please watch for more information.

Our annual convention is being planned for January 18 to 21, 2023 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey. Many of our directors are busy planning and getting ready for another productive convention. Please stay tuned for much more information about the convention as it becomes available.

Best Wishes for a great fair season! *Sam*

2023 PA Farm Show Opportunities

Good morning partners.

I am pleased to share with you that the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. is seeking qualified individuals to fill several vacancies leading up to and during the week of the 2023 Pennsylvania Farm Show. They invite you to be part of the fun and excitement celebrating agriculture January 7 - 14, 2023. Please [view their website](#) (and share with others!) to see the job descriptions and application link, valid through July 20.

Thank you for your consideration!

Heidi

Heidi M. Svonavec | Assistant Executive Director

PA Fairs On Parade

A review of 2022 Pennsylvania Fairs A new Feature for the 2023 PSACF Convention

During the PSACF Banquet at the 2023 convention on Thursday January 19, 2023, we will present "PA Fairs on Parade", a picture review of our fairs. All fairs are invited to submit 7 photos from your 2022 fair. Tom from Lightning Audio has agreed to compile the photos and present them during dinner at the banquet.

Look for a good variety of high quality, high-resolution photos that best represent your fair. Submit 7 photos and a logo of your fair. Photos must be in .jpeg format. Tom will select your best 5 photos to include in the presentation. Your logo will precede your photos so that everyone will be able to identify your fair. **You do not have to attend the convention to participate.**

Please email your photos and logo to Pafairson-parade@gmail.com In the subject line of your email please enter the name of your fair. To be included in the "Fairs on Parade", we must receive your photos no later than December 15, 2022, in order to allow time to produce the presentation. If you have any questions, please call Sam Zaffuto at 814-591-3485.



Radio Rentals
Audio INNOVATORS INC.
1-800-222-9929
KENWOOD Listen to the Future
MOTOROLA
www.audioinnovators.com



Saffire WEBSITES & TICKETING
in a simple, integrated platform

NEW IN 2021!
CONTACTLESS BOX OFFICE
LEARN MORE - www.saffire.com/contactless
Easy, Affordable & Portable

66 Once we saw how easy it was to navigate a Saffire website and to make changes and update it ourselves, we were sold! The team at Saffire is awesome to work with. We gave them a very short deadline and they delivered on time. Thanks to our partnership with Saffire, The Big E now has one of the most creative websites with integrated ticketing in the fair industry! 99 The Big E Eastern States Exposition

512.430.1123 | INFO@SAFFIRE.COM | WWW.SAFFIRE.COM

**YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN CREATING
UNFORGETTABLE ENTERTAINMENT
EXPERIENCES**

EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION FOR FAIRS AND FESTIVALS.



TRACY BYRD

MULTI-PLATINUM RECORDING ARTIST

**CONCERTS
GROUND ACTS
EXTREME SPORTS
RODEOS AND BULLRIDES
MOTOR EVENTS
AND MORE!**



VARIETY ATTRACTIONS

SINCE 1961

740.453.0394 INFO@VARIETYATTRACTIONS.COM

WWW.VARIETYATTRACTIONS.COM



**BEGIN YOUR BOOKING EXPERIENCE AT
WWW.VARIETYATTRACTIONS.COM**



The Academy of Country Music announced their Industry Awards Winners on June 14 Live at The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN. Variety Attractions President and owner Todd Boltin was named the 2022 Don Romeo Talent Buyer of the year by voting members

of the Academy.

Formal recognition of the award will be presented at the ACM Honors Awards Show in August at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

ACM Industry Awards recognize venues and talent buyers/promoters who have bought or promoted a predetermined number of Country Music concerts and helped promote Country Music Ticket Sales. Nominees are selected by professional panel of judges approved by the ACM officers. ACM Members then vote in the respective categories.

Variety Attractions is one of the oldest associate members of the PSACF. It's founder George Moffett is one of the original members of the PA Showmen's Association. Their track record speaks for itself with many of their PA Fair clients including Crawford County Fair for over 55 years, Bloomsburg Fair for 52 years, The York State Fair for 50 years, Centre County Grange Fair for 50 years, Warren County Fair for over 50 years along with the McKean County and Fayette County both over 35 years and Wyoming County Fair 20 years all consecutive as well as The Sykesville Fair, Stoneboro Fair, Juniata County, Wayne County, Jefferson County, Union County West End Fair, Lawrence County and Venango County.

Boltin came to Variety Attractions in 1982 in a part time roll and came on board full time in 1983. He purchased the company in 2016 from founder George Moffett. He has served for many years as secretary of the International Entertainment Buyers Association, as well as Vice President of the International Entertainment Buyers Association Educational Outreach Fund. In 2019 the Todd Boltin Scholarship was endowed at Belmont University in Nashville and is awarded annually to a student enrolled in an accredited music business program. This is his 2nd ACM win in this category.

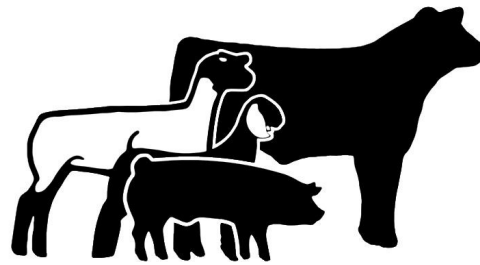
In Loving Memory



Ruth Britcher, 93 years old, of Newport passed away Sunday, April 10, 200. She was director of the Perry County Fair from 2004-2022 and was instrumental along with her husband, Paul Britcher Sr. in starting of the Fair. She was PSACF Fair Person of the year in 2016 and Zone 4 Fair person in 2000. She was a volunteer at the Pa. Farm Show for 30 years.



Francis "Fran" De Lancey passed away on May 18, 2022 in Bethel Park, PA after a courageous bout with lung cancer. He had a strong sense of community. He was a member of the Smethport Area Jaycees, a life member of the McKean County Fair Association, McKean County Historical Society, and Smethport Volunteer Fire Department.



Tom Mainzer

Director of Agricultural Partnerships

As we approach summer, we look forward to a normal operating season for our Pennsylvania Fairs. And as we continue to move away from the peak of the pandemic, everyone continues to deal with new challenges facing their organization, including higher transportation costs, levels of inflation, and supply chain issues. These issues have combined to increase demand on the Commonwealth's charitable food system and our food banks are doing their best to address those increased needs within their communities.

My name is Tom Mainzer and I serve as the Director of Agricultural Partnerships with Feeding Pennsylvania (www.feedingpa.org). Feeding PA helps promote and aid our nine member food banks covering all 67 PA counties in securing food and other resources to reduce hunger and food insecurity across the state. We also advocate on the issues of hunger and food access within the Commonwealth. In my role, I manage the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) Program and help get agricultural producers and food companies involved in our charitable food network.

I am sharing my information in hopes of building upon a successful livestock auction/donation program and expanding to other areas of the Commonwealth. Our "Bid-Buy-Donate" programs have proven successful at various fairs Lancaster/Lebanon area, and we continue to expand the program in other areas of Pennsylvania. In the program, winning bidders can donate their animals and PASS Program funds are used to cover transportation and processing costs for meat that goes to the food bank.

There are multiple winners with this type of program. The youth contestants sell their animal and receive the funds. Those who win the bid and donate would be eligible for a tax benefit. We aim to use local USDA processors and the food banks receive meat products (which are not frequently donated) to share with our neighbors in need. Animals typically include finished cattle, hogs, goat, and lamb.

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

Please feel free to contact me with any interest in the "Bid-Buy-Donate" Program. I am available to work with you and your colleagues to provide additional information and support as needed. I would like to thank Harry Reffner and the PSACF for allowing me to share information on this opportunity for your fairs and events. I wish you all the best as you move forward with the 2022 Pennsylvania Fair Season!

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

PA Fairs Special Baking Contest

June 2022
Submitted by Karen Dobson

Fairs are getting ready for lots of sweet things as the Special Baking contests are starting this month. Baking contest coordinators should **download the *Special Baking Contest Packet*** from <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/baking-contest>

This packet contains the updated 2022 contest rules, press releases and contest summary submission instructions.

Below is a summary of the updates and changes for 2022. Be sure to reference the 2022 Contest Packet for details.

The “acceptable ingredients” rule has been clarified with a definition of “scratch baking”.

PA Preferred has broadened the sourcing of PA Preferred ingredients.

Every participating fair must submit the Contest Summary Report by November 15.

Fairs are **no** longer responsible for filling out the Farm Show Certification Entry forms. This will now be handed by the PA Special Baking Contest Committee. Fairs will be contacted if no summary report has been received within thirty (30) days of their fair.

Fairs are responsible for any special ribbons for all special baking contests, and there will only be sponsored premiums for the Angel Food Cake and the PA Preferred Junior Baking Cookies/Brownies/Bars contests.

Contest Summary reports are due before November 15 either through the online form or by paper. <https://forms.gle/1nFZs2yGb5okBnqUA>

If there are any questions, contact the appropriate committee chairpersons:

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests –

Kevin Bieber (484-256-8009, email kbieber1123@comcast.net)

Junior Baking and Chocolate Cake Contests –

Karen Dobson (610-212-6180, email kardob@msn.com)

Follow us on Facebook at @pafairsbaking where we will share information about different fairs’ contests and the PA Farm Show. Fairs are encouraged to “like” and “share” the page to generate excitement about the special baking contests.

See You Next Year!

**Same Location "Chocolate Town USA"
January 18-21, 2023**

From the PA State Fair Queen



June is here! There is so much life sprouting in the gardens and flowers are always in bloom. In the agricultural industry there is always so much to fit into one day with the mix of harvest, planting, and maintaining crops. The hard work that is put in everyday just so that we can eat often goes unnoticed, so make

sure to thank a farmer next time you see them.

Fair season is just getting started and that means my travels as the PA State Fair Queen are beginning! Thus far I have received twenty-four fair and community events and five special events requests. It is so excited to grow these numbers as I look forward to meeting new people from each fair that I visit and seeing firsthand the passion for agriculture and its surrounding local communities.

Before the busy season was fully upon us, I was able to speak with my local borough in regard to what my title represents and how I am able to use it throughout my year to showcase the importance of fairs. I attended the Zone 4 and Zone 2 fair meetings in April. It was wonderful to connect

in person with so many fairs as well as hear about all the current events and fairs must be aware of. I had the privilege of presenting my speech about why you should visit my hometown farm show, this was the speech that I had prepared for competition back in January. And my latest event took place at the local elementary school's spring carnival. I was able to host a booth that allowed students from kindergarten to fourth grade to have the opportunity to select a seed and learn how to plant it. The students were then able to take them home and tend to the seed as it grew. This evening was filled with so many smiles and laughs, and I hope that is sparked in interest in some children about what it means to grow food. I also was able to partner with the Keystone Ten Million Trees Project and provide some free plants that families were able to take home.

My journey is just about to take to the roads, and I am ever so excited to be able to see so much of Pennsylvania this year. If you have not yet filled out a request form and would like for me to attend your fair, please refer to the PSACF website. There, you will find the request form which can be sent to Martha Ebersole.

Best wishes!
Anna

HERSHEY CONVENTION ROOM REGISTRATION —NOW OPEN

Guests can reserve their room reservations by calling the [Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108](tel:855-729-3108), and asking for the room block for the **PA State Association of County Fairs, January 17 - 22, 2023**.

Your Group's Room rate is:

One person in Room: \$121.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes

Two or more persons in the Room: \$124.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes

Guests who call the Hershey Lodge Reservation Office to reserve their room reservations will be asked for their credit card number to guarantee their reservations, but NO advance deposits are being charged at the time the guest is booking their room reservation.

Cancellations must be received by the end of day, Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Any room reservation cancelled after this date, a cancellation fee of one night's room and tax will be charged to the guest's credit card.

THE 2022 CATALOG

Fair
PUBLISHING HOUSE

1

ONLY 1 GRAND CHAMPION

ONLY 1
Fair
PUBLISHING HOUSE

ONLY 1 BEST IN SHOW

**GOING STRONG INTO
OUR 142nd YEAR!**

Phone: 419.668.3746 | Fax: 800.340.9988
orders@fairsupplies.com | www.fairpublishing.com

Proudly Made in the USA

What just happened... What can we do to enhance the future of our fair?

Submitted by Paulene Redding
New Holland Fair

Covid changed everything about the way we do our fairs, and this is our new normal. As much as we keep thinking that things are going to go back to the way they were in 2019, it's never going to happen. Get Prepared if you aren't already. ALWAYS be prepared for the unexpected.

Budget

- You need a 1-year, 3-year and a 5-year plan. If you don't do this NOW, you are setting yourself and your fair up to fail. Failing to plan is planning to fail!
- You need to be able to easily compare year to year numbers so that you can see where money needs to be spent and where it can be saved.

Customer Service

- You've got to bring out your best ever customer service skills. Don't forget to say please and thank you, and make it a point to say thank you to those you easily forget about. People will go somewhere else.
- Your fairgoers are going to require a comfort level like never before. Pay attention and give people what they want.

Funding Sources for Recovery

- There is money out there to be had. Look for it. Apply for it.
- Know your legislators and build a relationship between them and your fair.
- You have to spend money to make money.

Budget Adjustments

- Closely review for waste.
- Stretch your dollar.
- Take inventory and make use of what you already of.

The 3 C's of Life~ Zig Ziglar

Choices, Chances and Changes. You must make the choice to take a chance if you want anything in life to change.

Priorities for the fair

- Create financial stability for the fair.
- Keep your volunteers and the community safe. Follow health guidelines and do it right with no shortcuts.
- Your community is counting on you to do the right thing and do your job. Don't just hunt for money. Do your part in providing family fun, and follow protocol.
- Come up with extra ways of adding money to the bank. Get creative.
- Fair appearance- Clean it up and make it look inviting.
- Be inclusive. The more welcoming you are, the more people will have a positive experience and want to return, and, most importantly, bring others with them.

Youth are the life of our fairs

- Pay attention to who is moving in and who is moving out. Don't forget to collect contact information to invite old fair friends back and new fair friends to join.
- You've got to offer new, new, new. People and their interests change often.
- Allow and introduce new exhibit life. People have cats, dogs, hamsters, fish, etc. Don't be so set on what can and can't be entered. Make new categories.
- Visit Youth Clubs and ask what you can do to gain their interests.

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Claysburg Farm Show
President – Violet Key



The 2022 fair season has begun and fair fans are busy making their checklists. They want to be sure they don't miss an opportunity to taste their favorite fair foods, try their hands at the hay bale toss, and of course, hug their favorite farm animals, which is always at the top of my list!

While they're anxiously awaiting annual fair traditions, I know PA's fairboards are going through a different kind of checklist to prepare for their fairs and ensure a safe, successful, and fun time for all! Here are important animal health measures that will protect our prize livestock at the fairs this year:

- **Poultry: No exhibition of poultry or poultry products at the 2022 fairs.** The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has elected to maintain the quarantine order for the duration of the 2022 fair season to mitigate the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
- **Swine: The Swine Quarantine order is still in place.** To accommodate the shortage of 840 series RFID tags the department now allows the use of either 840 series RFID or NUES tags for swine exhibition in PA until September 15, 2022. Accredited veterinarians who inspect project swine and sign Certificates of Veterinary Inspection are the go-to source to get NUES tags. Use of cattle or small ruminant and swine NUES tags is approved for use in exhibition swine in PA. o Use of 840 series tags without RFID is NOT permitted as official identification of exhibition swine.

Rabbits: There is no current prohibition of out-of-state rabbits for exhibition at Pennsylvania Fairs. Sections 15 & 16 of the 2022 Animal Health Rules for PA Fairs (Pages 21-23) contain both requirements and recommendations related to rabbit exhibition at the fairs. If you have questions or would like additional information regarding animal health updates, please contact me. I'm happy to review requirements, get answers to your questions and provide additional documentation.

I hope to see you at the fair where I'll be making my way through my checklist!

FY 2022/2023

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Applications are Due June 30! Be sure to begin your applications early. Remember, you'll need to include meeting minutes and the signature page with your application submission.

FY 2020/2021 & FY 2021/22

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Contracts:

To accommodate supply and contractor shortages, PDA has granted no cost extensions of time for outstanding work. **If your fair won't make the deadline or was previously granted an extension and is still unable to meet the modified deadline, please reach out to me at tbarone@pa.gov as soon as possible.**

Online Payments:

Many of you may have received an email from the PA Office of the Budget, Bureau of Payable Services about signing up for "ACH" payments. It is a legitimate email outlining the process for signing up for this service, which eliminates the wait for a check to arrive in the mail. All future grant payments will be made using "ACH," so please take the time to complete the process and receive funds in a few weeks instead of a few months.

Please direct questions to the Fair Office by phone or email:
tbarone@pa.gov, office: 717-772-3094
hzarefoss@pa.gov, office: 717-787-6298

M&G LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-PSACF

HARRISBURG OVERVIEW:

The Pennsylvania General Assembly has six months remaining in the current 2021-2022 legislative cycle. All introduced bills have until the end November to get through the legislative process and onto the Governor's desk. If a bill does not make it across the finish line, it's effectively dead and will have to be reintroduced in the following session.

With the primary elections now over, the General Assembly is primarily focused on the 2021-2022 budget. They have until June 30th to pass a balanced budget.

As noted in a previous update, Governor Wolf's eighth and final budget proposal is a \$43.7 billion plan. Once again, he is calling for more education spending (\$1.55 billion) and a staggered minimum wage increase over the next several years. Under his plan, the minimum wage would be raised to \$12/hour on July 1st and then would be increased by \$0.50 each year until reaching \$15/hour in 2028.

The state currently has \$2.8 billion in the Rainy-Day Fund and another \$2.7 billion of stimulus funding that has not been appropriated yet. Many interest groups and legislators are advocating to spend these dollars. However, many Republicans are hesitant to spend it all, since the stimulus dollars are a one-time funding source. They argue that the state wouldn't be able to maintain the same level of financial support within a few years, potentially leading to tax increases.

ELECTIONS

Governor Tom Wolf is completing his second term this year. On November 8th, Pennsylvanians will be voting for the new Governor of the Commonwealth.

On the Democratic side, Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro is the official nominee. On the Republican side, Senator Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin) prevailed from a crowded primary race and is now the official nominee.

According to most recent polling, the gubernatorial race is a tight one. Josh Shapiro is leading by a slight margin at 44%; Mastriano at 40.2%.

In addition to the gubernatorial race, all House district seats are up for election as well as half of the Senate districts (even numbered districts). Republicans currently hold the majority in both the House (113-89) and Senate (29-21).

Over 30 House members and 5 Senators will not be seeking reelection in November. And there is one retirement of particular interest to the county fairs. After nearly two decades of service, House Tourism & Recreational Development Committee Chairman David Millard (R-Columbia) has announced that he will be retiring. Representative Millard has been a prime champion of the fairs and his support over the years is greatly appreciated.

BUDGET LINE ITEM

So far, so good. The Pennsylvania Fairs line item was fully funded again in the Governor's 2022-23 budget proposal at \$4 million.

We will continue to advocate with both Republicans and Democrats in the General Assembly to make sure this line item is protected in the final budget package.

In addition to the annual budget line item, there is potential for some state support to help respond to the avian flu outbreak. Senator Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) has circulated a co-sponsorship memo requesting \$2 million for detection, response and prevention.

See M&G next page.....

LEGISLATION

Broadband Legislation

Broadband access has continued to be a top priority issue for a couple legislators this session and several legislators introduced bills to address expansion throughout rural areas of the state.

Of note, Representative Marty Causer (R-McKean) sponsored [HB 2071](#). This bill amends Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) to create a Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority, which would help create a state plan for addressing broadband expansion issues across the Commonwealth. The bill passed the House and Senate with unanimous votes and was signed into law as Act 96 of 2022.

Meanwhile, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 provided each state with at least \$100 million for broadband expansion. So now the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority can utilize these funds in their state plan.

Tourism Bills

Representative Karen Boback (R-Luzerne) has introduced a couple pieces of legislation that will help enhance the state's tourism industry.

[HB 828](#): Creates an Independent PA Tourism Commission (a public-private partnership) for the purpose of serving as the state's tourism marketing agency. This is currently one of the roles the Department of Community and Economic Development.

[HB 829](#): Dedicates 1% of the current 6% state hotel occupancy tax for the purpose of supporting tourism marketing, museums and the arts. 60% would go towards marketing PA to out-of-state visitors, 40% for state grant programs for museums/arts, etc.

Both bills have been referred to the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. HB 829 passed out of the House Tourism Committee in June and is waiting for a full House floor vote.

Of course, we will keep you updated on these issues as they progress through the legislative process. In the meantime, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

2022 ZONE JUNIOR FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR

The **PSACF JUNIOR FAIR PERSON AWARD** is given annually to a youth volunteer from a Fair that is a member of **PSACF** (PA State Association of County Fairs).

Purpose: To recognize and honor a youth Fair volunteer for his/her outstanding efforts and achievements, and for making a difference at their Fair.

Eligibility:

Age 22 years or younger as of November 1 of the application year.

A **volunteer** of the Fair or Agricultural Association (*i.e. cannot be paid*).

Not a previous winner of the Zone Junior Fair Person or the PSACF Junior Fair Person award
4-H or FFA participation allowed, but not a requirement.

Membership on the Fair's governing board or Junior Fair Board allowed, but not a requirement.

Monsignor Mignot/PSACF Scholarship applicants are eligible for Junior Fair Person.

Nomination Instructions:

Deadline: October 1 (*postmarked or electronically timestamped*)

Limit one (1) nomination per Fair per year.

Previous Zone Junior Fair Person or PSACF Junior Fair Person award recipients are not eligible to be nominated again.

Update from The Zones

1

Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

Our Spring meeting was held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds April 29. We had 100 people from

Twenty-five of our fairs join us for an informative meeting. A delicious meal that was provided by Shannon Shaffer's Catering was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Our state officers were all present and gave us an update on the state association. Marc Critz our regional Director from the Department of Agriculture joined us for the meeting. Tracy Barone, our fair fund administrator updated everyone funding and reimbursement issues from the Department of Agriculture.

A raffle in support of the Msgr. John Mignot Scholarship program was sponsored by Clarion County Fair. Six hundred dollars was raised that night bringing the total raised at zone one meetings to well over \$5,000. Thank you for your support. Mercer County Grange Fair has offered to support the scholarship raffle at our fall meeting. Remember that the deadline to apply for the scholarship program for this year is June 30.

Most fairs in zone one are busy planning for their fairs. Our zone one directors plan to visit all of our fairs this summer. If you have any questions or concerns or any suggestions for the state association, please let your zone visitor know.

Please mark your calendars for our fall meeting, which will be held on Friday October 28 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. We will elect six members to the Executive Committee of PSACF at this meeting. More information about this will be available as we get closer to the meeting. Awards for zone person of the Year and Jr Fair Person will be presented. Please plan to nominate someone from your fair for these awards.

Let's hope we all have successful fairs this year.

Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

2

I would like to thank Beaver Community Fair for hosting our Spring Zone Meeting. Everything went well. We

had 16 fairs out of 24 in attendance. Our Fall Meeting will be in Bloomsburg on October 29, 2022. Hopefully, we will have a better attendance of fairs in the Fall. More information will follow.

As we enter this year's Fair Season, I wish everyone a great fair. Hopefully, Mother Nature will let that happen. I will be at some fairs along with our other directors from Zone II.

Fuel prices at record highs may keep people traveling closer instead of long distances and be a benefit to our fair attendance.

Capital Improvements are due on June 30, 2022.

Monsignor Mignot Scholarships are also due on June 30, 2022.

With that, I would like to tell everyone to have a great Fair Season and will see you along the way.

3

Zone Three — Debbie Stephenson

Happy Spring FINALLY! It is so wonderful to finally see grass again. It is hopefully going to be a great year for all fairs across the USA

and especially in PA. We held our Zone 3 Spring meeting at the Washington County Fairgrounds on Thursday, April 28. Our State Officers Sam, Harry and Martha all gave reports on 2023 Convention, Baking Contests, Communications and so much more. Jr fair person, fair person of your fair nominations. Dept of Agriculture Tracy Barone spoke on Hayrides at the fair and other places of business. Ruth Trombetta spoke on bringing the State Fair Queen to your fair and what you had to do to get her there. Don't forget to go on the state web site and download the Msgr John Mignot Scholarship and get those returned by the deadline to the Zone Chairperson by July 31 to Debbie Stephenson. We had a wonderful meal and thanks to Washington County Fair for hosting and thanks to all who donated door prizes. They are greatly appreciated!! We wish you all a great fair season and will see all fairs in Zone 3 this summer.

4

Zone Four — Kevin Bieber

Guess what we will soon be experiencing, if you have not already. That would be the smell of fair food, the rides for the kids, the competitive exhibits and of course the fun we all have at fairs. It was great last year to get "back at it", but I think we all agree that last year nobody really knew what to expect. I firmly believe that our fairs will be a center of attraction again this year for your community and beyond. It is my hope for your fair that Mother Nature cooperates and you are able to find plenty of volunteers.

It was certainly a pleasure to be able to get our Zone 4 fairs back together at our most recent Zone Meeting in April. It was great to see all the chatter and catching up with those that were in attendance. I was also very excited on how our Zone 4 attendees responded by purchasing tickets for our first fundraiser. Thank you to all the Zone 4 Director's for their contributions to our auction. That evening alone, we were able to earn \$435.00 towards our special fund for memorial gifts etc. We will once again do that auction at the next Zone Meeting. I am looking for some fairs to offer contributions/gifts towards our auction. Please contact me if your fair is willing to contribute or if you have any questions.

See Update next page

From Update previous page.....

I assure you that your Zone 4 Directors are ready to get out there and visit your fair. Thank you in advance for all that you do for your fairs. Please also keep in mind of some very important dates that you can find in this issue. Just some of those things to keep in mind include the Scholarship Applications, Zone Fair Person of the Year and Zone Junior Fair Person of the Year. Once again, thank you for all you do and have a great fair season !!!!!!!

Message from Our Associates

— Galla Higinbotham

Greetings everyone! It's PA fair season time once again!



At April's annual state fair board meeting at Centre County Grange Fair, January's 2022 convention was reviewed, and new business was discussed for the upcoming fair season. Next year's convention dates are January 18 – 21, 2023. The reserved block of rooms is open for booking. We are urged to **book rooms early**. You can cancel the room later if your plans change and you are unable to attend.

Welcome all new associate members!

Those who wish to be a part of the Talent Showcase, the date is Wednesday, January 18, 2023. This showcase is a highlight of the convention, featuring a diverse and top-notch array of entertainment: magicians, jugglers, bands and musical acts, tribute bands and more. Each eligible act (you are eligible to apply if you have not showcased in the last 3 years) will receive an application in the mail later this year. Additionally, strolling acts/street musicians/grounds entertainers are encouraged to apply to entertain prior to the banquet on Thursday evening in the Chocolate Ballroom lobby.

Applications to showcase will be mailed in the fall and along with that completed application, acts are to submit links to their performances ("live," not produced) for the committee to review.

Thank you to all the fairs who make a point of booking acts and procuring the services of associate members, especially from the trade show at the convention and also from the directory printed yearly. The associate members of the PSACF play a big part in bringing a level of expertise and professional entertainment, attractions and services to fairs all across the Commonwealth.

Wishing everyone a great fair season!

Galla dangalla@uplink.net



Working with your community/townships/schools/businesses

Submitted by Paulene Redding
New Holland Fair

Community:

Your fair is a community event. The people of the fair are what keeps the fair coming or going. Your job as a board member is to KEEP THEM COMING. How your fair is promoted within the community is crucial to its success. You need people to want the fair to happen. Once attendance starts to drop, more will lose interest and the fair will die. You have to make it an event that people feel they can't miss, an event that they want to be a part of.

It is important that you keep your community informed about what's going on with the fair. You can do this by immediately running a "post fair" story in the local newspaper, Face Book, and on the fair website that provides an exciting recap of what happened this year at the fair. It should include an estimated turnout, number of volunteers, favorite and new events, highlight something wild that happened, ticket sales, weather, etc.

Put together an Economic Impact chart and show how the fair helps the community.

Have an ***Opening Ceremony*** for your fair and invite local government, school board, fire company, Police, EMS, some of the larger business sponsors and the local media.

The reason for an opening ceremony is to show that the fair and the community are united. It shows how people from all over the community can come together to put together a spectacular event for all to enjoy.

Easing the stress of finding help last minute:

- Have a volunteer recruitment afternoon/evening 3+ weeks before fair week.
- Post descriptions of volunteer areas that need to be filled.
- Contact local youth programs and offer incentives for volunteer hours.
- Reach out to organizations that can help adults who need service hours.

Township:

It's very important to stay involved at the local level. These officials are more valuable than you give them credit for. The working relationship that you share will trickle down into the success of your fair. They can help make or break your fair.

- Some townships will offer trade-offs for services provided.
- If you need repairs, sometimes townships will share the expense with material and labor costs, such as help needed by electricians, plumbers, road crew, etc.
- The township secretary usually has answers to questions regarding roads, important deadlines, calendars, rules and regulations. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Build that friendship.

Schools:

We need the youth involved in order to succeed. Fairs are losing their momentum and seeking out the help of our young is the only way to survive.

- Have FFA set up a table in the middle of your busiest section of the fair. Supply the stand with lots of inviting information and fun energy. Many people don't know what FFA is all about so they don't get involved. Inform them.
- At some fairs FFA hosts AG demonstrations for general public and specific events like "Farmer For A Day" where young students are bussed in and educated on things that have to do with animals at your fair.
- Contact the guidance office and/or coaches and ask for student support.
- Reach out to IU-13 and ask about having special needs students come in help with repetitive duties such as sweeping, sorting, watering flowers, organizing basic supplies. They can help with year-round projects as well.
- Using detention hours to complete fair tasks.
- Offer classes/clubs the ability to enter exhibits as a group. Make it as simple as possible to do so.
- Advertise and have a youth recruitment night with pizza and/or snacks. Make it FUN for them.

Businesses:

With a simple ask, businesses may be willing to assist you in making fair week more memorable. Try to plan ahead with a subcommittee and think of ways you can enhance your fairs productivity and appearance.

- Local electricians may offer to design a power grid that will help ease the costs while making you more efficient. They may run extra lighting to areas in need of more attention.
- Local landscapers and/or nurseries may be willing to beautify your fairgrounds/streets.
- Local restaurants may print table placemats with fair schedules leading up to fair week.
- If given the opportunity, some businesses will adopt an area of the fair that will allow them to take advantage of advertising.
- Visit your local cellular service business and ask if they can provide hot spots throughout your fair grounds.

Submitted by Karen Dobson

PA Fair Queen Program

Who will be joining us for the next PA Fair Queen state contest? The PA Fair Queen Program is looking forward to finding out as fair queen contests are held throughout the state this summer.

Fair Queen Coordinators need to download the **Fair Queen Contest Packet** from the website - <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/queen-program> and make sure the 2022 contest rules, updated behavior and dress code policies, and judging criteria are reflected in their premium book, website and other contest advertisements. An important rule to follow is that all contestants must be at least 16 years old by June 1, 2022. Check contestants' applications to make sure they meet the age and other eligibility requirements.

Fairs are invited to send their 2022 fair queen to compete in the 2023 state competition from Thursday, January 19 through Saturday, January 21 at Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. The application process will be done entirely online, with a deadline of November 15, 2022. The application link will be made available to all registered fairs during June.

The Fair Queen Program is gearing up for another exciting fundraiser at the 2023 convention. But we need everyone's help to make it successful. We encourage all fairs to either donate an item for the Basket



Raffle table or live auction. Reach out to potential sponsors, donors, and vendors from your fair or community to procure items that will support our mission to provide scholarships to worthy young ladies in PA. Ideas include household décor items, fashion accessories, artwork, handyman tools, sports memorabilia, gift certificates, tickets to PA attractions or spa items. Just remember, the one thing we cannot accept is any baskets containing liquor or wine per Hershey Lodge's rules.

Having the PA Fair Queen at your Fair is a great way to publicize your special events. But dates are filling up fast! So download the **PA Fair Queen Appearance Request** form and submit your request now. Requests are handled in the order they are received and the PA Fair Queen's availability.

[https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?](https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PAFairs&f=05)

[t=fg&rid=PAFairs&f=05 PA Fair Queen Appearance Request Form 2022 fillable.pdf](https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PAFairs&f=05)

Zones 2 and 4 are accepting nominations for the PA Fair Queen Program's board of directors for 2023-2024. Candidates must be from a fair that is a member of the PSACF and be able to serve a 2-year term as director. Specific nomination deadlines can be obtained from the Zone chairpersons.



PSACF Association Update

Notes from Convention

Paulene Redding from the New Holland Fair has submitted notes from the table topics/ seminars and wanted to share them with others . Please see articles appearing in this issue.

Judging School

The 2022 Judging Reference List is available on the website under "Members Only". If you were at the 2022 school and not added or added in areas you wanted, please let Jana Malot know. Also, a reminder if anyone needs removed due to retirement or death, please let Jana or myself know.

Fair Persons

Junior Fair applications are due October 1st, applications will be available April 1st on our website. Senior Fair applications are due November 1st. Both applications are available under "What's Happening" no password required.

2023 Hershey Convention Rooms

Guests who need to reserve their room reservations in the Showmen Hallway, Rooms 2200 - 2250, please call Michele who will assist you with reserving your assigned room in this section. Could we ask these guests to contact me by Friday, October 21, 2022.

(Michele Maxwell - Direct Office Number: 717-534-8696).

Msgr. John W. Mignot PSACF Scholarship Program

The 2022 scholarship material has been posted to the association's website. Funds are available for releasing all 6 scholarships. Thanks to the number of individuals and Fairs that have donated, and to the Convention Spouse Program.

Harry

MISSION STATEMENT

PSACF MISSION

The objectives and purposes of this voluntary non-profit educational organization is as follows:
To promote the growth and improvement of Agricultural Fairs, Associations and Societies within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; To educate and to provide for the exchange of information among members;

To educate and to provide for the exchange of information between the membership, the general public, and agencies for the betterment of the Fairs and/or Fair Industry.

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs has been in existence since 1912. That first year, there were thirteen members (13 Fairs) and has steadily grown to our current membership of one-hundred and eight (108 Fairs). Each Agricultural Fair, Association or Society has at its focal point the education and showcase of agriculture, horticulture, tourism and more. Over six million fairgoers each year can attest to the quality of what we have to offer.

At Fairs, exhibitors compete for prize money, ribbons, or merely enjoy the competition. The following list is only samples of this competitiveness - livestock, hay & grain, vegetables, fruits & nuts, baked and canned goods, Christmas trees, flowers, sewing, art, grange exhibits, contests, apiary, antique farm machinery, and others.



In 1892 in the tiny village in Northeast Iowa, John Froelich (1849 - 1933) invented the first successful gasoline-powered engine that could be driven backwards and forwards . The word "tractor" wasn't used in those days, but that's what it was.

Volunteers, Making Them Feel Safe

Submitted by Paulene Redding
New Holland Fair

- Update your emergency plan and have it in view at the office.
- Do NOT use money bags. Coffee cans, shopping bags, folders, drinking cups, etc. are all examples of a better way to transport money to and from the fair office. We don't like to think about it, but there is always someone looking for where the money is.
- LISTEN. Take people's concerns seriously. Let them know that you will look into the situation if something makes them feel threatened.
- Pair up on volunteers when possible. A lot of times a volunteer will feel more comfortable with a longer shift or multiple time slots if they know they will have company.
- If they are afraid of Covid, don't fault or criticize. Know that they are afraid and help them find their replacement.
- Provide chairmen with a list of emergency contact names and numbers. It can be a simple index card posted in the general area of where they will be. They will appreciate knowing that they can get to you if needed.
- Be sure to have security spread out. Ask officers to check in with chairmen periodically.
- Make the area feel welcoming and safe. A few bottles of water and/or a few grab and go snacks can help them feel relaxed and looked after.



This page lists all the hotels where you make reservations.

<https://www.iafeconvention.com/hotels>

The hotel map is linked from the page, but here is a direct link.

https://www.iafeconvention.com/files/ugd/c9abda_7a5d7f3acc0d4fe7897f539f18bfea7f.pdf?index=true

This is the page where you would go to register. There are details on different registration options up there now.

<https://www.iafeconvention.com/register>

We are working on building an Ag Education Showcase. Fairs that might be driving, or ones that want to highlight their Ag Education programs, we will have an event space to set that up. We are exploring who might want to bring items now so that we can build the space. Here is a link to that information. IAFE members should be receiving a mailing about the convention that includes this information but this is a quick link.

<https://www.iafeconvention.com/ag-education-showcase>

Last highlight – I write blog posts, at least monthly with information about the convention. This would also be a place to check out what is new.

<https://www.iafeconvention.com/kate-s-korner>