

## DATES TO REMEMBER

— 2020 —

### August 31

- FAIRTALK material for September due

### September 1

- Showcase apps. For 2020 Convention mailed

### September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

### September 30

- Zone Junior Fair Person nominations due to Zone

### October 15

- Showcase apps. Due

- 2021 Request for Fair info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed.

### October 15

- PSACF Board Meeting

### October 21

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Kutztown Fair

### October 22

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

### October 23

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair-grounds

### October 24

- 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 30

FAIRTALK material for December issue due



**VOL. 34**

**June 2020**

**NO. 2**



### From our President

It is with a heavy heart that I write this message in these unprecedented times. I am so sad for our 2020 Fairs and Carnivals affected by COVID-19. As I write this note, 72 Fairs will not be open to the public and many carnivals may not be able to run. There are 36 Fairs that still need to make difficult decisions on whether to cancel or hold their event. As you work through the decision making process, be sure to review Governor Wolf's Mandate, CDC Guidelines and check with

your insurance carrier.

If Zone Meetings are not possible, we will again have a statewide Zoom Meeting in October. Also, a decision will be made by mid-September regarding the Convention in January. We are hopeful that we will be able to meet in Hershey, but it may not be possible, so at this time, a room block is not open. We will have a State Queen regardless.

I am asking each fair to submit a nomination for the Zone Fair Person of the Year and Jr. Fair Person of the Year awards. This is your opportunity to recognize individuals who have been important to your fair. Even if you do not have a 2020 Fair, please consider individuals that have served in planning and supporting your event. These awards will be presented in October.

Also of note, the Election of Directors will take place in October. Please send your nominations to your Zone Secretary by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to submit Capital Improvement applications by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please know that your officers are in daily contact with our lobbyists and the Department of Agriculture. While Fair Funding is still secure for Fairs that are able to take place this year, we are hopeful that Senator Bloom's bill will pass. This bill would reimburse cancelled Fairs at the 2019 amount. Now is the time to contact your Senators to ask for support of SB 1182.

Thank you to all that have worked so hard to plan for this year's fairs. I know it is a disappointment for those that have had to cancel. I am confident that 2021 will be better... We will be back stronger than ever!

Please stay healthy and safe!

*Sally*

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FAIRTALK published four times per year by the Association. Send information for the publication to:  
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*The Big E, Eastern States Exposition*

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## RICH ENGLER TO DELIVER CONVENTION KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

Rich Engler, musician, promoter and entrepreneur has been selected to provide the keynote address at the 2021 PSACF / PSSA Convention in Hershey Pa. Rich was born in New Kensington, Pa and grew up in Creighton, just across the river. As a youngster, he decided he loved the art of music and figured he had a future in it. Rich studied Art Education at Youngstown State and then Carnegie Mellon. Later in life, Rich started a music business that also turned into promoting music. Rich Engler has a very inspiring story that he is excited to bring us and when he comes to convention, he is also bringing with him a display of memorabilia from many musicians he has crossed paths with. Rich is excited to come speak with us at Hershey and I hope all of you will schedule your trip to Hershey to come see and talk with Rich.

Normally this article would be full of a list of seminars and table topics that could be expected at convention. Unfortunately due to COVID-19, it has been very hard to get people to commit to a January event. The committee will be working hard in the next few months to schedule those seminars and table topics, so please stay tuned to future articles.

In the meantime, we wish you all the best and hope you stayed safe during these unprecedented times. I know it has been a year full of unknowns and very hard decisions, but as Fair people, we are all in this together and we will all survive this together. Continue to stay safe and think about the better days that will be ahead.



### From the PA State Fair Queen

Hello all!

Well, we certainly didn't see this coming! The unexpected challenges of COVID-19 have affected everyone and we certainly are living in different times.

I was so eager to visit many of our Pennsylvania fairs this year, and am sad to see many fairs having to cancel, though I understand that we are doing this for the health and safety of our communities. I also know that for so many, our county fairs mean so much more to us than the rides and food. Pennsylvania fairs are the summer heartbeats of our communities, highlighting agricultural achievements and community involvement. The current challenges will just require that we get creative and join together in making different memories.

While I have the privilege to call 2020 my graduating year, due to the social distancing guidelines, many of us Seniors weren't able to have a graduation. Additionally, there are many youth this year who have no opportunity to exhibit livestock or participate in baking or craft competitions in their

county fair. No matter what the challenge, whether an absence of graduation or canceled fairs, our response to current events will shape future generations. Although it seems like a lot has been taken from us, the world of tomorrow will be better as these recent struggles are reminders to be thankful for the people and activities in our lives that make us who we are and unite us as a whole.

I have been encouraged to see so many of the County Fair Queens coming up with unique ways to engage their communities. In this age of social media, opportunities to promote agriculture abound. Some of the Fair Queens have chosen to read books on Facebook for children who have been home during the quarantine, while others promote agriculture, offer messages of encouragement, or promote their local Fair Queen programs. It truly is a group effort!

With many of our county fairs being canceled or altered, let's continue to support our local farmers and agriculturalists. And while we face the ongoing challenges and struggles, be encouraged. We **will** get through this together and come out the other side stronger.

Fondly,  
Grace VanSciver  
2020 Pennsylvania Fair Queen



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Good morning to our Zone 1 friends, States, and Provinces !!!

I would like some feedback from our various States and Provinces regarding our dates for next year's Zone 1 meeting. We need to make a final decision and move forward, and I would like to hear some of your opinions and thoughts.

As you know, York State Fair, in Pennsylvania, has graciously offered to hold our Zone 1 meeting in 2021 on May 13-15. This is the ONLY weekend the host hotel is available next year. It is the exact same weekend of the Zone 2 meeting, being held, I believe, in Florida. Normally, the IAFE prefers to NOT have two Zone meetings at the same time. It is difficult for the IAFE staff to be present at both, as well as scheduling the IAFE guest speakers and the management course being offered. Pennsylvania borders many states in the Zone 2 and there may be a conflict with folks wanting to attend both. However, the IAFE has agreed to work around both being held on the same weekend if that is the wish of the majority in Zone 1. Please discuss this and let me know as soon as possible.

There are two other options.....one being, another State offering to host in 2021 and York State Fair in PA will host in 2022. Or, we could join Zone 2 in Florida and have a combination zone meeting together. I believe this was done once before, possibly at the Big E in Springfield, MA.

I would not like to keep the wonderful folks at the York State Fair waiting any longer, so that they can proceed with their plans. Jen and Missy, our YPI representatives, need to know the location as well. So, please advise me of your thoughts before July 1st.

In our IAFE Board meeting last night, everything seems to be progressing well with the conference in San Antonio. They are working hard at an alternate idea of a virtual get-together if necessary, but the staff has high hopes of all meeting in Texas together. Let's hope!!!☺

Kathryn R. Hunter  
IAFE Zone 1 Director  
hunterfarm1717@gmail.com>



Kerry Lange

SB 1182 passed out of Committee with a unanimous vote. No amendments were offered. And there were no comments about DOA's draft. It now goes to the Senate floor.

Chairwoman Schwank spoke in support of the bill and the importance of fairs in local communities. She noted that many fairs have reached out in support of the bill and are relying on this funding in order to return next year.

Chairman Vogel also spoke in support of the bill.  
Please see the Senate bill on the following page.



## Senate Bill 1082

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, BARTOLOTTA, PITTMAN, STEFANO AND SCHWANK, JUNE 4, 2020

Amending the act of July 8, 1986 (P.L.437, No.92), entitled "An act providing for grants to agricultural societies and associations to develop and improve agricultural fairs; establishing an advisory committee in the Department of Agriculture; and making repeals," providing for COVID-19 Emergency Agricultural Fair Grant Program.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of July 8, 1986 (P.L.437, No.92), known as the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 8.2. COVID-19 Emergency Agricultural Fair Grant Program.

(a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Emergency Agricultural Fair Grant Program is established and shall be administered by the department. Grants provided under the program shall be used to assist county agricultural societies, independent agricultural societies or other organizations impacted by the COVID-19 disaster emergency as provided under this section.

(b) Eligibility.--The following shall apply:

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, a county agricultural society, independent agricultural society or other organization which conducts an annual agricultural fair that cancels its annual agricultural fair in the calendar year beginning January 1, 2020, due to the COVID-19 disaster emergency, resulting in ineligibility for other grants under this act, shall be eligible for a grant under this section.

(2) If a county agricultural society, independent agricultural society or other organization holds its annual agricultural fair in the calendar year beginning January 1, 2020, it shall not be eligible for a grant under this section but shall remain eligible to apply for all other grants available under section 5.

(c) Amount.--The amount of a grant under this section shall be the same amount that the eligible county agricultural society, independent agricultural society or other organization received in grants under section 5 for the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2019.

(d) Application.--The application for a grant shall be in a form and manner as prescribed by the department.

(e) Expiration of authority.--The authority of the department to award grants under this section shall expire when all available funds are disbursed for grants provided under the program.

(f) Definition.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"COVID-19 disaster emergency." The proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of emergency.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

## *In Loving Memory of*



Donald H. Everett Sr., 92, of Effort, passed away on Thursday, May 14 in St. Luke's Hospital Lehighton Campus.

Donald associated with the West End Fair. Donald became involved with the fair in 1959, taking his father's position as fair director from Chestnuthill Township. He was the concession manager until his passing, held the positions of Assistant Secretary and Vice President over the years and was the Fair President for 40 years, stepping down from that office in 2018. Over the years, he witnessed the fair grow from a one-day affair to the current week-long event. He was closely involved in the fair's expansion of educational and entertainment opportunities for the community.



Raymond L. Hoffman, 69, of Slatington, died Monday, June 1 at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest.

For 40 years, Hoffman has been involved with the Lehigh County Agricultural Society.

In 1980, he was elected to the Board of Directors. Hoffman held several officer positions within the LCAS organization including Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, Archivist and Environmentalist. When he was voted onto the Executive Committee in 1989, he became the youngest elected member in Society history. In 2011, Hoffman was elected Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LCAS, the position he held until his passing.

In 2015, Hoffman was awarded the Friend of the Fair Award presented by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. This award recognizes an individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership, volunteerism, community engagement and dedication to their Fair.



Donald A. Schneider, 74, of Appenzell, passed away on Wednesday, June 3 in his home.

We at the West End Fair of Gilbert are mourning the loss of another great friend and long time Director.

He was a Vietnam Army Veteran. He had been serving as a director for the West End Fair for thirty years. He was a member of the Pocono Lodge #780 F&AM, as well as a member of the VFW and the American Legion.

## **Junior Fair Person**

C. SHERMAN ALLEN

Each year PSACF awards the Junior Fair Person honor to a youth fair volunteer who exhibits outstanding effort and achievements and who makes a difference at their fair.

While the COVID-19 situation has caused the cancellation of many of our PSACF member fairs, we believe there is no better time to promote the positive by showcasing our dedicated youth. Each zone will present a Zone Junior Fair Person Award at their fall zone meetings. Then one PSACF Junior Fair Person will be selected from the four preliminary winners by the state committee.

Junior Fair Person Applications are due to your zone chairperson by September 15. The application will be available for download at [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org). No password will be required to access the form.

Let's not let COVID-19 stop us from recognizing our future generation of fair volunteers! Please nominate a youth volunteer for this award.



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## *Spotted Lanternfly Permitting*

**The Spotted Lanternfly may be pretty, but it presents an ugly outlook for Pennsylvania.** It is an invasive and extremely destructive pest that threatens our commonwealth's agricultural commodities and trade.

### **What is being done?**

- Pennsylvania has put a quarantine zone in place to stop the spread of SLF to new areas in or out of the current quarantine zone.
- Businesses, agencies, and organizations operating within the quarantine zone that move vehicles, products, or other conveyances are required to obtain an SLF permit.
- On May 1, 2019, The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry began performing inspections and verification checks to confirm that businesses are properly permitted.

### **Why are permits important?**

- Permits are critical to protect interstate commerce and to avoid spreading the bug, ensuring our crops and quality of life is not affected.
- Permit training is available at no cost, and teaches businesses what to look for and how to safeguard against moving Spotted Lanternfly.

### **Who can constituents contact?**

All permitting-related questions can be directed to [slfpermit@pa.gov](mailto:slfpermit@pa.gov) or 717-787-5674





## **PSACF Association Update**

### **SB1182**

This bill allows for those Fairs that have had to cancel their fair this year due to COVID-19 to apply for funding through the emergency grant program, which will be coming from the Fair Fund of \$4M. The complete bill is on page 6 of this newsletter. Please call your State Senator and ask for passage of this bill.

### **2021 Convention**

Due to Hershey personnel working from home, the planning committee has not been able to meet with them. As Sally indicated in her article room reservations are not open at this time, when they become available I will email. With COVID Hershey has to be tackling how they will accommodate our 1600 attendees, 900 seating at a banquet, and reservations of 650 rooms, currently they are in the Green Phase. Again Sally has indicated a decision will be made in mid-September to the status of the convention.

### **Department of Agriculture Programs**

Please refer to Tracy's article with regards to important dates to remember.

### **2020 Spring Zone Meeting**

Your Directors wish to thank you for your patience as we adapted the Meeting to the Webinar. Much thanks also goes to Karen Dobson, who navigated us through the meeting. Great job Karen.

### **Election at Fall Zone Meetings**

State Directors from all zones will be elected at the Fall zone meetings as well as Queen directors from Zone 2 and 4, please have a representative at these meetings. Speaking with Zone Chairs the majority of our counties are in the Green Phase, we should be able to hold our traditional meetings the dinners however, will have to be considered. This may change as predictions of a second wave may occur.

### **Junior Fair Person**

The information will soon be on our website.

### **Fair Person of the Year**

A Fair Person of the Year application is available in the "Member Fairs Only" section of the association website. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than November 1st.

### **Msgr. John W. Mignot/PSACF Scholarship Program**

This year's scholarship program material was posted to the association website in late April. Deadlines to remember: applicant must submit completed application to sponsoring fair by June 30; sponsoring fair must complete endorsement section and submit application to zone chairperson by July 31. Funds are currently available to release all 6 scholarships.

### **Association Dues**

All 108 Fairs were mailed their yearly packet; if you have not received the packet please contact the Office.

*Harry*



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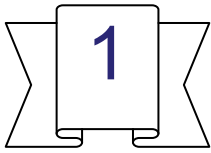
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# Update from The Zones



## Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

Our convention was just several months ago but what a different world we live in today compared to January. Everyone has been impacted in some way by COVID-19.

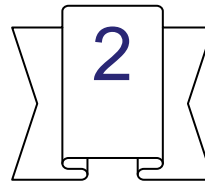
Because of coronavirus restrictions, our spring zone meetings were held as one virtual Zoom meeting. Most of our fairs registered and attended this meeting. Your PSACF officers presented information during the meeting on the 2021 convention, queen program, legislative report, and many other topics of interest. Tracy Barone, our Fair Fund Administrator, also participated and gave us an update from the Department of Agriculture. The response to this meeting format was very positive and anyone that could not join the meeting on April 30 was able to listen to a recording of the meeting at a time that was convenient to them. Many thanks to Karen Dobson for the many hours she put in to assure we had a successful meeting.

Many fairs have been forced to cancel their fairs this year because of COVID-19. At last count 56 of our members have cancelled and the list is growing. The whole fair industry has been affected including many of our PSACF members and Associate members such as fairs, carnivals, entertainers, vendors, and organizations providing various services to fairs. Also, feeling the effects of cancellations are non-profit organizations that count on fairs for their fundraising activities as well as our local communities that look forward to fairs for all the many benefits each brings to their community. Hopefully, conditions will improve and some of our later fairs will be able to operate.

2020 is an election year for PSACF Executive Committee members. Our fall zone meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday October 23 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. We don't know right now what our meetings will look like, but we will keep you informed as that time gets closer. Each fair in zone one will receive information regarding nomination and election procedures as well as information on our special awards and presentations.

Remember that the deadline to apply for the Msgr. Mignot Scholarship is June 30. The application is available on the PSACF website: [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org). June 30 is also the deadline to submit your Capital Fund project application to the Department of Agriculture. Please contact Tracy Barone, Fair Fund Administrator, for more information.

I hope you and your families continue to be safe during this worldwide pandemic. If there is anything your association can do to assist you and your fair, please let us know.



## Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

The world has certainly changed since the last issue of FairTalk was published. Our Spring Zone meetings were changed to a State-wide meeting which was held via Zoom on April 30, 2020. Attendance was good.

I would like to thank Karen Dobson for all her hard work in facilitating the meeting.

4 panelists and 3 State officers, Dr. Sally Nolt, Sam Zaffuto, and Harry Reffner addressed those in attendance. Topics discussed were the 2021 Convention, Legislative updates, and 2020 Baking Contests. Fair Fund Administrator, Tracy Barone, gave an update from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Since the meeting COVID-19 has taken its toll on countries all over the world.

As of today (6/11/20), 54 Pennsylvania fairs have cancelled. This is very sad, but is something that could not be avoided under current conditions. Hopefully things will change so that some of our later fairs will be able to go on as scheduled, but I am sure that it will be so very different from the normal that we are used to.

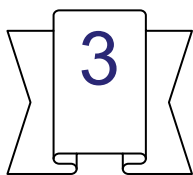
With that said, I hope we will be able to have our Fall Zone meeting at Bloomsburg as scheduled.

Don't forget to get your Junior Fair Person of the Year and Zone Person of the Year nominations submitted. Also, the 2020 Msgr. Mignot Scholarship is now open for submissions and Convention reservations are open.

As usual, everyone stay safe and I hope to see you soon.

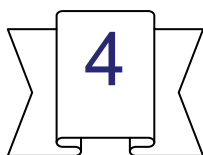
See Zones nest page .....





### **Zone Three — Debbie Stephenson**

Hopefully this finds you all in good health and spirits. We know that these are difficult times we are in and difficult decisions have to be made by fairs all across Pennsylvania. For all of us we still need to be thinking of the Monsignor Mignot scholarships and get them into your Fair, by June 30. Please also keep in mind the Fair Person of the year as the committee needs those recommendations as well. The Fall zone meeting we hope can be October 22 at the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds we will be voting on directors for a 2 year term. Hopefully our officers by that time will have a lot of information and updates for us. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call as you all know we are in this together. Thank you for your patience as we hopefully can come together in the Fall.



### **Zone Four - Kevin Bieber**

I am pretty sure I speak for everyone when I say "it is time for this year to be over"! We all have been faced with many challenges, whether that be personally, or work, or maybe both. Over the last three to four months we have found our offices to be at home, children have

been educated at the kitchen table and many of us have been getting projects done that have been on our "to do" list for quite some time now. Unfortunately, this is not really what anyone of us really wanted though.

One of the biggest challenges we all have faced over the past several months was to have or not to have a fair. This was without a doubt a very tough and emotional decision. To date of writing this article, 21 fairs in Zone 4 have made that tough decision. Knowing that we are all very dedicated and determined fair volunteers, I have no doubt in my mind we will be back bigger and better next year. This COVID-19 situation will make us all stronger, even though it may bring a new norm to our lives.

I encourage all of you to keep your heads up and continue charging forward as things can only get better. For those of you who may still be planning to have a fair, we wish you the best of luck and encourage you to please be safe during your efforts and be reminded of the CDC guidelines in effect at that time.

On a final note, I bring attention to some e-mails that your fair should have received from Harry Reffner. It pertains to Senate Bill 1182 which calls for funding to fairs that were cancelled due to COVID-19. The funding would be equal to your reimbursement from last year. You are strongly encouraged to contact members of the Senate Agriculture Committee as soon as possible. If you need the members and their contact information, please reach out to me.

## *Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program*

### **2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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ing  
Dr, Sally K. Nolt, PSACF President 2019-2020

### **2020 PROGRAM COORDINATORS:**

Amy Utegg, Correspondence  
Karen Dobson & Shelly Shaffer, State Contest  
Martha Ebersole, Events/Publicity  
John Berne/Judy Kmetz, Ruth Trumbetta &  
Linda Grove, Amy Hawn, Charlotte Williams, Fundrais-

# Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

By Karen Dobson

The school closures, event cancellations, stay-at-home orders and now the multiple fair cancellations across PA have had a major impact on the queen program.

It has been complicated and decisions on how to move forward have varied greatly depending on each fair's location and financial situation. We are using an online platform - ZOOM – since April to stay connected with our fair queen coordinators. Their willingness to share ideas and offer creative ways so that queens can continue to advocate for fairs and agriculture has been amazing

and we applaud their efforts.



The PA Fair Queen Board is offering the following guidelines to fairs concerning the 2020 local queen contests and the 2021 state fair queen competition. These guidelines are based on the information that was available at the end of May and are subject to change.

1. **Fairs are encouraged to proceed with their local fair queen program for 2020.** Fairs can have a fair queen regardless of whether they hold a 2020 fair event.

## Options:

- a. Conduct a 2020 fair queen contest within the guidelines of your county's red-yellow-green status and the CDC/PA Health Dept (*i.e. virtual contests are permitted*)
- b. Do not conduct an actual contest – just promote your 2019 Fair Queen Alternate to the position of 2020 Fair Queen
- c. Do not conduct a contest and allow your 2019 Queen to repeat her reign as your 2020 Fair Queen. **NOTE: this option means that your 2019/2020 repeat queen is NOT eligible to compete in the 2021 state competition since she already competed this past January.**

## 2. **Status of the Program at the January 2021 convention**

- a. **Scenario A:** If Convention is held as an in-person event in Hershey with seminars, table topics, banquets, and a Queen Coronation, then we will proceed with our normal contest and coronation event schedules. Our regular fundraising events will be in place and state contestants would be expected to donate a \$25 chain restaurant gift card. The contestant fee would remain \$120 which covers convention registration, 2 banquets, contestant party and contest expenses.

See Queen Program next page.....



- b. **Scenario B:** If Convention is canceled or is significantly modified from the normal in-person event, then the we would conduct a virtual State Contest with online interviews and speeches (*similar to how FFA handled their 2020 state officer process*). There would be no Queen Program fundraising events but rather an appeal letter would be mailed to fairs and other past sponsors seeking monetary donations. The contestant fee would be reduced to \$50 to cover contest expenses such as printing of packets and contestant booklet.

The PA Fair Queen Program will be holding elections for two (2) directors to serve on its board from Mar 1, 2021 until Feb 28, 2022. This year Zones 2 and 4 must elect one director each at its fall zone meeting. Candidates must be from a PSACF member fair and must have submitted a letter of intent to their respective Zone chairman by September 15 stating their desire to run for a director's position on the state queen board.

Lastly, we encourage everyone to find ways to use our 2020 PA Fair Queen Grace VanSciver. The COVID quarantine has changed the landscape for her reign. While she was able to attend Cornucopia in February, many of her scheduled fair visits and state events such as Ag Progress Days and Farm-City Day at KILE have been canceled. But while she has not been about to do any in-person events, she too has turned to social media to advocate for fairs and agriculture. Grace took the initiative to start a Fair Queen Facebook page (*Grace Fair Queen*) on which she posts ag facts or interesting tidbits to keep people involved. She has also been interviewed by video conference including by the Alternate PA Dairy Princess. We are most grateful for those who have given Grace opportunities to be a spokesperson for agriculture and fairs. If your fair is able to conduct an event in 2020, or you know of any other event opportunities where Grace could participate, please contact Martha Ebersole at [mebasket@embarqmail.com](mailto:mebasket@embarqmail.com). We genuinely want to give this wonderful, articulate young woman a chance to use her gifts and share her fair spirit this year.



## SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

— Karen Dobson

One thing that has come out of the COVID-19 crisis has been an increase in the number of folks turning to home baking as quarantine therapy! Unfortunately, the pandemic has also forced the cancellation of many of our PSACF fair events and therefore our preliminary baking competitions.

Since over 60% of the PSACF member Fairs have canceled their 2020 event, there are not enough opportunities or resources to properly conduct preliminary competitions at all Fairs. Our contest sponsors also cannot receive their full advertising benefits because of the decreased exposure at fairs.

Therefore, we have collaborated with the PA Farm Show to hold the four (4) special baking contests as "open" competitions in January 2021. This would be a one-time deal due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Instead of bakers having to pre-qualify at a PSACF Fair to earn a spot in the state competition, now the contests will be opened to any PA baker. The PA Preferred Junior Baking contest would still be limited to youth ages 8-18.

We are still fine-tuning the specific details about registration, prize amounts and a possible overall "Master Baker" Farm Show award, but we do have commitments from the PA Egg Farmers (Angel Food Cake contest), PA Preferred (Junior Baking) and PSACF (Choc Cake and Apple Pie contests) for sponsorship money for the open show contests at the PA Farm Show.

If you get questions or need to revise any online premium book for each of the four (4) special baking contests (Incredible Angel Food Cake, Blue Ribbon Apple Pie, Home-made Chocolate Cake and PA Preferred Junior Baking), please use the following statement:

***“Due to many PSACF Fairs canceling their 2020 events because of COVID-19, the 2020 Special Baking Contests will be held as Open Contests at the PA Farm Show in January 2021.***

***There will be no pre-qualification requirement of winning first place at a PSACF member Fair.***

***Details on how to register and enter these contests will be posted on the website at [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org)”.***

If there are any questions, contact the appropriate committee chairpersons:  
Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests - Kevin Bieber (484-256-8009, email KBieber@BBandT.com) Junior Baking and Chocolate Cake Contests - Karen Dobson (610-212-6180, email kardob@msn.com)





At this time of year, Pennsylvania's fair season is normally well underway. Fairgrounds throughout the commonwealth are gussied-up and ready for wide-eyed fairgoers eager to explore

the world of agriculture, taste their favorite fair food, hug a horse, or just enjoy an evening under a summer sky while listening to music on the bandstand.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in quite a predicament, one we couldn't have possibly imagined. The magnitude of COVID-19 is far reaching and has affected nearly every aspect of our daily lives. Many events we look forward to have been cancelled or postponed, and our beloved fairs are no exception. As I write this, nearly 50 fairs have made the difficult decision to cancel and more likely will follow suit in the days and weeks to come.

Shifting gears to cancel or modify your operations to accommodate government mandated requirements is not easy and I know many of you feel like you're letting your communities, not-for-profits, vendors, contractors, exhibitors and volunteers down if you don't operate your fairs.

While it's looking more and more like the 2020 fair season may be a bust, many fairs are searching for creative ways to host scaled-down versions of their events and are working with churches, schools, summer camps, and other event promoters to bring people out to the fairgrounds for a good cause and generate income for the fair through various activities. Many medical labs and pharmacies are looking for facilities to operate COVID-19 testing sites and have partnered with some fairgrounds. Maybe you can retrofit a show ring to accommodate an ag-themed miniature golf course, set up an archery range under one of your pavilions, or host separate events that fairgoers normally participate in at the fairs like animal costume, hay bale throwing or cutest baby contests. Consider hosting weekly events: Karaoke contests, talent shows, movie nights or just some great music and dancing.

With a little creativity and help from your communities, there are ways to put the fairgrounds to work for the fair while adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. Whatever you decide, folks will be thrilled at the opportunity to have some good, old-fashioned, socially distanced fun in the sun or under the stars!

### Youth Livestock Auction Options

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture continues to explore alternative options for youth livestock auctions. Using online auction platforms, PDA is investigating the use of virtual sales in instances where in-person auctions are not practical. While agricultural auctions are considered life sustaining, additional precautions must be taken to protect auction employees, customers, and the general public from exposure and spread of COVID-19. Additional information on this subject will be distributed to the fairs shortly. The Bureau of Animal Health remains at the ready to assist sale organizers with meeting requirements for intrastate and interstate commerce. It's worth noting, since these animals are not being exhibited many requirements have been waived.

### REMINDER: Capital Improvement Matching Funds

#### Applications Due June 30, 2020!

Applications for FY 2020/2021 Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grants are now being accepted online. The login & help desk information is below:

| Single Application for Assistance-eGrants |  |
|---|--|
| eGrants Helpdesk:                         | 1-800-379-7448   |
| Helpdesk Email:                           | <a href="mailto:Ra-dcedcs@pa.gov">Ra-dcedcs@pa.gov</a>                 |
| External Link:                            | <a href="http://www.esa.dced.state.pa.us">www.esa.dced.state.pa.us</a> |

### Forms & Information

Forms and information related to the 2020 Fair Poster Contest, Friend of the Fair Awards, Animal Health Rules for PA Fairs, etc., can be found on PDA's website: [agriculture.pa.gov](http://agriculture.pa.gov). You can always call or email the Fair Office: [tbarone@pa.gov](mailto:tbarone@pa.gov), office: 717-772-3094; cell: 717-0510-8037



Please help to keep us on track by meeting these deadlines!

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>June 30</b> | <b>2020/2021 Capital Improvement Applications Due</b> |
| August 31      | 2019/2020 Capital Improvements Complete               |
| August 30      | 2019/2020 Completion Reports Due                      |
| November 1     | 2020 Fair Season Poster Contest Entries Due           |

### **Msgr. John W. Mignot PSACF Scholarship**

It is time for fairs to communicate with agricultural organizations and school counselors about the Mignot Scholarship which is for those who are seeking higher education and have a relationship with the local fair.

Suggestions to help the applicant submit a better application:

1. Keep in mind; fairs are supervised by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Therefore, the mission is to promote Agriculture.
2. Essays should be written with correct grammar, no spelling errors, and a fluency which captivates the reader.
3. Categorize activities as related to school, community, and the local fair.
4. Letters of reference need to express who the candidate is in relation to the outlined activities and, in particular, in relation to helping the local fair.

Suggestions for fairs to be more proactive in reaching out to potential candidates and in helping to sustain the scholarship:

1. Local fairs should establish a committee assigned to encourage those pursuing higher education to apply.
2. Letters of reference and support should give the PSACF scholarship committee enough information to become acquainted with the candidate.
3. A maximum of six strong applicants from each zone can be submitted to the PSACF scholarship committee. The committee should have a maximum of 24 candidates to evaluate.
4. Use technology, if at all possible, when submitting applications to the next level.
5. PSACF has committed to six one-thousand dollar scholarships. In order to help maintain the fund, each fair should consider a line item in its budget or sponsor a fundraiser.

Deadlines for all levels to follow to adhere to the application process:

1. June 30-applications due to the local fair
2. July 31- applications due to the Zone chairperson
3. August 31-maximum of six applications from each zone due to the chairperson of the PSACF scholarship committee
4. September 30-application rankings by each PSACF committee member due to the state Chairperson
5. October 1-state committee chairperson identifies the top six candidates to the state secretary, local fairs of selected recipients, and each individual recipient

### **2020 PSACF FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR**

A "Fair Person of the Year" for 2020 will be selected and presented with an award at the 2021 Convention. The following criteria have been established as a guide in this selection. No previous year nomination will be considered. The application is on our website and will also be distributed with the Convention packet.

The rules for the award are:

- The candidate must be a living person at the time of the nomination.
- The person must be identified with the fair industry for a minimum of ten (10) years.
- The person shall have contributed to the fair industry in addition to his/her own fair or association of fairs, and something of value in the field of leadership preferably at the state association level.
- He/she shall have fairly consistently attended the meetings and conventions of PSACF.
- Each PSACF member fair is entitled to nominate one person. The person need NOT be from the fair making the nomination.





## Message from Our Associates

— Galla Higinbotham

With more and more fairs in PA making the difficult and heart-breaking decision to cancel their fair for

2020, I am struck by how many people this is and will be affecting. This situation we find ourselves in is so much bigger than any one person or business, as John Steven Bloom said to me recently. I had contacted him regarding his Facebook post: "cancelled fairs really are a big deal", asking if I could include it here to share with everyone. We are all so connected through the fair industry and John describes that well.

My husband Dan and I will miss seeing you and those fairs who had to cancel. I look forward to brighter tomorrows. Stay well and safe!

Galla (dangalla@uplink.net)

Here is PSACF associate member John Steven Bloom's post:

When you think of a fair or festival, it conjures images of food, rides, entertainment, animals, tractors and more. What most folks do not consider is that each concession stand is a mini restaurant owned by an entrepreneur. These concession stands rely on local food and ice companies, soft drink providers, paper and plastic items suppliers, propane companies and more to keep their part of the economic wheel moving. Then there are mobile repair companies who keep the concession stand equipment working, not to mention the trailer and truck manufacturers and the people who do the signage and wraps, making those trailers eye catching. That portion alone supports a lot of families and their lifestyles.

Every bit of entertainment from grounds and strolling acts to the grand stand, represents multiple businesses, from the act and their agents, to the companies who supply lighting, sound, staging, bleachers, tents and additional seating. For those star-studded grand stand shows, add stagehands, catering services, rental campers for extra dressing rooms, generators for extra power, limo service,

additional security, video walls, barricade, fence rentals, hotel rooms and more.

For a special night, many fairgrounds have a fireworks show. Those fifteen-minute shows bring crowds and keep them on the fairgrounds spending money and spurring the local economy. Again, fireworks shows require permits, inspectors and additional insurances. No fair, no fireworks, and yet another loss to another business that has employees who need those Pyro shows to support their families. Again, this also impacts the trucking industry as many of the fireworks companies rely on rental trucks, from semis to straight trucks to move those shows.

Every vendor in the commercial area represents businesses that look at the fair as part of their advertising budget to reach new clientele and make sales. We're not talking about big businesses; we're talking small businesses, with real risks taken by your friends and neighbors in your community. Then there's the staff that takes care of the restrooms, garbage, ground maintenance, electric and water hook ups for the food stands; the sound company that supplies fairgrounds paging, audio for auctions and the arenas where 4-H kids show their animals, not to mention walkie talkie radio rentals. There are companies who beef up Wi-Fi signals on the fairgrounds too. Fairground transportation is supplied by a company that rents golf carts and let's not forget the mobility scooter rental companies that you may find near handicapped parking areas at many fairs.

Ride companies and games not only purchase goods to win but also employ countless truck drivers to get from point to point. Those trucks support the many travel centers, restaurants and tire shops across America. If the fair doesn't have a private security company, you are kept safe by local policemen and women during the run of the fair, who are making extra money for their families. Then there are the traffic cops who keep the vehicles moving outside of the grounds. There are bus companies and drivers who shuttle fair goers to and from satellite parking areas. There are local EMT's and fire departments on hand in case of an emergency, many of whom stay at the fair 24/7.

See John Bloom nest page .....

Some nonprofit groups raise money at the fair through dinners, ice cream stands and more. The fair IS their big fundraiser which supports them throughout the year. And all this doesn't include the fair board (both paid and volunteers) who go that extra mile to make your experience the best it can be. After all, they've been planning it for years in advance. Some fairs have camping with water and electric hook-ups, and a staff to maintain that area. The local radio, newspaper, outdoor advertising companies and TV get a piece of the action with all the advertising before and during the run of the fair. There are the historical societies with their volunteers, exhibiting their collections of local and fair history, manning their buildings.

As for the 4-H kids, the farmers, the agricultural community and the auctioneers, that's a whole other situation in countless hours of work, transportation of animals, produce and projects at their expense. Many fairs offer special experiences like helicopter or plane rides which again is yet another small business operating within the grand scheme of things. In the grand stand there's various racing events, tractor pulls, demo derby's and more, all money makers for the fair, yet all small businesses owned by hard working people and their families.

All of this requires insurance, permits and inspections. That means it requires insurance agents and inspectors, hence more people in the mix. Every fair has a souvenir stand to purchase fair t-shirts to trinkets. Someone is supplying those items, artists are laying the designs out, printing, manufacturing, and shipping those items to your fair. There are website companies keeping the fair websites current, social media people monitoring fair pages and printers supplying everything from premium books, and signs to banners and ribbons.

You can't forget the folks in the background of the agricultural side providing fresh feed and hay or the veterinarians who are always on call. Folks also don't consider the annual fair conventions, general sessions, trade shows, regional meetings and more which happen throughout the year. All these things and more go into making your experience at the fair a memorable one. Despite your fair or festival only running for a couple days to a couple of weeks, there are a whole bunch of people who make a good living traveling in and around this industry both na-

tionally and internationally.

Fairgrounds have a bunch of buildings that require upkeep like paint, roofing and upgrades. They also have their offices, equipment to keep the fairgrounds looking nice and personnel for all of this to happen. All of this requires various insurances and then there's the property taxes. None of this stuff can be shut down or shut off, it just keeps going. How are they supposed to keep that going without a full-fledged fair?

As a fair goer, most look at the fair as a single entity. Some grumble about paying to park or about the several dollars they will pay to enter the fair, without thinking about the big picture. In actuality, it's a plethora of businesses both out front and in the background working like spokes in a wheel.

People only notice the part of the iceberg they can see, never considering how much more is underneath the surface. So when the fairs cancel, as they do or will this season, it's a huge deal for the entire country and it effects a countless number of families, businesses and impacts YOUR community with the loss of business and cash flow. That means some people will not be able to spend their money with companies in YOUR industry...thus affecting YOU.

As with the shortages we all encountered or are still encountering, this entire industry is based on yearly projections. Projected earnings for 2020 are gone like toilet paper on the shelf. Sales goals are wiped out, product isn't going to move, shows won't happen and many won't have the money they expected to get through the year. It's sink or swim. Cancelled fairs really are a big deal. I bet you never looked at it that way...but now you know...and hopefully you will!

John Steven Bloom, member of  
IAFE-The Network  
Ohio Fair Managers Association  
Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals  
Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs and Shows  
Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs  
Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs