

DATES TO REMEMBER - 2016

April 14

- PSACF Board Meeting

April 20

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Shady Maple

April 21

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Bedford

April 22

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - Scrubgrass Grange

April 23

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg.—Tioga Fair

May 5—8

- IAFE Zone 1 Meeting—Concord NH

May 31

FAIRTALK material for June due

June 24 (week of)

2nd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

June 30

- Applications for Msgr Scholarship due to your local fair

August 31

- Baking Contest checks (PA Preferred, Angel Food)

- FAIRTALK material for Sept issue due

September 1

- Showcase apps. For 2017 Convention mailed

September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

September 30

- Zone Junior Fair Person nominations due to Zones

October 15

- Showcase apps. Due
- 2017 Request for Fair info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed.

October 13

- PSACF Board Meeting

October 19

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Shady Maple

October 20

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Berlin Brothersvalley

October 21

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - Scrubgrass Grange

October 22

- 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 20

FAIRTALK material for December issue due

2017

January 18-21

- 105th Annual Convention

March 30—April 1

- IAFE Zone 1 Meeting—Wyomissing Pa

FAIRTALK



"News From The PA State Association of County Fairs"
"THE VOICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR INDUSTRY"

VOL. 30

March 2016

NO. 1



The 2016 PSACF Convention is past and as usual it was a great convention. The en-

tire Board of Directors are very dedicated to promoting the convention which is now considered to be one of the best fair conventions in the country. We also need to thank the various chairmen that work so hard to make the convention a success.

Thank you to Kevin Bieber for bringing us great speakers and seminars, to Martha Ebersole for coordinating the communication exhibit, to Debbie Stephenson for arranging the Table Topics, Dick Horstman for one of the best Trade Shows ever and to John Berne, Karen Dobson and the whole State Fair Queen Committee for a great Queen Pageant. Once again a very special word of thanks goes to Harry Reffner. He keeps the whole thing organized and it would just not happen if it were not for all the time and effort he puts forth. On a personal note, most of you know that I was not up to "full speed" at convention time. Very special thanks to Harry for his efforts to make the convention possible and enjoyable for me.

Congratulations to Karen Dobson for being chosen as PSACF Fair Person of the Year.

Karen puts forth great effort for her fair as well as the PSACF. For many years she has been a most important part of the Fair Queen Pageant as well as serving as chairman of the Chocolate Baking Contest.

Congratulations to the 2016 State Fair Queen, Darby Kasper of the Tioga Co. Fair. I am sure she will do an exceptional job of promoting the Fairs and Agriculture of Pennsylvania.

I hope that all fairs send as many representatives to their respective Zone Meetings as possible. This is the time and place to keep informed about the workings of the Board, and the Board also needs the input of your concerns. Plans for this year's fairs are hopefully complete. Fair season will soon be under way, but we have many concerns about the state budget and fair funding. There is even the possibility of no Extension Service or 4-H at fair time. I cannot imagine a fair season without 4-H. It is such an important part of what we stand for and represent. The PSACF Board of Directors continues to work with Milliron and Goodman to represent your concerns in Harrisburg. We will have the latest news at the Zone Meetings.

However, as I always say "See you at the Fair"!

Doc

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FAIR TALK published four
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DR. RICK RIGSBY WAS BACK IN HERSHEY TO OPEN OUR CONVENTION

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

Back by popular demand was Dr. Rick Rigsby to open our convention as our keynote speaker. Whether you seen him before at our convention or maybe the IAFE convention, Dr. Rigsby continues to deliver a fine message and build up that excitement for the beginning of another great PSACF / PSSA Convention.



Left Corky Powers,

Dr. Rigsby,

Debbie Powers

Dr. Rigsby continued to keep everyone in focus as his opening remarks allowed everyone to share many laughs and smiles as well as shed some tears. However at the end it was yet another great opening speech by another great speaker. Each year our committee raises the bar to another level just trying to figure out how we can “top” that previous years keynote speaker. I commend our committee for continuing to do a fine job with this.

I hope you agree with me that our convention was full of some fantastic seminar speakers who were able to share their knowledge and ideas with all of us. I heard some great comments and suggestions from many of you during the convention. I can assure you I will share your thoughts and ideas with our committee as we start to prepare for next year’s convention.

I will share with you that I am working on bringing back Officer Todd Murlina in regards to the Small Games of Chance. Many of you had great questions and unfortunately we just ran out of time. I am also pleased to report that I am working on trying to schedule Jen Puente from Wisconsin to come again next year and continue her one on one meetings in regards to your fairs sponsorships.

As we all know, Saturday’s seminars were cancelled due to the weather. The seminars that were scheduled for Saturday will be rescheduled for next year. So, stay tuned for the seminar lineup for the 2017 PA State Fair Convention. I wish all of you a fun filled, perfect weather and successful fair in 2016 !!!!

lotted once a budget is passed. Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding stated that \$4 million will be used for youth organizations, operations, and capital projects.

Legislative Update

The last newsletter update optimistically anticipated a 2015 budget being signed into law by Christmas day. Despite a Republican issued \$30.8 billion budget hitting Governor Tom Wolf's desk by December 24, 2015, the budget impasse continues. Governor Wolf reviewed the budget presented to him at the end of December, and 5 days later announced a partial veto, releasing emergency funding to schools and social service programs only. The appropriation to county fairs was not included in the released funding. Nor was the entire Department of Agriculture budget. The Governor's February budget address, did however, include a transfer of \$4 million dollars from the Race Horse Development Fund.

For the past three weeks the House and Senate Appropriation Committees has been meeting with each state department, agency, and entity. This long process is important and allows House and Senate members the opportunity to ask questions directly related to their constituency. The topic of funding for fairs was discussed at length at each hearing with the Department of Agriculture. PSACF's 2015 legislators of the year (Senator Vogel and Rep. Millard), continued to be great champions for the Association. Both expressed the importance of fairs. Senator Vogel testified that fairs are suffering, being forced to do more with less, and some might cease to exist this year. Rep. Millard noted that the dollars collected locally by the fairs stay local. He also inquired about how the funds for fairs will be al-

We at Milliron & Goodman are doing all that we can to keep the General Assembly well versed with how this budget impasse is effecting the fair industry. At this time, we would ask that you back us up back home by writing a letter, making a phone call, or sending an e-mail to your local Senator and House member. Please convey how this matter is affecting your local fair and by extension, community. Request that a budget is passed sooner rather than later and includes \$4 million for fairs.

Milliron & Goodman will continue to send out reports to the Association regarding the status of the budget, as they are announced. These reports will include rumored tax increases and expansions, including the amusement tax. Do note, the Governor's budget proposal presented nearly \$33 billion in spending, representing two-years, and a 14 percent increase. To pay for it, Governor Wolf is proposing \$2.7 billion in new and higher taxes. Negotiations fiercely continue. Likewise, our advocacy for PSACF fervently continues. And, if each fair goer, volunteer, director, board member - citizen of Pennsylvania - joins the "fight," the impasse will likely end sooner.

Contact Us

If you have any questions regarding anything that you have read in this article, please feel free to contact Milliron & Goodman at 717-232-5322. Our office is always willing to assist with your needs.

PSACF COMMUNICATION COMPETITION

Martha Ebersole

A great big Thank you to all the fairs that enter the PSACF Communication competitions, Without all the fairs we would not have a nice display at the convention. Hope everyone made it home safely. It is a new Fair year so start planning and getting thing ready for your fair. Maybe you will have a great idea for the Creative fair idea or maybe you got a idea from one this year in the contest. If you have any questions please call (717) 834-4435 or e-mail me mebasket@embarqmail.com

Thank you again for a great fair year in the communication department



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT

-Galla Higinbotham

The 2016 PSACF/PSSA convention will be remembered for many things. Our week in Hershey always seems to have a certain amount of snow but this year was above and beyond.



As Associate Representative, each year I come early to the convention (on Tuesday) to attend the BEO Review meeting. Dan & I were some of those who were snowed in until Monday, making for a longer-than-usual stay. As our friend Jessica from Sinking Valley Fair said, "They clean my room and feed me chocolate. What's not to love?"

In spite of the weather, it was a strong convention. Keynote speaker Dr. Rick Rigsby, was inspirational, funny, thought-provoking, to say the least. In between bursts of laughter, one could hear a pin drop. He spoke of family values: "We live in a society where it's better to look good than be good. What's happened to those values? The whole goal in TV is to think shallow, be superficial."

He reminded us of growing up before the internet, before social media, before the "it's all about me" attitude. "We had manners," he said. We hung on every word as he contrasted the shallow, superficial influences we see around us today with good, wholesome family values.

"Fairs," Dr. Rigsby stressed, "represent good, wholesome family values."

The Trade Show this year broke all records! Thank you to Chairman Dick Horstman from all of us fair associates for working so hard to accommodate the demand for more booths. 187 vendors filled the room completely to the back with goods and services for fairs and each other. Wholesale distributor W. A. DeHart offered complimentary coffee daily to all exhibitors and everyone who came through the Trade Show.

Traffic was brisk and we thank all the convention attendees that took the opportunity to visit the Trade Show to select from the very finest in professional goods and services available to the Pennsylvania fair industry.

Wednesday evening's Talent Showcase offered a diverse array of talent from a chef to magic to music and harmonies, a crooner and ventriloquist. More entertainment was featured at the opening ceremony and both PSACF and PSSA banquets and strolling acts showcased their talent in the lobby before the banquets.

The Associate Members of the PSACF thank all fairs who procured their services and look forward to a successful 2016 fair season. All associate members are listed, as always in your 2016 directory.

Family values. To quote Dr. Rigsby, "You lead the way. You've got the product. Keep offering wholesome family entertainment."

Happy Spring!

Galla



Convention Table Topics

by Debbie Stephenson

We had such an amazing week of topics and thanks to all who were presenters. We really appreciate all of you to get the groups rolling. We are looking at next year already and have a great start on them so if you have an idea and couldn't think of it at Convention or had to leave early due to the snow, please email me or call me or mention it at the Spring Zone Meeting. We appreciate any suggestion. We had one of the largest amounts of people who came down to participate this year.

Msgr. John W. Mignot PSACF Scholarship

by Jim Davis

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. All 2016 high school graduating seniors from all local fairs are eligible to submit an application. Youth in all four zones should be encouraged to apply.
2. Local fairs should establish a committee assigned to encourage those pursuing higher education to apply.
3. Letters of reference and support should give the PSACF scholarship committee enough information to become acquainted with the candidate.
4. 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.
5. Use technology, if at all possible, when submitting applications to the next level.
6. 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
- A. Please submit no more than six.**
4. September 30—application rankings by each PSACF committee member due to the state chairperson



Thanks to Tim McGowan Studio for capturing all the highlights of this year's Convention. We credit many of the photos included in this edition of FairTalk to Tim and his team!

Photos from the Queen Coronation, formal portraits, and Showcase entertainers are available for purchase at www.PSACF16.photoherald.com – password **2016** . But don't delay...this website will expire on August 15.

If you know of a photo that was taken, but not posted on the share site, please contact Tim McGowan directly at 717-866-9094 or tmstudio@comcast.net to make arrangements to see a proof of the photo.

Tim McGowan Studio is available for photographing many events including weddings, senior pictures, conventions and your 2016 Fair's events! If you have a photography need, please considering patronizing this Studio!

ZONE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTED AT CONVENTION



Zone 1 presented by Sam Zaffuto to Ray Martin of the Indiana County Fair



Zone 2 presented by Judy Kmetz and Roger Dirlam to Dr. Mike Kowalewski of the Harford Fair



Zone 3 presented by Debbie Stephenson to Jim Davis of the Huntingdon County Fair



Left Zone 4 presented by Dr. Sally Nolt to Sue Werner of the Lebanon Area Fair



2016 PSSA Officers and Board

2015 COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS



Website – 1st Darlene Wolfe-Confer Center Co. Grange, 2nd Dave Wolfe Schuylkill County Fair, 3rd Not Present Beaver Community Fair



Video Tape – 1st Ashley Heinlein Hookstown Fair, 2nd Shayla Benson Huntingdon County Fair, 3rd Not Present Beaver Community Fair



Scrapbook Traditional – 1st Mary Ann Haagen Centre Co. Grange, 2nd Shayla Benson Huntingdon County Fair, 3rd Mandi Droney McKean



Placemat – 1st Katelyn Callahan Elizabethtown Fair, 2nd Rachel Johnson Harford Fair, 3rd Not Present York Fair



Scrapbook Digital – 1st Megan Bixler Lebanon Area Fair, 2nd Not Present Union County West End, 3rd Sue Simpson Albion Fair



Scrapbook Cover Traditional – 1st Jane Ann Shaffer Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair, 2nd Not Present Bloomsburg Fair, 3rd Robin Holbert Bedford County Fair



Scrapbook Cover Digital – 1st Sue Simpson Albion Fair, 2nd Megan Bixler Lebanon Fair, 3rd Not Present Union County West End Fair



Non-Premium Tabloid – 1st Grace Karrer Schuylkill County Fair, 2nd Rachel Naser Washington County Ag Fair, 3rd Not Present West End Fair Gilbert



Promotional Materials 1st Mary Ann Haagen Centre Co. Grange, 2nd Marie Haas Oley Valley Community, 3rd Megan Bixler Lebanon Area



Premium Tabloid – 2nd Shayla Benson Huntingdon County Fair, 1st Bob Harrington Albion Fair, 3rd Robin Holbert Bedford County Fair



Premium Book – 1st Shirley Moyer Oley Valley Community, 2nd Luke Burkhardt Manheim Community Farm Show, 3rd Rachel Johnson



Powerpoint – 1st Mandy Droney McKean County Fair, 2nd Barb Mearkle Bedford County Fair, 3rd Sue Simpson Albion Fair

2015 COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS



Fair Display Floor –
1st Reba Wolgemuth,
Elizabethtown Fair 2nd
Marie Haas Oley Valley
Community, 3rd Shayla
Benson Huntingdon



Fair Display Table – 1st
Megan Bixler Lebanon
Area Fair, 2nd Julie Sa-
lansky Luzerne County
Fair, 3rd Laura James
Warren County Fair



Creative Fair Idea – 1st
Megan Bixler Lebanon
Area Fair, 2nd George
Witherite Center Co.
Grange 3rd Rachel
Naser Washington
County Ag Fair,



Brochure – 1st Ben
Haagen Center Co.
Grange, 2nd Rachel
Naser Washington
County Ag Fair, 3rd Dr.
David Reese Tioga
County Fair



Billboard – 1st Deb-
bie Stephenson
Greene County Fair,
2nd Robert Silliman
Carbon County Fair,
3rd Julie Salansky Lu-
zerne County



Best of Show
Shayla Benson Hunting-
don County Fair

CONVENTION PHOTOS



At left President Reese,
2015 State Fair Queen
Alana Eisenhour, Zach
Gihorski, John Berne.
President Reese present-
ing Alana her check for her
2015 reign.

ADDITIONAL CONVENTION PHOTOS



2016 State Fair Queen
Darby Casper
2015 Junior Fair Person
Michael Zaffuto



Legislators Award
Representative David Millard,
Lydia Messner representing
Milliron & Goodman LLC,
Senator Elder Vogel Jr.

Senator Vogel and Representative
Millard are strong advocates for the
Fair industry.

Booking Rooms for 2017 Convention

Dr. Sally Nolt

Hershey Lodge will be accepting room reservations for our 2017 Convention beginning June 1st. The room rate is \$107 single and \$110 double (plus 11% tax). Rooms are available by 4:00 pm and check-out is 11:00 am. Cancellations must be made three (3) days prior to your arrival date, or your credit card will be charged for a one night's stay.

Reservations made after the January 5, 2017 deadline will be made on a space and rate availability basis. Thursday and Friday nights were sold out in early December last year so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Reservations can be made at 1-800-HERSHEY (437-7439). To receive the convention rate, tell reservations that you are with the "PA Fairs and Showmen Convention."

Queen Contestants will receive a form with directions for making their reservation.

Rooms in the Showmen's Hall must be booked at one of the following numbers:

Michele Maxwell – (717) 534-8696

Ashlee McCann – (717) 520-5433

Michelle Lutzkanin – (717) 534-8636

Melissa Bates – (717) 520-5424

TRADE SHOW WINNERS

\$100.00 TRADE SHOW STICKER GAME
WINNERS:

Cassandra Bixler - Lebanon Area Fair

Diane Gottschalk - West Alexander Fair

Linda Stahlman - Clarion Co. Fair

Donna Turner – Bloomsburg Fair

Jay Hemminger - Somerset Co. Fair

The Hershey Weekend Getaway winner
was:

Glenda Johnson

Congratulations to all !!!!!

A Salute To Our Sponsors 104th Annual Convention

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PA Preferred Program • PA Egg Farmers
PA Apple Marketing Program

Pennsylvania State Fair

Queen Program

Tioga County Teen Crowned 2016 PA Fair Queen

By Karen Dobson

Tioga County Queen Darby Kasper of Roseville, Tioga County, was crowned the 2016 PA Fair Queen on Saturday, January 23 at the PSACF/PSSA convention.

Darby was selected from 60 contestants representing county and community agricultural PA fairs during the three-day competition. Each contestant prepared a brief speech highlighting her fair's unique traditions and events, an essay about the fair's significance in her community, and gave a stage introduction at the convention's annual banquet. They were also interviewed by the contest's judges.

Contestants are evaluated on their public speaking skills and knowledge of fairs and the agriculture industry, as well as on their poise and personal presentation in an evening gown competition.

Darby, 17, is the daughter of Bradley and Kathleen Kasper. She is a dual enrollment student through North-Penn Mansfield High School and Mansfield University. The proprietor of Kasper's Rabbitry, Darby is a 4-Her as well as a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, and band and chorus. She volunteers with Sunnybrook Meadow therapeutic riding and Appalachian Horse Help & Rescue. She enjoys figure skating and is a certified coach through the Ice Skating Institute.

Darby is the program's 30th PA Fair Queen. She will receive a \$2,500 scholarship **sponsored by PSACF** at the conclusion of her reign in January 2017. She was crowned by outgoing Pennsylvania Fair Queen Alana Eisenhower of York County.

Five finalists were chosen and gave an impromptu answer on how they see PA Fairs evolving in the future. Darby said she would see fairs evolving by encouraging more children to get involved and using social media to get more exhibitors and visitors to the fairs; the more people we can encourage to come to our fairs, the more knowledge every day people will have about agriculture on our communities.

Juniata County Fair Queen Molly Arnold of Mifflintown was selected as Alternate 2016 Pennsylvania Fair Queen. A student at Lancaster Bible College on its basketball team, she enjoys sports, camping, public speaking, mission trips and spending time with friends and family. An avid competitor at the Juniata County Fair, she has entered rabbits, decorated cakes, chocolate cakes, crafts, and other 4-H items.

Other top five finalists were Big Butler Fair Queen Rachel Laughlin of Butler, Butler County; Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair Queen Brianna Kislak of Milford, Pike County; and Lebanon Area Fair Queen Megan Bixler of Cleona, Lebanon County. Fulton County Fair Queen Jill Palmer of Warfordsburg, Fulton County, was named Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants. Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Bieber of Oley, Berks County.

Special Queen activities during convention included a seminar on "Young Women's Leadership" presented by former PA Fair Queen Denise Sustrik Yoho (1990) and sponsored by **Washington County Ag Fair**. A Queen Contestants' party featured commemorative tee-shirts sponsored by **S & S Amusements** and a Pizza Buffet sponsored by **AMP Global Strategies**. Each contestant received a commemorative photo with 2015 PA Fair Queen Alana Eisenhower sponsored by **Tons of Fun Shows**. Contestants mingled with judges, state directors and other special guests on Friday night during the Judges' Reception sponsored by **Skelly's Amusements**. Special thanks to Gold Sponsors **Lancaster Farming** and **Pennsylvania Farm Bureau** for their sponsorship of the state competition.

Special fundraising efforts included a Raffle Table with themed baskets, wooden items and the popular nightly 50/50 money drawings. A live auction was held at the Coronation Banquet hosted by C. Sherman Allen as Auctioneer. Items included a framed print, wooden quilt rack and Queen throw blanket, a wagon full of PA products donated by Alana Eisenhower and her family, a guitar autographed by several well-known music artists and two 100th PA Farm Show commemorative pins. The PA Fair Queen Program thanks everyone who gave volunteer hours, gift donations and monetary contributions to make this a banner year for fundraising. All proceeds will allow us to continue to grow the Program to new heights and maintain our high standards of excellence.

Despite the blizzard, the Coronation Banquet was still well attended by over 840 people. Special presentations were made to the PSACF Junior Fair Person award recipient Michael Zaffuto of the Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair and outgoing PA Fair Queen Alana Eisenhower received her scholarship award from PSACF. Special thanks to Dan and Galla for coordinating with the stage/lighting/sound logistics, assisting with the rehearsal and filling in as the musical entertainment (with bubbles!) while the judges deliberated.

The 2016 PA Fair Queen Program's Rules and Guidelines for the local contests were distributed at Convention. The information can also be downloaded from the PSACF website: www.pafairs.org (under the "Members"/"Queen Program" menu; no login required). The official 2017 State Competition Application Packets will be distributed at the Spring Zone meetings to fairs who submitted their request form by the February 28 deadline. A pick-up signature will be required.

See "PA Fair Queen" next page

From "PA Fair Queen" previous page our program as an event sponsor contact John Berne or Judy Kmetz.

Darby Kasper and Molly Arnold will now spend the remainder of the year touring PA promoting fairs and agriculture. They can be wonderful assets for your Fair or agricultural event! They can be requested to participate at special ceremonies, contests, parades and ag-related events. All appearances must be submitted in writing to PA Fair Queen Events Coordinator Martha Ebersole using the official Scheduling Request Form (available at www.pafairs.org under the Members/Queen Program menu). Contact Martha at mebasket@embarqmail.com with any questions.

The Queen Program is always looking forward for ways to increase its fundraising opportunities. Any Fairs or individuals interested in donating baskets or raffle items, or joining

Questions or requests for additional information on any other aspect of the PA Fair Queen Program should be directed to the appropriate committee person:

Applications/Registrations - Bitsey Kopfinger, 570-296-8790
Fundraising - John Berne, 814-887-5396 or Judy Kmetz, 570-675-2952
PA Fair Queen Appearance/Event Requests – Martha Ebersole, 717-834-4435
State Contest - Karen Dobson, 610-212-6180

E-TOWN RETAINS THEIR TITLE OF FAMILY FEUD WINNERS

Kevin Bieber

For the second year in a row, the Elizabethtown Fair has won the Family Feud game at convention. Rumor has it that they practice all year long with the exception of the week of their fair !!!!

Elizabethtown will once again retain their bragging rights as the champions for another year. Just which fair may be able to beat them next year?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Master of Ceremonies Mike Froehlich for keeping things in check during this fierce battle. I would also like to thank our score keeper Bruce Koppenhaver for a job well done.

So, just who will win the coveted giant Hershey Chocolate Bars next year? Time will tell, but you can sign up now for your chance to beat that determined Elizabethtown Team. Feel free to drop me an e-mail at kevin.bieber@nationalpenn.com or a phone call at 484-256-8009.

IAFE ZONE 1 2017 SPRING CONFERENCE COMING TO WYOMISSING PENNSYLVANIA

Kevin Bieber

Save the dates of March 30th, through April 1st for the annual IAFE Zone 1 Spring Conference. This conference will be hosted by the Pennsylvania State Fair Association and will have lots of fun and educational items on the agenda. Although it is too early to share an agenda for the conference, I can assure you that Jim Davis is putting together a strong schedule of Table Topics and Seminars. I can share with you that on that Friday evening we will board some busses and travel to the Allentown Fairgrounds as they host us for a fine dinner with entertainment. That next evening we will board those same busses and head to the Oley Valley Community Fairgrounds and enjoy a famous Pennsylvania Dutch Meal also along with entertainment.

The event will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel which is located in Wyomissing Pennsylvania. This is near Reading Pennsylvania and although time will be tight during the conference schedule, the hotel has free shuttles to some shopping outlets that are nearby.

What would a successful conference be without sponsors? We need your help, please consider a sponsorship for the event. There are many ways for you or your fair to be a sponsor of this conference. Please contact Beverly Gruber (before she contacts you) to see what sponsorship best fits your budget.

Please stay tuned for additional information which will be shared at your Zone Meetings in April as well as upcoming issues of Fairtalk.

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Bloomsburg PA 17815

Phone: (570) 784-3592 Phone 2: Fax:

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Branchwood Stables LLC

995 Camp Road Telford PA 18969

Phone: (267) 280-6047 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: branchwoodfarm.wix.com/visitus E-Mail: branchwoodstables@gmail.com

Info: Pony Rides

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

3505 Bank St Ottawa ON K1X1H2

Phone: (613) 822-8924 Phone 2: Fax: (613) 822-8926

WebSite: www.raysreptiles.com E-Mail: little-rays-reptilezoo@gmail.com

Info: Since 1995, we have been offering one of Canada's most fun and interactive approaches to eco education and zoology.

Wolves of the World

2630 Trinity Rd Lynchburg SC 29080

Phone: (518) 755-6981 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.wolfpackproject.com E-Mail: frontiersshow@aol.com

Info: Educational animal show.

Attractions, Miscellaneous

Gizmo D. Robot

443 Sierra Vista Ln Valley Cottage NY 10989

Phone: (269) 760-6460 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail:

Info: I travel the country visiting you humans in all sorts of venues like schools, fairs, festivals corporate events and casinos.

Granpa Crachet

9633 West 400 North Sharpville IN 46068

Phone: (765) 438-9223 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.oldcoot.com E-Mail: Granpa@oldcoot.com

Info: Entertainment - puppets

Knockerball Solanco

1307 Robert Fulton Highway Quarryville PA 17566

Phone: (717) 799-7285 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.knockerballsolanco.com E-Mail: knockerballsolanco@gmail.com

Info: Servicing the entire South Lancaster County including Lancaster and Quarryville - What are you waiting for ? "Get in the Ball"

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671 Hauger Road Rockwood PA 15557

Phone: (814) 926-3551 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.laurelhighlandsmagic.weebly.com E-Mail: laurelhighlandsmagic@gmail.com

Info: Featuring experienced magical entertainers who amaze audiences of all age on smaller stage venues.

Mitchell Marionette Productions

PO Box 1177 Sierra Madre CA 91025-1177

Phone: (626) 355-3672 Phone 2: (626) 590-7757 Fax: (626) 355-2402

WebSite: www.mitchellmarionettes.com E-Mail: nancy@mitchellmarionettes.com

Info: Marionettes and ventriloquism from spectacular Mississippi River Showboat stage PLUS strolling animatronic chimpanzee on a bicycle.

Professor Bubblemaker's Eclectic Entertainments

1915 Market St Parkersburg WV 26101

Phone: (304) 916-8677 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.bubbles-and-fleas.com E-Mail: bubblemaker@bubbles-and-fleas.com

Info: Cutting edge bubble entertainment featuring both strolling entertainment and bubble and light shows to music.

Steve Mills Variety Entertainment

480 Bahama Circle Marion OH 43302

Phone: (740) 361-5651 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.dazzlingmills.com E-Mail: steve@dazzlingmills.com

Info: Juggling, unicycle, acrobatics

Attractions, Thrill & Stunt Shows

Circus Stella

2915 Brantley Rd Kannapolis NC 28083

Phone: (612) 770-0451 Phone 2: Fax: WebSite:

www.CircusStella.com

E-Mail: CircusStella@gmail.com

Info: Self-contained family circus featuring trapeze, aerial silk, rope-walking, comedy, and performing rescued dogs.

DerbyDog Productions

P.O. Box 104 Madison OH 44057

Phone: (440) 223-4723 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.derbydog-productions.com E-Mail: derbydog77x@gmail.com

Info: Demolition Derby Promoter.

Fearless Flores Thrill Show

27200 Sr 70E Myakka City FL 34251

Phone: (941) 928-6410 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.ffthrill.com E-Mail: ffthrill@aol.com

Info: Circus/Thrill Show

Welcome *New Associates*

From "Welcome" previous page

Attractions, Thrill & Stunt Shows

Keystone Equine Entertainment and Training LLC

6196 Beacon Street Altoona PA 16601

Phone: (814) 215-7171 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: keystoneequineentertainmentandtraining.com

E-Mail: keystoneequinetraining@gmail.com

Info: Trick riding, Trick horses, Roman riding all in one show!

Monsters Of The Fair

12377 Sisson Highway Lawtons NY 14091

Phone: (607) 227-3278 Phone 2: Fax:

Website: E-mail: mark@monstersofthefair.com

Info: Monster truck and tough truck thrill show

New Penn Jersey Tractor Pullers Association

1015 Browntown Road Nazareth PA 18064

Phone: (484) 223-9000 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.njpjpullers.com E-Mail: zful-

mer72@gmail.com

Info: Tractor pulling

Northeast Ohio Dukes

785 Northriver Rd NW Warren OH 44483

Phone: (330) 360-0968 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.northeastohiodukes.net E-Mail: north-

eastohiodukes@gmail.com

Info: Live action Dukes of Hazzard action show.

Carnival

Lisko Family Midway Amusements, Inc

3911 Cooper Rd Lowellville OH 44436

Phone: (330) 536-6828 Phone 2: (330) 233-1615 Fax:

WebSite: liskofamilymidway.com E-Mail: in-

fo@liskofamilymidway.com

Info: We currently operate more than twenty amusement rides for people of all ages

Equipment

Predator Pulling Sled Rental LLC

117 S Pennsville St Connellsville PA 15425

Phone: (724) 689-5228 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail:

Info: Sled Rental

Southern Bleacher

PO Box 1 801 Fifth St Graham TX 76450

Phone: (940) 549-0733 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.southernbleacher.com E-Mail:

Info: Stadiums, grandstands, bleachers

Fair Supplies

Eye 4 Design

226 Branchton Road Slippery Rock PA 16057

Phone: (724) 738-0246 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail: pinkseye4designsigns@hotmail.com

Info: Yard signs, banners, window decals, magnetics

Whirley Drinkworks

618 Fourth Ave Warren PA 16365

Phone: (800) 825-5575 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.whirleydrinkworks.com E-Mail: bsokol-

ski@whirley.com

Info: Plastic mug manufacturer

Lights, Sound, Stage, Communications

Lightning Audio Productions

22 Wood Ave. Elysburg PA 17824

Phone: (570) 847-8185 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.lightningaudiopro.com E-Mail: ltau-

dio@aol.com

Info: Sound and light stage company.

Musical Attractions

BeeGeeZ USA

1306 Paxton Street PO Box 246 Paxtonville PA 17861

Phone: (570) 837-1612 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail: breegeezusa@gmail.com

Info: Top tribute show-band recreating the BeeGees experi-
ence with costumes, backup band, lights and sound.

Chester Reed

PO Box 562 Mansfield PA 16933

Phone: (607) 425-4100 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail: chester.reed@yahoo.com

Info: Music entertainment

Elaini Arthur

2202 Reservoir Road Hollidaysburg PA 16648

Phone: (814) 502-9387 Phone 2: (814) 650-2271 Fax:

WebSite: www.elainiarthur.com E-Mail: elaini-

music@yahoo.com

Info: Self-containing, self-booking, classic country music

show.

The Essential Elvis Tribute Show

3650 Nazareth Pike Suite 13-109 Bethlehem PA 18020

Phone: (484) 268-0754 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.bjeproductions.com E-Mail:

scott@bjeproductions.com

Info: Entertainer/Show

Greenwood Valley Boys

752 Crawley Hill Road Hughesville PA 17737

Phone: (570) 584-4396 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: greenwoodvalleyboys.weebly.com E-Mail:

wardjj@windstream.net

Info: Traditional Bluegrass, Old Time Country and Gospel

Music

See "Welcome" next page

Welcome New Associates

From "Welcome" previous page

Ryan Pelton - Tribute To The King

2870 Ambarwent R. Reynoldsburg OH 43068

Phone: (310) 490-8800

WebSite: E-Mail: blakerayne007@gmail.com

Info: Elvis Presley Tribute Artist

Phillip Fox Band

3086 Aleshire Dr Dublin OH 43017

Phone: (614) 526-9104 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail: jonathan@phillipfoxband.com

Info: The band's trademark Southern Rock-inspired sound dubbed "Country-Fried Rock'n'Roll".

Route 8, Country Music & More

818 Colbert Ave Oil City PA 16301

Phone: (814) 758-0613 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail: darlaweckerly-warren@yahoo.com

Info: Band

Security

Security Bull's Eye Security, Inc

635 Hauger Road Rockwood PA 15557

Phone: (814) 926-3135 Phone 2: Fax: (814) 926-4141

WebSite: www.bullseyesecurityinc.com E-Mail: bullseyesecurity@verizon.net

Info: Armed & unarmed security officers

Special Services

Etix

909 Aviation Pkwy, Suite 900 Morrisville NC 27560

Phone: (919) 653-0507 Phone 2: (919) 449-4642 Fax: (919) 653-0580

WebSite: www.etix.com E-Mail: paul@etix.com

Info: Online and box office ticketing software and hardware with over 15 years experience.

Starbright Media, LLC

401 E. Louther St., Suite 215 Carlisle PA 17013

Phone: (717) 512-2830 Phone 2: (717) 448-5725 Fax:

WebSite: www.starbrightmedia.net E-Mail: tpmalley@starbrightmedia.net

Info: Media services, video production, event media consulting.

Talent/Booking

Bob's Music and More

22 Maple Ave Smithsburg MD 21783

Phone: (240) 784-6230 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.bobmusicandmore@freesites.com E-Mail: bobmusicandmore@gmail.com

Info: Country music mainly booking agent and photographer

Eagle Entertainment & Production

415 Palisado Ave Windsor CT 06095

Phone: (860) 560-3784 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.eagleentertainmentproductions E-Mail: adam.miclette@gmail.com

Info: Your complete Stage, Sound, Lighting, Backline & Entertainment Talent/Booking Company

Fusion Talent Group

344 William St Stratford ON N5A445

Phone: (519) 275-1070 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.fusiontalentgroup.com E-Mail: info@fusiontalentgroup.com

Info: World class artists and attractions for fairs coast to coast.

National Entertainment Group

1299 Hill Stream Drive Geneva FL 32732

Phone: (800) 658-1273 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail: info@nationalentertainmentgroup.com

Info: Agency/Variety

IAFE NEWS

Upcoming IAFE CyberSeminars

Have you tried an IAFE CyberSeminar? Open to all IAFE members, the CyberSeminars are a way to experience educational opportunities from the comfort of your home or office. Here's what's coming up on the CyberSeminar schedule:

April 12 -- Human Resources I: Angela Nemecek, VP of human resources and administration at the Oklahoma State Fair, will lead a presentation on human resources basics. Only \$59 per site, this CyberSeminar will cover, do's and don'ts with application forms, tips for writing job descriptions, interview tips and techniques, and much more. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/CyberSeminar103>.

May 12 -- Lightning and Weather Safety: Special Presentation by NOAA: Charlie Woodrum, meteorologist and national program manager for NOAA's severe weather and lightning preparedness for outdoor venues, will discuss lightning safety and preparedness and provide attendees with a lightning aware toolkit plan as well as information on how to be "Weather Ready." This CyberSeminar is FREE to IAFE members, but limited to the first 100 registrants, so register now at <http://bit.ly/CyberSeminar0512>.

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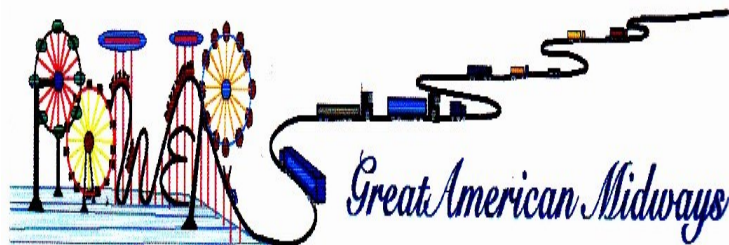
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Sue Hill - West End Fair, Gilbert, PA

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Karen and husband Kenny

2015 FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR

With a grandmother who long ago was the driving force in convincing her “board of directors” to become a part of the agriculture fair program, a father who supported her in every way for the past 35 years, and a husband who may complain a little about all the work she gets him into, the 2015 “Fair Person of the Year” is truly a workhorse in the fair industry, an industry that is her passion.

She takes on a multitude of roles and succeeds at whatever she attacks. She is organized and efficient. She works well under extreme pressure and always manages to find a solution to the most stressful problem with remarkable patience and admirable tact.

Her involvement with her home fair began as a young child, helping Grandma by taking score sheets to the office. After her grandmother Alice passed away, she assumed the job of Main Exhibit Hall chairman, which she still does today, along with being fair secretary, board member, booking agent, concession contract coordinator and helper with the catered events at the fairgrounds. She is one amazing lady.

Her involvement with PSACF started in the late 90’s. She became a Zone 4 director and soon after became involved in the Fair Queen program as the secretary and pageant coordinator, a job she still holds today. With her passion for youth and her teaching background, she has guided the competition into a successful and growing part of the State Fair Convention.

She is involved in the PA Farm Show as the Chocolate Cake and Brownie, Bar and Cookie coordinator for the PSACF statewide contests. That beautiful display that changes every year is her handiwork.

She has attended IAFE Zone Meetings in six states and the IAFE Convention in Las Vegas.

Her “real job” is with the Allan A. Myers Company, where she works in the site work department as an administration secretary. She has been married for 29 years to her “Hon” Kenny.

In case you haven’t figured it out by now, our 2015 Fair Person of the Year is Karen Dobson from the Kimberton Fair, where they make 8,400 dozen doughnuts per year.



2016 PSACF Board of Directors

The MidLife Cowboys Band



"Range Rovin" Richard Rupert

"Bluesman" Chris Trasatti

"Too Dang Cool" Ed Scholl

"Miss Alison" Alison Rupert

"Trail Boss" Gary Stoner

"Saddle Sore" Mike Celline

GOT A HANKERIN' FOR THE SINGING COWBOYS OF YESTERYEAR?

The MidLife Cowboys pack a saddlebag-full of Cowboy harmony and western swing not heard since Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. Ride the Happy Trails of the old west!

The MidLife Cowboys Band

www.MidLifeCowboys.com

(570)-768-7383

2016 PENNSYLVANIA STATE FAIR QUEEN

— Darby Kasper



Dear Pennsylvania Agricultural Community, January 23rd, the evening I was crowned the 2016 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen, is a night that I will never forget. When they first announced

my journey to PA State Fair Queen began as a young girl growing up on a small dairy farm, and once I began showing rabbits I realized just how much local fairs can impact a community. Farming has been in my family since the settlement of America, and I am proud to be able to promote an industry that is deeply related to my heritage. My goal as the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen is to share my knowledge of agriculture with everyone I interact with, as well as to encourage youth to become more involved in the agricultural community. I am incredibly excited to be able to promote all of the fairs across Pennsylvania, including the Tioga County Fair which paved the path toward my becoming the 2016 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen.

"contestant number fifty one, Darby Kasper" I was astonished. It was the culmination of an amazing weekend; not only had I witnessed the most snowfall I had ever seen; over 20 inches, but I also was given the opportunity to promote agriculture throughout the entire state! At the convention, I was able to connect with sixty other talented, knowledgeable women who were just as passionate about their local fairs as I. My jour-

FARM SHOW AWARDS

Sharon Altland and Heidi Svonavec presenting the Baking Farm show awards



Left Heidi and Sharon presenting the PAPA Preferred Chocolate Cookie award to Rodney Blystone from the North East Community Fair



Right Heidi and Sharon presenting the Apple Pie award to Dr. Michael Kowalewski from the Harford Fair



Left Heidi and Sharon presenting the PAPA Preferred Chocolate Cake award to Karen Yaw from the Lycoming County Fair



Right Heidi and Sharon presenting the Angel Food Cake award to Jim Edwards from the Bedford County Fair



The recent mild weather has me ready to begin the 2016 fair season – fortunately, it's just a couple of weeks away!

Our Commonwealth's Blue Ribbon Experience

Meanwhile, the 100th Pennsylvania

Farm Show is becoming a distant memory. It was a huge success, thanks in part to the overwhelming participation of our agricultural fairs. More than 55 fairs were in attendance at the show's opening ceremonies, and I know many more fairs were represented in the exhibitors, vendors, and visitors to the Farm Show throughout the week.

Thank you to those individuals from the fair family who volunteered at the Pennsylvania Fairs booth in the Main Hall. Throughout the week they assisted me in sharing stories about our county and community fairs and pointing out each of the photos submitted by more than 70 fairs. Displayed in Pennsylvania grown, Pennsylvania made, PA Preferred wooden frames personalized with the name of each fair and created the centerpiece of our display.

One of my favorite experiences came during the Public Officials and Fairs Breakfast. It was gratifying to see legislators and other public officials interacting with industry leaders and fair representatives. I really enjoyed the roundtable discussion with former secretaries of agriculture Kent Shellhamer, Sam Hayes, Dennis Wolff, and George Greig. Their insights, experiences, and stories were entertaining and enlightening.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the winners of our fair safety poster contest. We again focused on the importance of handwashing for staying healthy and enjoying our fairs.

Handwashing Poster Contest Results

15-18 year old category

1. Emily Harting, Denver Fair
2. Clair Sirofchuck, Westmoreland Co. Fair
3. Tiffany David, Indiana Co. Fair
3. Allison Jo Johnston, Hookstown Fair

12-14 year old category

1. Hannah Petersheim, Oley Valley Fair
2. Madison Nihart, Cambria Co. Fair
3. Lauren Gordon, Hookstown Fair

8-11 year old category

1. Carley McDowell, York Fair
2. Kara Lechman, Westmoreland Co. Fair
3. Maeve Cullen Somerset County Fair
3. Krista Scoblick, Luzerne Co. Fair

We Have Good Things Growing at Fair Convention

I've had the privilege to attend the fair convention in previous years, but never in the role of fair coordinator. It was rewarding to distribute the photos and frames from the Farm Show to representatives of your fair as a thank you for your work in strengthening your communities, developing skilled youth, and promoting agritourism in your regions. I appreciated the opportunity for my colleague Jan McNamara and I to host the breakout session on fair funding. The questions were thought provoking and the discussion insightful.

And I could not have asked for a better group of people to be snowed in with than the fairs and showmen crowd! Add to that an accommodating Hershey Lodge staff and I'll say that Winter Storm Jonas will be a fond memory for me for many years.

High-Path Avian Influenza and the Suspension

Last year at this time Pennsylvania was bracing for the worst, with the prospect of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) becoming more real with each infected flock. With that in mind, we made the tough decision to suspend poultry activities at Pennsylvania's fairs.

Fast forward to 2016: even in the middle of a prime time for HPAI to manifest itself in Pennsylvania flocks, aside from a lone outbreak in Dubois County, Indiana, the disease is quiet. Knowing this, we included this with our fair animal health rules update from earlier this year:

It remains our goal to resume poultry exhibitions in 2016. We will continue to monitor reports of avian influenza cases that occur in the United States and put our poultry industry at risk. Our final decision to lift the current suspension will be made by June 1, 2016, in cooperation with the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and will be based on an assessment of risk to Pennsylvania poultry.

You can access those updated rules by visiting www.agriculture.pa.gov and searching "fair animal health rules". Please keep this in mind as you develop your premium guides and plan for space and shows.

2015-16 Pennsylvania Budget

Secretary Redding may have said it best at the Fair Convention: "Keep the faith." This is a challenging time for everyone involved. When we get a fully-enacted 2015-16 budget, we will begin processing your reimbursements.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. I'm looking forward to catching up with each of you at the zone meetings!



MAY 5 - 7, 2016 • Concord, NH

Registration Form

Organization _____ Office Phone _____
 Contact Person _____ Email _____
 Mailing Address _____

Office Use	Delegate's Name	CFE Yes/No	5/5 Welcome Reception	5/6 Breakfast	5/6 Lunch	5/6 Cookout	5/6 Bus to fairgrounds Y or N	5/7 Breakfast	5/7 Lunch

Please let us know of any special dietary needs for delegates:

Summary of Registrations

	@ \$ 155 (Early Registration received by 4/15)	\$
	@ \$ 205 (Registration received after 4/15)	\$
	Total Enclosed	\$

Please make check payable to IAFE ZONE ONE and mail with form to:
Cindi M Jaques, CFE, Zone One Secretary, Eastern States Exposition
1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089
cjaques@thebigc.com

Please see attached page for hotel information

Courtyard Marriott Grappone Conference Center,
70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH 03301
www.CourtyardConcord.com
603-225-0303



Located off I-93, the hotel and conference center is minutes to the NH State Capitol, McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, The Capitol Center for the Arts and shopping in downtown Concord. A smoke free facility connected to the Grappone Conference Center. The IAFE Zone 1 room rate is \$109.00 plus tax. Reservations for this event need to be made on or before April 16, 2016. Group code is IAFC.

Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations



The Secretary's Notepad

— Harry Reffner

104th PSACF/PSSA Convention

The theme "We Have Good Things Growing" opened the 104th PSACF/PSSA Convention held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center January 20th – 23rd.

Registration for this year's event was over 1650. The trade show had 187 booths, 60 participants in the Queen Contest, the spouse's program which aids the Scholarship fund saw an increase over last year's proceeds, the PSACF banquet Thursday night had over 890 in attendance, the Queen banquet Saturday night had over 840 in attendance.

Workshops, seminars, and table topics were held all 4 days. Please see article ins this issue from the chairs of each committee.

Spouse's programs had the "Bag & Basket bingo, Pretty With Paper, and Color Me Calm. Wednesday night the Talent Showcase had 15 acts performing.

Thursday prior to the opening The Midlife Cowboys Band entertained followed by Dr. Rick Rigsby our keynote speaker sponsored by Powers Great American Midways, who delivered a powerful message. Prior to the PSACF banquet Hoop Dance With Theresa had a strolling act in the lobby. Collin Raye provided by Variety Attractions entertained with his hits. Awards from the Farm Show, the Legislative of the Year, and the 2015 Fair Person, Karen Dobson, were announced.

Friday had the Communication breakfast and the winners for the various categories were announced. The Memorial Service had Dan & Galla providing back ground music during the service. The Annual Meeting followed with 69 fairs in attendance. The PSSA banquet held in the evening had Phil Crosson as a strolling act in the lobby prior to the banquet. Justin Fabus Band performed for the banquet..

Saturday drawings took place for the trade show, PSACF, and PSSA. In the evening the Coronation Banquet took place, 60 young ladies vied for the title of 2016 Pennsylvania Fair Queen. Darby Kasper from the Tioga County Fair was

crowned with the title.

Preparations are under way for the 105th annual convention January 18-21, 2017 at Hershey, be sure to mark your calendars.

2016 Theme

The 2016 theme for the fair year and the fair display at the 2017 convention is "We Have Good Things Growing". The logo is on our website.

Recent Mailings

Associates members with their 2016 dues paid were mailed membership packets in February. If any associate member has not received their packet please contact the association office.

Due to the Budget impasse Fair dues **were not** mailed as in the past. Discussion regarding dues will take place at the State Board meeting in April. Further details will be provided at the Zone meetings.

2016 IAFE Zone 1 Conference

The 2016 IAFE Zone 1 Meeting will be held May 6-7 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, N.H.. The event is open to all fairs. See registration in this newsletter.

Fair Funding

Please refer to articles from Zach and our lobbyist Milliron and Goodman in this issue.

Special Baking Contests

The intent to participate in the 3 baking contests was distributed at Convention. Those fairs not attending the convention had their packets mailed. Contact the appropriate Baking Contest chairperson (Karen Dobson – PA Preferred contests or Kevin Bieber – Apple Pie or Angel Food Cake).

High-Path Avian Influenza and Poultry Suspension

See Zach's article regarding the suspension.

Changes to the 2016 Directory

Past President :

Ron Miller
612 Skyline Dr.
Bernville, PA 19506
(484) 955-8574

Butler Farm Show dates:

August 8-13

Kempton Country Fair

Not being held in 2016

Update from The Zones



Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

The Indiana County Fair received the Zone One Fair of the Year Award at our recent convention in January. They have done a great job of promoting agriculture and have the support of their community. Congratulations for a job well done.

Congratulations also goes to Michael Zaffuto from the Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair for receiving the Junior Fair Person Award at the Convention.

Now that the convention and winter are behind us, it is time to finalize our plans for our 2016 fair season.

Our spring zone meeting will be held Friday April 22 at 6:30 pm at Scrubgrass Grange. Please plan to have your fair represented at this meeting. An update from PSACF will be presented as well as information from the Department of Agriculture. Watch your mail for registration information.

Please mark your calendars now for our fall zone meeting which will be held on October 21, 2016 at Scrubgrass Grange. At our fall meeting we will be electing six directors from our zone to represent us on the executive committee. Watch for more information on the election coming in late summer. I hope to see you at the zone meeting.



Zone Two — Rod Ralston

The Zone 2 Spring Meeting will be held at the Tioga County Fairgrounds located in Whitneysville on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Registration will begin at 11 A.M. and lunch will be served at noon.

Zone II congratulates Michala Kuhlman a resident of Rome, Pennsylvania who is a scholarship recipient of one of the 2015 Monsignor Minot PSACF Scholarships. She is active in the Troy Fair of Bradford County. She is a junior fair board member and spent last year as chaplain for the FFA officer's team in Pennsylvania. She is studying Agricultural Sciences at the main campus of Penn State University.

As of this date, there is still not a budget for Pennsylvania. Continue to keep in touch with your legislators and encourage them to work with the Governor to pass a budget. Many fairs can use funds allocated to Fairs to help them operate a successful 2016 Fair.

Let's hope all the fairs have a successful

2016 Fair and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Zone meeting at the Tioga County Fairgrounds on April 23rd.



Zone Three-Debbie Stephenson

The Zone 3 Spring meeting will be hosted by the Bedford County Fair and held at the Bedford Church of the Brethren in Bedford, on April 21st.

Cost of the dinner is \$20.00. Hazel Blaney will be sending out emails with the registration information. Registration will start at 6:00 PM with dinner starting at 6:45 PM. Please send at least one person from your fair as this is an important meeting for the start of the fair season. We hope that by this time the budget impasse may be resolved. Let's keep our fingers crossed. Door prizes are greatly appreciated as well. If there are any questions, please feel free either to contact me or ask at the meeting.



Zone Four — Dr. Sally Nolt

The Fair season is rapidly approaching and planning and preparations are in progress throughout Zone 4 and Pennsylvania. I would like to invite fair-goers to visit as many fairs as possible in our own zone and throughout the state this fair season.

I would like to congratulate the Lebanon Area Fair for receiving the Zone Award for Zone 4 for 2015. Thank you for your community support and may you have a great 2016!

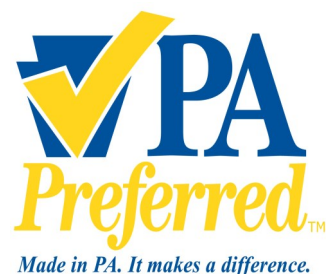
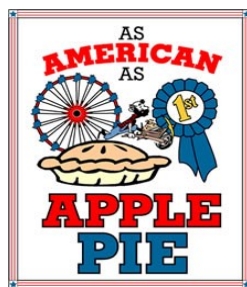
Congratulations also to Karen Dobson! Karen, Kimberton Community Fair and the PSACF Board, received the Fair Person of the Year Award. Congratulations to Karen, a deserving and hard working individual from Zone 4!

Hopefully our funding will remain intact or be increased. Milliron & Associates and our officers are hard at work for us in an effort to accomplish this goal, as the budget standstill continues. **Please contact your legislators!!**

The Spring Zone 4 Meeting will be held at Shady Maple Smorgasbord, East Earl, on Wednesday, April 20th. Reservations for dinner may be made by contacting Karen Dobson. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

At the Fall Zone 4 Meeting, Zone 4 Fair Person of the Year Award and Jr. Fair Person of the Year Award will be presented. Please consider nominating individuals from your fair. In addition, Six (6) directors will be elected to serve on the PSACF Board for a two year term. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Best of luck to all Fairs for a successful 2016 Fair Season!



SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

By Karen Dobson

The best bakers from the 2015 PA Fairs met for the ultimate “bake-off” at the 2016 PA Farm Show. Congratulations to **Harford Fair** (Apple Pie), **Bedford County Fair** (Angel Food Cake), **North East Community Fair** (Chocolate Cookie-Brownie-Bar) and **Lycoming County Fair** (Chocolate Cake) who not only had the honor of having a first-place winner but also having their contestant earn the coveted award at the memorable 100th PA Farm Show!

All 4 baking contest sponsors have renewed their commitment for 2016. Contest rules were distributed and reviewed at the Convention. Unclaimed packets were mailed to the Fairs. The 2016 information can also be downloaded from PSACF’s website: www.pafairs.org, Members/Baking Contest menu (no login required). Please make sure the person who updates your Fair’s Premium Book has received the 2016 information.

All 2016 Special Baking Contest documents and items will be distributed at the Spring Zone meetings to Fairs that returned their Intent to Participate form by the February deadline.

A few notes for the 2016 contest season:

Once a contestant wins 1st place at a 2016 Fair in a particular PSACF Special Baking contest, they are no longer eligible to compete in that same baking contest at any other Fair in 2016.

Make sure to communicate all the special baking contest rules and requirements to your Fair’s contest volunteers and judges so that winners are properly certified and are legitimately eligible to compete at the next PA Farm Show competition.

Fair contest ribbons will only be provided for the special Chocolate contests. Ribbons for Apple Pie and Angel Food Cake are at the discretion. The PA Preferred Chocolate contest forms will also require additional information about the number of counties represented by the contestants and a listing of the various PA Preferred ingredients those contestants used in their recipes. We will also be piloting an optional online submission form for those who prefer to electronically submit their contest results!

Display the Angel Food Cake and PA Preferred sponsor banners at the contest area.

Fairs only need to send in the Contest Summary for each contest. This year an online submission option will be available along with the standard paper form that can be mailed in a standard envelope. This saves the fairs time and money!

The sponsored prize monies obtained by PSACF will be sent to participating fairs in the summer. Any of this sponsored prize money that is not awarded must be returned to PSACF, Attn: Harry Reffner.

We look forward to another great year of baking! If there are any questions, contact the appropriate committee chairpersons:

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests - **Kevin Bieber** (484-256-8009, email kevin.bieber@nationalpenn.com)

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