

DATES TO REMEMBER

—2024—

April 11

PSACF Board Meeting-Pleasant Gap

April 17

Zone 4 Mtg. - Yoder's Restaurant

April 18

Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

April 19

Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair

April 20

Zone 2 Mtg. - Beaver Community

May 16—18

IAFE Zone 1 Meeting Springfield MA

October 1

Junior Fair Person of the Year apps.
Due

October 10

PSACF Board Meeting-Pleasant Gap

October 15

Showcase applications due
2025 Request for Fair info material,
PSACF Associate Dues Invoices,
PSACF/PSSA Convention material,
Trade Show apps. mailed.

October 16

Zone 4 Mtg. - Yoder's Restaurant

October 17

Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

October 18

Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair

October 19

Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair

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 is-
sue due

December 1- 4

- IAFE Convention and Trade Show
Phoenix, Arizona

—2025—

January 4 - 11

- Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 22—25

- 112th Annual Convention Hershey



VOL. 38

March 2024

NO. 1

MARLA CALICO, IAFE PRESIDENT & CEO KICKS OFF OUR CONVENTION

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

What a great PSACF/PSSA convention this year. We were so excited to have Marla Calico, President and CEO of the IAFE join us and present our Keynote Address. As always, our keynote speaker plays such a huge part to the start of our convention.

During the keynote address, I typically take notes about the message that our speaker is presenting to us. Let me just say that I was writing notes frantically as in my opinion, everything Marla was presenting was important not only to our lives in the fair industry, but also personally. Just in case you were not able to attend and hear the keynote, allow me to summarize a bit of her message.

Marla started her message by saying that we all need to understand where you are going, understand where you have been and look in the rear-view mirror. In that rear-view mirror, we can all see one common occurrence, it was called COVID. Yes, COVID had us doing things we never did before and quite frankly it had all of us not knowing what was happening next. However, as Marla put it, "we all came back stronger than ever", we had record crowds, we had been able to put creativity to use and we were able to all get together again.

Marla continued on to tell us how we all needed to adapt, then change and then repeat that cycle. We all needed to be flexible and allowed ourselves to focus on what we could do, not what we could not do. Marla continued on to say "we must change to be successful, we need to take bigger risks", I know this may sound scary, but just think of the potential rewards that your fair could receive by making some changes. I have to admit that one of my favorite parts of her words of wisdom came when she said "the future is in front of us, it is like looking out of the windshield of your car to determine where you are going next". How true !!! Sometimes we tend to look in that rear-view mirror and forget a potential bright future is ahead of us.

See Kick Off next page.....

From Kick Off previous page.....

I firmly believe that Marla gave every fair that was in attendance, something to think about. She gave you the motivation to charge forward, and do not be afraid to work together as you cannot make something happen alone. One thing that we do all have in common, we are passionate about our fair !

As for all the other seminars and table topics, in taking the feedback from you, both verbally and written, I believe our committee was spot on and provided you with a convention full of great speakers and moderators. I can tell you, we are already throwing around some ideas for the 2025 Convention. Thank you all for attending the convention and it is my wish to all of you that you have a very successful fair season.

From our President



It looks like the weather is finally turning warmer to stay, the sun is shining and the robins are in the yard! Easter is early this year, and for me that always signals the start of spring. Here's an Easter poem to help get you in the mood for warmer weather and spring flowers.

It is no longer cold or the time to snow,

At those places Easter flowers have begun to show

Lovely blooms adorning the hills.

Not too far away from the dancing daffodils.

Spring in here and also lets us know,

The ever so important Easter Day will very soon show.

And as you all know, it's never too early to start planning the next fair. It's time to move from planning to preparing, spring means grounds clean-up, maybe a new building is in your fair's plans, or barn upgrades, whatever it is, it's time to get to work! Now is the time to put all those great ideas you got at convention into practice. As directors we love to visit local fairs and see new ideas in practice - don't forget to invite us to see what your fair is doing this year.

As I've spent this last year and a few months serving as your president, I feel like I've learned something new about the fairs in Pennsylvania every day. It made me stop and think about how much we learn in one day. The most important part of this learning is taking what you learn and putting it into practice. And don't worry if you fail, never give up because **F.A.I.L.** is just your First Attempt In Learning. You know the old saying if at first you don't succeed try, try, again.

A few other acronyms to encourage your fair work in the "off season". As you're out there pounding the pavement and making the calls to get sponsors, book the entertainment, secure the rides and games, recruit enough volunteers and get all the promotional materials ready... remember **N.O.** just means Next Opportunity. Don't let that no, be the end, go on to the next business on the list. One volunteer said, "not this year", ask some who's never volunteered for your fair before. It never hurts to ask, they'll only say no, but they could say yes!

And as a fair person, you all know that the end is never really the end, in fact **E.N.D.** just means Effort Never Dies. Take what you have learned, don't give up and use all the next opportunities you can get.

Pennsylvania Fairs Flourishing with Opportunity Rooted in Agriculture.



Martha



2023 Fair Person Of The Year

By Beverly Gruber

Shirley Moyer of Oley, Pa. was named the 2023 Fair Person Of The Year Shirley, a native of Oley Township in Berks County has been involved with the Oley Valley Community Fair since entering her Sugar Pie Pumpkin when she was only 7 years old. In 1978 she was named Family Living Chairperson and soon after acquired the chairmanship of the Premium Book. She still maintains both positions as well as acquiring many other duties. Her detailed oriented style and her positive attitude make her nearly irreplaceable.

As a promoter of PSACF and agriculture, Shirley is very involved. She can be found attending the Annual Fair Convention, entering the various Communication Award categories, moderating table topics, teaching at Judges School, and helping with the Queen Program. She also has volunteered at the Pennsylvania Farm Show since 1999. Last week, she not only served as the co-

chair of the Baking Department but assisted with the Statewide Contests for Chocolate Cakes, Angel Food Cakes and Apple Pie. She is one busy lady. In 2007 she received the Zone IV Person of the Year Award and in 2012 she was given the "Friend Of The Fair" award by the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture.

Her community involvement goes beyond the Fair Industry. She has been the Treasurer of the Oley Fire Company for twenty-five years, worked with the Eastern Pa. Emergency Medical Services Council; participated in the First Responder Program and was an evaluator for EMT's. Since 1983 she has had a full-time paid position as the secretary/treasurer for Oley Township.

Shirley has a real passion for fairs and for community and is very deserving of this award

READING, Pa. – The Berks County Commissioners on Thursday presented Shirley Moyer, Oley Township, with a certificate of recognition for her long-time association with the Oley Fair, which is held each September.

Moyer, who has had a lifetime involvement with the fair, is the full-time secretary/treasurer for Oley Township.

In January, Moyer was named the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs' Person of the Year during the organization's annual convention in Hershey.

Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach said he was privileged to attend the convention and be present for the award. "What made that event unique and special, not just for me to be there, but special for Berks County, is that one of our own was recognized as the 2023 Fair Person of the Year and that is Shirley Moyer," Leinbach said. "Shirley Moyer has been involved with the Oley Fair for many, many years, as well as a number of other community events."

Leinbach quoted comments from Moyer following the award: "Agriculture is all around us each day, even though we may not live on a farm. It is in the food we eat, the milk we drink, the clothing we wear, the landscaping around our homes and many other places. This is why I feel that fairs are important, an important part of educating the public about how important agriculture is in our daily lives and the need to preserve the disappearing farmland across the nation."

Leinbach called the award a big win for Berks County, as there are 67 counties in the state.

Moyer said she was very honored by the award since there are a total of 107 fairs across the state of Pennsylvania.

"We have some great community fairs throughout Berks County, but consistently, I believe the best run and attended fair year after year over decades has been the Oley Fair," Leinbach said. "It's just very impressive to see what you do; it's a pretty incredible event and you should be proud for all of your involvement

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A Salute To Our Sponsors 111th Annual Convention

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FARM SHOW AWARDS PRESENTED BY TRACY BARONE



Left Kyra Lehman from Franklin County Fair .



Right Ray Martin from Indiana County Fair .

2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED BY SALLY NOLT



Left Chloe Bomgardner from Lebanon Area Fair.



Right Evangeline McGargle's from Huntingdon County Fair mother accepting the award.

2024 JUNIOR FAIR PERSON JORDAN ANDERSON



Jordan was unable to attend the Convention and sent the following:

Thank you so much for the honor and the recognition of JR Fair Person of the Year. I am humbled by this award and look forward to continuing my fair involvement.

Congratulations

COMMUNICATION AWARDS



(Left) PREMIUM BOOK
1st Oley Valley
Shirley Moyer
2nd Cochran
Pattie Fields
3rd Potter Judi
Turton

(Right) NON-
PREMIUM TAB-
LOID
1st Franklin
2nd Harford So-
phia Bianchi
3rd Center Coun-
ty Darlene Wolfe
Confer



(Left) POWER
POINT 1st Bed-
ford County
Rylee Grimes
2nd Oley Valley
Shirley Moyer 3rd
Fayette Jamie
Willson

(Right) PROMO-
TIONAL MATERI-
ALS
1st Center Co.
Grange Darlene
Wolfe Confer
2nd Warren Kait-
lin Sleeman
3rd Oley Valley
Marie Haas



(Left) SCRAP-
BOOK TRADI-
TIONAL
1st Warren Kaitlin
Sleeman
2nd Middletown
Grange Linda
Ochoco
3rd Luzerne
Jules Quare

(Right) SCRAP-
BOOK DIGITAL
Clearfield D.L.
Hallstrom
2nd Bedford
Rylee Grimes
3rd Allentown
Kamryn Fink



(Left) SCRAP-
BOOK COVER
TRADITIONAL
1st Schuylkill
2nd Warren Kait-
lin Sleeman
3rd Middletown
Grange Linda
Ochoco

(Right) SCRAP
COVER DIGITAL
1st Bedford Rylee
Grimes
2nd Cameron
Elyse Umble
3rd Clearfield D.L.
Hallstrom



COMMUNICATION AWARDS



(Left) BILLBOARD
1st Luzerne Jules
Quare
2nd Oley Valley
Kevin Bieber
3rd Erie Morgan
Larson

(Right) BRO-
CHURE
1st Allentown
Kamryn Fink
2nd Centre Coun-
ty Darlene Wolfe
Confer
3rd Schuylkill



(Left) CREATIVE
FAIR IDEA
1st Wst Alexan-
der Niki Ryburn
2nd Harford
Sophia Bianchi
3rd Spartansburg
Connie Sitterley

(Right) FACE-
BOOK
1st Gratz Bruce
Koppenhaver
2nd Clinton Diana
Nyman
3rd Cochran
Rita Preston



(Left) FAIR DIS-
PLAY TABLE
1st Harford So-
phia Bianchi
2nd Lycoming
Bruce Koppen-
haver
3rd Huntingdon
Alyssa Horton

(Right) PREMIUM
TABLOID
1st Bedford Rylee
Grimes
2nd McKean
3rd Elizabeth-
town Charley
Kramer



(Left) PLACEMAT
Martha
1st Elizabethtown
Charley Kramer
2nd Fayette Dan-
ica Martin
3rd Huntingdon
Alyssa Horton

(Right) FAIR DIS-
PLAY FLOOR
1st Warren Kaitlin
Sleeman
2nd Oley Valley
Leah Haas
3rd Elizabeth-
town Charley
Kramer



COMMUNICATION AWARDS



(Left) VIDEO
TAPE
1st Harford So-
phia Bianchi
2nd Oley Valley
Leah Haas
3rd Albion Fair
Elize Honeycutt

(Right) WEBSITE
1st Harford So-
phia Bianchi
2nd Washington
Todd Richards
3rd Erie –
Wattsburg Tina
Elder



BEST OF SHOW WARREN COUNTY FAIR



THE STICKER GAME WINNER'S ARE.....

By: Kevin D. Bieber

Once again, the sticker game at convention was a success and provided 6 people with some special prizes. Each of these winner's and many others took the time at convention to obtain a total of 20 stickers on their game card and then drop that card into the designated box. On Saturday afternoon in the Chocolate Ballroom, the winners were drawn.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- Sue White of the Unionville Community Fair – Hershey Weekend Getaway
- Lizzie Bailey of the Cumberland Ag Expo - \$100.00 Cash
- Eileen Cramer of the Centre County Grange Fair - \$100.00 Cash
- Ella Patton of the Jacktown Fair - \$100.00 Cash
- Jill Showalter of the Denver Fair - \$100.00 Cash
- Shirley Heidrich of the Centre County Grange Fair - \$100.00 Cash

YOUTH DAY

SPONSORED BY

WARREN COUNTY
FAIR



CONVENTION YOUTH DAY – A YOUNG PERSPECTIVE

by Courtney Gable, Kimberton Community Fair



Being a youth member in a large community can be filled with a lot of emotions. It comes with a lot of responsibility, trust, and commitment...a bunch of things that seem to scare off a 21-year-old girl. However, becoming a part of my fair as a youth member has come with much more than that. I have the ability to work as a team, create amazing memories for my community, and learn life skills that I don't think I could find anywhere else.

I have been a part of the Kimberton Community Fair for as long as I can remember. In 2021, just after COVID-19 took over our lives, I made it my mission to bring the "normal" back to my community. It felt as if I put everything into my fair for those few weeks before and the weeks after, not to mention the week of - I might have just slept there! I saw more smiling faces that week than in what felt like forever. This

led me to be nominated for the PA Junior Fair Person of the Year. Winning Zone 4 felt like the best feeling in the world, but little did I know what attending Fair Convention would be like. I was invited to the first-ever "Youth Day" and from then on, I never looked back.

Youth Day is an event put on with the help of the Pennsylvania State FFA Officers every Saturday at the annual Fair Convention. Youth Day is for the younger members of the fair community and is tailored to just that. In my experience over the past 3 years, I have learned many valuable life lessons that have helped in my own life. For example, one year we worked on interviewing and professionalism. I took the information given to me and was able to get a job in my field of interest, landing me a job as soon as I graduate college. I have learned about communications with peers, working as a team, time management, professionalism, and so much more, all while gaining friendships with people all over Pennsylvania.

I highly recommend any person to attend Youth Day, and strongly encourage fairs to allow their youth to attend so they can grow in the knowledge of fairs and agriculture and continue the traditions of the Pennsylvania fairs and the communities that surround them.



Registration Opens Feb 1 - May 3

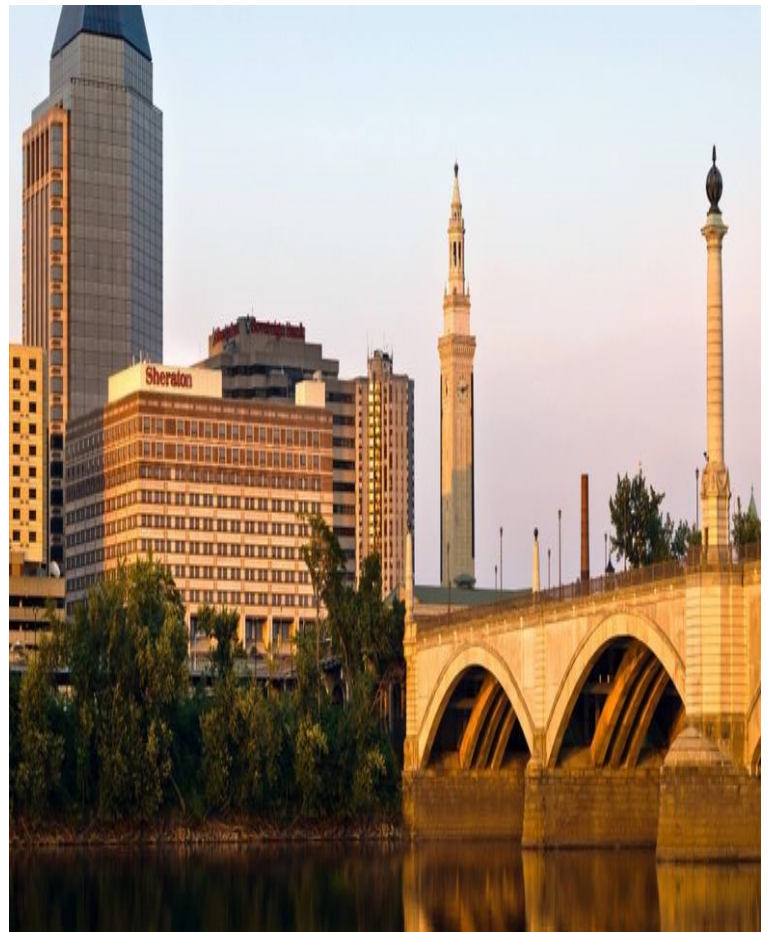
\$175 / Person thru 5/3

\$200 / Person after 5/3

\$100 / Person One-Day Registration

Sheraton Springfield • One Monarch Place

Deadline to Book Hotel: April 16





By: Maria Zaffuto

The PSACF Young Professionals had a very productive 2024 convention! We welcomed many new faces from fairs across the state of eager individuals ready to get more involved and to network with others. Thank you to everyone who attended any and all of the YP events and activities! We extend a special thank you to those who took the leap and attended their first YP sessions this year! We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors, who helped make this year's YP convention programming possible! Thank you to the Clearfield County Fair for their monetary donation, as well as to all of the fairs who graciously donated gift cards to make our YP fundraiser possible. Your sponsorship will allow us to continue our programming reaching young professionals in the industry. Thank you to all those who participated in our fundraiser! With the help of the fair donations and those who purchased tickets, we were able to raise a total of \$645 for future programming and events! We also look forward to using this money to once again give away a free 2025 convention registration to an individual 40 and under.

Other convention YP events included the Mentor Speed Dating session and the Lunch and Idea Swap. Back by popular demand, the Mentor Speed Dating session was brought back for a second year. After much idea sharing, networking and positive feedback, from both mentors and mentees, it looks like this will become an annual event! YP would like to send a sincere thank you to the following who volunteered their time to be mentors for this session: Tracy Barone, Greg Hallstrom, Sam Zaffuto, Martha Ebersole, Bev Gruber, Ben Hagen, John Burawa, Allen Bartlebaugh, Jerry Bartlebaugh, and Dick Horstman. We were also extremely fortunate to have Rey O'Day, Executive Director of the National Independent Concessionaires Association (NICA) join us as a mentor. There was so much to learn from mentors representing not only the Fair Association, but the Showmen's Association, NICA and the Department of Agriculture as well.

There was also a fantastic turn out for the Lunch and Idea Swap held on Friday of the Convention. A free lunch was offered, courtesy of our sponsors and fundraiser proceeds, to all those 40 and under who wished to attend. We were happy to have Anna Wilson, International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Staff Member, join us for lunch! After lunch, valuable conversations were had regarding industry specific topics. The session closed out with a round table style discussion, door prize giveaways and a "pen pal" information swap. Each person in attendance went home with another YP member's contact information from a different part of the state. The excitement for the industry could be felt throughout the room!

For those 40 and under, we encourage you to join the PSACF Young Professionals Initiative Facebook group page. We've also had some discussion about having a possible Zoom/Webinar session in the late spring before fair season, as well as in the fall, after fair season. It would be a great opportunity to stay connected and share ideas. Stay tuned for possible future opportunities! If you are age 40 and under, we welcome you to join us! To be included in future YP Events and to stay up to date, please email Maria Zaffuto at mariazaffuto@gmail.com to have your name added to our email list! As your IAFE Zone 1 Young Professional Steering Committee Representative, I personally invite you to get involved with many upcoming IAFE YP virtual and in person events offered to members around the world. This is a valuable opportunity to get more involved and to learn from individuals in the industry. Mark your calendars for our upcoming Advisor Hour happening virtually on March 22nd. Please reach out to Maria for additional information, or visit the IAFE YP website at- <https://fairsandexpos.com/Young-Professionals/>. I also welcome you to attend our IAFE Zone 1 Meeting located in Springfield, Massachusetts, May 16-18. We will be hosting YP events throughout the weekend! Wishing you all happy fair planning and a very successful fair season!

Celebrating Excellence: Robert Holmes Honored with Prestigious Awards



We are thrilled to announce that Robert Holmes, the founder and President of Spectrum Weather and Specialty Insurance, Inc., has been recognized with the inaugural Associate of the Year award by the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE). This prestigious accolade was presented at the IAFE's annual convention last November, celebrating Robert's exceptional contributions and steadfast commitment to the fair and exposition industry.



Robert's dedication and innovative approach have not only propelled Spectrum Weather and Specialty Insurance, Inc. to new heights but have also significantly impacted the broader community of fairs, festivals and expositions. His expertise and enthusiasm for protecting event organizers through specialized insurance solutions have set a benchmark for excellence within the industry.

Further elevating this moment of pride, Robert was also bestowed with the Associate of the Year award from the Wisconsin Association of Fairs (WAF) at their annual convention in January 2024. This back-to-back recognition underscores his influential role and exceptional service in supporting and safeguarding the interests of fairs across Wisconsin and beyond.

Expressing his sentiments, Robert stated, "I am both humbled and honored to receive these distinguished awards. It is a privilege to be acknowledged by peers and colleagues who share a common passion for the vibrant world of fairs and other outdoor gatherings. These honors reinforce our commitment at Spectrum Weather and Specialty Insurance to innovate and provide the highest quality of service to our clients and the fair community."

These accolades reflect not only Robert's professional excellence but also his personal commitment to fostering growth, ensuring safety, and enhancing the enjoyment of fairs and expositions for everyone involved. His achievements inspire all of us at Spectrum Weather and Specialty Insurance, Inc. to continue our pursuit of excellence and our dedication to the communities we serve.

Please join us in congratulating Robert Holmes on these remarkable achievements and in celebrating his unwavering dedication to excellence in the fair and exposition industry.

A business card for Rick Modesitt Associates, Inc. The card has a red and orange gradient background. On the left, there is a large, stylized logo for 'Rick Modesitt' in yellow script, with 'ASSOCIATES, INC.' in black block letters below it. To the right of the logo, the name 'Rick Modesitt' is printed in large, bold, yellow sans-serif font, with 'President' in a smaller, bold, yellow sans-serif font below it. Further down on the right, the contact information is listed in white sans-serif font: 'P.O. Box 2206', 'Parkersburg, WV 26102', 'Phone (304) 422-4035', 'Cell (304) 481-4035', 'Fax (304) 428-7240', 'RMApresents@aol.com', and 'www.RMApresents.com'. At the bottom center, there is a small blue and white Facebook logo. To the right of the Facebook logo, the text 'Facebook.com/RMApresents' is written in white sans-serif font.

PA Fairs Special Baking Contest

March 2024

Submitted by Karen Dobson

Talented youth bakers took the winner's circle by storm this year at the snowy 2024 PA Fairs Special Baking state finals at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Congratulations to (clockwise from upper left)

13-year-old Madison Link from Waterford Community Fair for her winning "J's Slice of Heaven Chocolate Cake";

16-year-old Kamea Pierce from Franklin County Fair for her "Summer Berry Lemon Cheese-cake Bars".

Lucinda Donough from Juniata County Fair for her Blue Ribbon Apple Pie.

13-year-old Logan McGlinn from the Indiana County Fair for his *Angel Food Cake with Zesty Lemon Buttercream Icing*; and



The PA Fairs Special Baking Contest Committee is pleased to announce that all four contests will be conducted in 2024. The Pennsylvania Egg Farmers will again be sponsoring the fair premiums and the PA Farm Show competition for the Angel Food Cake contests. PA Preferred® contests will remain a sponsor for the Junior Baking Cookies, Brownies and Bars competitions. PSACF will be sponsoring the PA Farm Show prizes for the Homemade Chocolate Cake and the Blue Ribbon Apple Pie contests.

Fairs that wish to participate this year must have registered to be included in the 2024 database by February 15. This ensures that your baking coordinator will receive notifications and updates throughout the year.

The 2024 Special Baking Contest Packet can be accessed from the website - <https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/baking-contest>

This packet contains participation instructions and the current contest rules to be used at all participating 2024 fairs. Additional information such as press releases and PA Farm Show contest instructions for winners will be distributed at the spring zone meetings and the posted on the pafairs.org website.

Reminders for 2024!

- All ribbons for the 2024 fair contests are the responsibility of the fair. There are no sponsored ribbons provided.
- There are two sponsor banners issued by the Special Baking Contest Committee that must be displayed at the fair: "PA Preferred Junior Baking" and "Angel Food Cake". Banners for the other two baking contests are at the discretion of the fair.
- The PA Preferred Junior Baking contest is only for youth ages 8-18 at the time of the fair. The Angel Food Cake, Homemade Chocolate Cake, and Blue Ribbon Apple Pie contests are open to adults and youth contestants.

See Baking next page.....

.....From Baking previous page

- The PA Preferred Junior Baking entries must be either cookies, brownies, or bars only. Recipes must include a minimum of two (2) PA Preferred or locally produced ingredients. The recipes must specifically list the PA Preferred ingredient and its source.
- Angel Food Cake recipes shall include eggs that were produced in Pennsylvania, if possible.
- Contestants for all special baking contests must be amateur bakers. Anyone who bakes for a bakery business, derives a consistent income from baking, and/or advertises set pricing for purchasing their baking is considered a “professional” baker and should not compete in the fair contests.
- Every participating fair must submit the Contest Summary Report by November 15 so that the PA Special Baking Contest committee knows who the eligible contestants are for the state competition at the 2025 PA Farm Show. Summary reports are requesting winners’ email addresses so we can contact them directly with PA Farm Show information.
- The Farm Show Certification Entry forms for the fair winners are now handled by the PA Special Baking Contest Committee. Fairs will be contacted if no summary report has been received within thirty (30) days of their fair.



Lunch and Idea Swap held on Friday of the Convention



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Sam Zaffuto presenting the Zone 1 award to Venango County Fair, accepting Penny Buckholtz.



Ben Haagen presenting the Zone 2 award to Clinton County Fair, accepting Philip Courter and Jim Wech.



Debbie Stephenson presenting the Zone 3 award to Mountain Area Fair, accepting Tom Murray.



Kevin Bieber presenting the Zone 4 award to the Mason Dixon Fair, accepting Lori Robbins.

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Whoever first said that “time flies” wasn’t kidding. I can’t believe we’re on the edge of the 2024 fair season. I’m really looking forward to seeing all the amazing entries, meeting fairgoers and volunteers, and of course hugging all the animals I possibly can once again this year.

I was going through my 2024 Farm Show photos and came across the one featured above of the PA Preferred Junior Baking Contest winners. There were nearly eighty entries this year. If you’ve ever wondered about the waning interest of today’s youth when it comes to the fairs, have no fear, the next generation is eager to participate. While some of these folks will continue to enter baked goods, home products, and show animals well into the future, many are looking for other ways they can give back to their “home fair.”

There’s no time like the present to identify potential youth volunteers that will become board members in the future. The next generation can bring a lot to the table. With a little training, guidance, and experience they’ll be prepared to serve your fair in years to come. If your fair doesn’t already have one, you should consider forming a youth fair board. Engaging these youth early will help them learn existing processes and provide much needed help in the months leading up to fair week. It will give them an opportunity to get to know how the board functions and how the fair operates. You can lean on their strengths and ask them to help out in “uncharted” territory. One fair I know has tasked one of their youth members with entering the capital improvement grant application into the EGrants system. Another has given several members social media responsibilities.

Consider finding little ways to include the next generation in your fair planning this year. They’ll be a big help, and will give you more time to actually enjoy your fair. Who knows, maybe you’ll have some free time and get to hug a few animals yourself! See you on the fairgrounds!

Poultry and Swine

Please be sure to familiarize your fairs with the 2024 Animal Health Rules for the Fairs which can be found on PDA’s website. Here are a few highlights:

- **Poultry:** *The General Quarantine Order; Exhibition of Ornamental Feathers, Unfertilized Eggs, Market Poultry and Feathers used for Arts and Crafts has been revised for the upcoming fair season; it will be published in the PA Bulletin on March 30th. Fairs will be required to comply with the rules and regulations set forth in the revised order. Additional information will be provided at the Spring Zone Meetings.*
- **Swine:** *The Swine Quarantine order is still in place. Swine Health Monitor Training is offered by Penn State Extension and must be renewed annually. Breeding swine and market swine cannot be on the fairgrounds at the same time. Breeding swine must be shown first, market swine second. All marked swine must go directly to slaughter following exhibition at the fairs. Swine CVIs may now be dated within 30 days of a fair/show. This allows for more time than the previous 14-day CVI.*
- **Rabbits:** *There is no current prohibition of out-of-state rabbits for exhibition at Pennsylvania Fairs. Sections 15 & 16 of the 2024 Animal Health Rules for PA Fairs contain both requirements and recommendations related to rabbit exhibition at the fairs.*

Fair Capital Improvement Project Applications

Applications are due by **June 30, 2024**. We will open the grant application website on **April 1st**. Here are a few tips and reminders:

- Please don’t wait until the week before or the day of to begin and submit your applications.
- The project and authorization to submit the application must be approved at a fair board meeting and the minutes from the meeting must be uploaded with the application. The signature page must be downloaded, printed out, signed, scanned back in, and uploaded with the application.
- Be sure to indicate the priority order of your project in the “project name”. For example: “*Priority 1 Project: Horse Arena Roof Replacement.*”
- Remember, expenses related to your 2024 project application must be made after **July 1, 2024**. Expenses made prior to that will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Message from Our Associates



Happy March everyone! It appears our Punxsutawney Phil may have been right this year with his prediction for an early spring.

It was great to see everyone at the 2024 PSACF/PSSA convention at Hershey. Welcome to all new associate members!

The Wednesday evening showcase of talent, a highlight of the convention, delivered an entertaining line-up from Jimmy Buffet-inspired Suns of Beaches Band to John Bundy Marionettes, strong country singers, a Tribute to Roy Orbison, and circus performer Boston Bachert defied gravity in the Cyr wheel. There was something for every fair.

Lightning Audio Productions again was on hand to provide lights and sound for the week as well as to present this year's "Pa Fairs on Parade" they edited and compiled creating a colorful collage of fairs across PA.

The Ultimate Disney Tribute Band - The Little Mermen, was enjoyed during the Opening Celebration. Sponsored by Variety Attractions, country singer Darryl Worley, provided entertainment at the PSACF banquet and Desire, a professional Doo Wop group had everyone in the '50s spirit at the PSSA banquet, sponsored by Anjoli Productions.

The Trade Show was bustling and crowded all 3 days. On behalf of the associates, we thank everyone for your business. We are there for you and we appreciate everyone who came through the Trade Show picking up business cards, promotional materials and who selected from the very finest in professional goods and services.

A big thank you to Dick Horstman and his committee for all the work before, during and after the convention to make the trade show such a success. Wholesale distributor W. A. DeHart offered complimentary coffee (and more) daily to all exhibitors and everyone who came through the Trade Show. And thank you to the fair board for sponsoring the "Sticker Game", a popular tradition of recent years.

All associate members were mailed membership packets in February. If any associate member has not received his/her package, please contact Harry at hreffner@centurylink.net.

All the best! Galla dangalla@uplink.net

Welcome New Associates!

Associations

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

510 S. 31st St. Camp Hill PA 17011

Phone: (717) 761-2740

WebSite: www.pfb.com E-Mail: ntdembeck@pfb.com

Info: Agriculture advocacy, Neil is Regional Organization Director of region 2.

Attractions, Animal/Zoo

Aim High Canines

72 Peterborough Rd Hancock NH 03449

Phone: (603) 387-6068

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

Info: High flying Frisbee and trick dogs!

Attractions, Animal/Zoo

Phydeaux's Flying Flea Circus & Wahoo Medicine

206 Morris St Phillipsburg NJ 08265

Phone: (908) 329-0483

E-Mail: flyingfleas@yahoo.com

Info: Audience interactive comedy street theater. Acrobat fleas & snake oil. Mischief, Merriment, Mayhem. Pure PT Barnum Hyperbole!

Carnivals (rides)

TDK Entertainment LLC

1325 Scotland Ave Ext Punxsutawney PA 15767

Phone: (814) 590-9443

E-Mail: tkrise@krisetran.com

Info: Carnival rides & concessions

Miscellaneous Concessions

Goode Concessions Olivias I Got it

PO Box 376 Collins, NY 14034

Phone: (716) 560-5543 Phone 2: (716) 548-6765

Info: Olivia's I Got it, food concessions, Ice Cream mini donut

Musical Attractions

Bat Out of Hell PA

66 Townsend Ave Swoyersville PA 18704

Phone: (570) 760-7341 Phone 2: (570) 779-0695

WebSite: <https://www.batoutofhellpa.com/> E-Mail: batoutofhellpad@gmail.com

Info: Tribute show to Meat Loaf.

Talent/Booking

Keefer Entertainment

945 Lewisberry Rd Lewisberry PA 17339

Phone: (717) 743-6692

WebSite: www.keefer-entertainment.com E-Mail: keeferentertainment2@gmail.com

Info: Management of several solo artist, duo's, trio's and bands

Other

Spring Mount Percherons

1793 Ridge Road Warriors Mark PA 16877

Phone: (814) 931-9377 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.springmountpercherons.com E-Mail: www.springmountpercherons.com

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From the PA State Fair Queen



Hello! My name is Erica Teagarden and I am the 20-year-old daughter of Chad and Bobbie Jo Teagarden of Claysville, Washington County. I have lived on my family's multi-generational farm for the past six years and spent most of my childhood there raising animals with my two brothers and sister. We started raising and showing dairy heifers and eventually got into market lambs, goats, hogs, and steers. I was a member of the West Alexander Ag 4-H club and had the opportunity to serve a year as President. Although I enjoyed 4-H, my passion was in FFA. I attended McGuffey High School and was a member of the McGuffey FFA chapter. During my time in FFA, I had many opportunities to expand my leadership and career readiness skills and

overall create so many connections across the organization. I spent four years as an officer and was Reporter, Treasurer, and President. I loved to do every Career and Leadership Development Event that I could. This included Vet Skills, Livestock Judging, Milk Evaluation, Floriculture, and my favorite, Public Speaking. In FFA, I also found my passion for wanting to advocate and educate others on the agricultural industry. Because of my time in FFA and the people that I met, I am now at Penn State studying Agricultural and Extension Education with hopes of becoming a High School ag teacher upon graduation.

My family has always been involved in our local fairs. When my mom was younger, my great-grandparents would take her, along with her aunts and uncles, to show dairy cattle around Washington and surrounding counties. Even before I was born, my family knew that fairs would be a big part of my life. I have been attending Pennsylvania fairs since I was just a few months old. The first fair I attended was the Jacktown Fair, in Green County. At just five months old, I got to ride the Merry-Go-Round with my dad. In Washington County we have two fairs, The Washington County Agricultural Fair and The West Alexander Fair. The first memories that I have of the Washington County Fair are with my grandfather when I was about four or five. He would take me to the fair, let me ride all the rides, and of course, see the animals. It wasn't until I was nine that I began showing at the fair, being more involved in other events, and which eventually led me to run for fair queen. As for the West Alex Fair, that is a different story. I have only missed one year of the fair in the last 20 years and that is because it was canceled in 2020.

I grew up just a mile up the road and my mom was a vendor there. I spent countless hours from Labor Day to Saturday running around the fairgrounds. Although I was never West Alexander Fair Queen, a big part of me will always be with that fair. So many of my fondest memories are of these fairs and the people that they have brought into my life. In recent years, I have gotten to visit some other fairs around the state and I am excited to add more to my list during the year ahead of me.

I owe a lot to the people who have supported my journey not only as fair queen but also just in life. I know I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for them. First, my fair and especially my fair Queen coordinator, Denise, have allowed me to have this wonderful opportunity. My mom and dad have always pushed me to do my best and been there for me even if they didn't know what was going on. My ag teachers have helped me get outside my comfort zone and transform from a young and shy girl to who I am now. My friends and family have always been beside me giving advice where they can and just showing their support in every way possible.

It has been several weeks since I was crowned and sometimes I am still in utter disbelief. This has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember. I would tell anyone who gave me the opportunity that I was going to be the PA State Fair Queen one day and now that I am here I am excited to see where it takes me.

Yours truly, Erica Teagarden

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Pennsylvania

Fair Queen Program

March 2024
Submitted by Karen Dobson

The PA Fair Queen Program held its annual meeting on February 27. The following members were elected as officers for 2024: Judy Kmetz, Chairman; Jami Kempfer, Vice-Chairman; Karen Dobson, Secretary and Ruth Trumbetta, Treasurer. The following appointments were made: Karen Dobson and Amy Utegg, State Contest Coordinators; Bryndil Kemler, Events and Publicity Coordinator; and Amy Hawn, Jami Kempfer, Judy Kmetz, and Ruth Trumbetta, Fundraising Committee.

Zones 2 and 4 are reminded to elect a Director to the PA Fair Queen Program Board at the October 2024 fall zone meetings. The Director's term runs March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2027.

Upcoming Events!

T-Shirt Quilt project - The Queen Board is working on a special Fair T-Shirt Quilt. It will be made from t-shirts donated by PSACF member fairs and then auctioned at the 2025 PA Fair Queen Coronation Banquet. Fairs wishing to participate in this project are asked to bring their donated t-shirt to the spring Zone meeting and give it to PSACF President Martha Ebersole or your zone's Queen Board representative. The t-shirts do not need to be from this year; any fair shirt is acceptable. However, it is requested that shirts be adult-sized Small or Medium, if available. If the t-shirt has a design on the front and back, please indicate which side you would want to show on the quilt; otherwise, the fundraising committee will make that decision. Any fair t-shirt donations are greatly appreciated. We are also seeking sponsorships to offset the costs of the sewing and quilting process. Questions about this project can be directed to PA Fair Queen Board Vice-Chairman Jami Kempfer, email: jrkemphe@gmail.com.

The PA Fair Queen Advocacy Day - Planning is in the works to take fair queens to Capitol Hill! The first-ever Fair Queen Advocacy Day will be a voluntary event this fall allowing PA's local and county fair queens the unique opportunity to schedule a legislative meeting with their district's legislators, introduce themselves, and talk about their fair, community and local agriculture. A tour of the Capitol may also be an option. Each participating fair queen must have at least one adult chaperone. The event will take place on a weekday. Transportation costs, meals, and scheduling will be the responsibility of the fairs and/or its fair queen committee. Sponsorships will be available to those interested in assisting with this event, including sponsoring a group lunch and speaker presentations on leadership and advocacy. Queen Coordinators will be asked to complete an Intent Form so that the Queen Program can gauge the level of interest in this event. A Zoom meeting will be scheduled for participants before the event date to coach on legislative topics, answer logistical questions, and discuss other pertinent details. The PA Fair Queen Program sincerely thanks Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations Executive Director Lizzie Bailey and government relations and advocacy firm Milliron Goodman's Senior Associate Kerry Lange for taking the lead on planning this event.

See Fair Queen Program next page

...Queen Program continued

2024 PA Fair Queen Coronation

Washington County Agricultural Fair Queen Erica Teagarden of Washington County was crowned the 2024 Pennsylvania Fair Queen on Saturday, January 20 at the 111th annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association.

Teagarden was one of 58 contestants who were evaluated by a panel of three judges on their written and speaking skills, knowledge of the fair and agricultural industries, and their poise and personal presentation in business attire.

Erica is the daughter of Chad and Bobbie Jo Teagarden. Agriculture and the Washington County Agricultural Fair have always been an important part of her life. She was an active member in the McGuffey FFA Chapter, serving as Reporter, Treasurer and President. Erica enjoys participating in the Washington County Agricultural Fair by showing dairy cattle and market livestock. She is currently attending The Pennsylvania State University majoring in Agricultural and Extension Education with plans to pursue a career as a high school agricultural educator. She is also involved in Ag Advocates, TeachAg Avengers, PSU FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter, and the Beta Sisterhood. Erica had the honor of serving three years as a Pennsylvania Farm Show Junior Committee Member and will serve an unprecedented fourth year during her time as the 2024 PA Fair Queen.



*2024 PA Fair Queen Erica Teagarden
and Alternate Elise Honeycutt*

Albion Fair Queen Elise Honeycutt, 17, of Erie County was selected as 2024 Alternate. The daughter of Anthony and Mary Beth Honeycutt, Elise is currently a junior in high school where she is the Albion FFA chapter reporter and previously served on the chapter's Junior officer team. She is also an active member of her 4-H club, Beefers Plus, where she served as the vice president. She has a passion for showing lambs and working at her grandparents' Christmas tree farm, Rick Walker Farms. In her spare time, Elise raises and trains service dogs for New Hope Assistance Dogs.

The other top five finalists were Butler Fair Queen Kendyl Steighner; Juniata County Fair Queen Kera Bentz; and Southern Lancaster County Fair Queen Keeley Kreider.

Torrence Brown, from Cumberland County and representing the Cumberland Ag Expo, was chosen as Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.

"Our fairs wouldn't be what they are without the youth that take on the role of being ambassadors for their fairs," said Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. "While each contestant represented a different fair, they all came together to represent our shared agriculture industry. It is such an honor to see how our youth are able to grow as leaders through opportunities such as the State Fair Queen competition."

Each of the 58 contestants prepared a brief speech highlighting why people should come to her county or community fair and wrote an essay about the fair's significance in her local community. They were each interviewed by the panel of three judges and gave a stage introduction during the PA Fairs' annual banquet. The top five finalists were chosen and gave impromptu answers on how they would market a new fair event to encourage more youth participation. Teagarden answered that she would expand on the school visits she did as the Washington County Agricultural fair queen. "One way I hope to encourage more youth participation overall is by going into schools and classrooms, talking to the kids," said Teagarden. "It is so impactful to be one of those people that goes into the classroom, especially when you're wearing a big shiny crown on your head...they pay attention to you!"

See Fair Queen Program next page



L-R: Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding; Miss Congeniality Torrence Brown, Cumberland Ag Expo; 2024 PA Fair Queen Erica Teagarden, Washington County Agricultural Fair; 2024 PA Fair Queen Alternate Elise Honeycutt, Albion Area Fair; Finalist Keeley Kreider, Southern Lancaster County Fair; Finalist Kera Bentz, Juniata County Fair; and Finalist Kendyl Steighner, Butler Fair.

The 2024 Queen and Alternate will travel the state this year representing Pennsylvania’s rich agricultural heritage and serving as an ambassador for the fair association.

The PA Fair Queen Program wishes to thank its 2024 sponsors and everyone who supported its fundraising efforts at the convention.

Photos courtesy of Tim McGowan Studios

YOUR DIRECTORS

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HARRISBURG OVERVIEW

Budget

While the 2023-24 budget was just recently completed, Governor Josh Shapiro delivered the 2024-25 budget proposal on Tuesday, February 6th. This officially started the next budget season.

The Governor's 2024-25 budget proposal is a \$48.3 billion plan, a 7.5% increase over last year's budget. The plan does not create broad-based taxes. However, the plan would pull \$3 billion out of the state's rainy-day fund and would create taxes on potentially legalized recreational marijuana and casino-style video games.

In addition to the pitch to legalize recreational marijuana, Governor Shapiro also called for \$1.6 billion in new funding for K-12 basic education, \$3 million to support a new student meal program for the summer months, and an increase of the minimum wage to \$15/hour beginning on July 1, 2024.

For the past few weeks, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees hosted budget hearings with the state agencies. Budget hearings allow each state agency the public opportunity to promote their successes over the past year, discuss upcoming projects and costs, and pending legislation with legislators. Legislators will incorporate this feedback into the ongoing budget negotiations.

House of Representatives

The House continues to have very close margins between the number of Democrats and Republicans. Without a clear majority, it's difficult for either caucus to successfully pass controversial bills through the chamber. So far this session, whenever a split ratio occurred, voting session was put on hold in the House.

House Democrats recently picked up a vacant seat (Galloway, D-Bucks) and brought their number back up to 102.

Shortly after that special election, Representative Joe Adams (R-Pike) announced his resignation. The election to fill that seat is scheduled for April 23rd (Primary Day). Republicans currently hold 100 seats.

Senate

Senate Republicans continue to hold the majority with 28 seats. Senate Democrats have 22 seats.

All bills have until November 30th, 2024 to be signed into law, otherwise they are effectively dead and have to restart the legislative process in the next session. **So far, less than 3% of introduced bills have made it across the Governor's desk and signed into law.**

BUDGET LINE ITEM

Governor Shapiro's proposed 2024-25 budget fully-funded the county fairs at \$4,000,000.

The Milliron Goodman team will now work to ensure that the line item remains fully-funded in the final budget package that is passed by the House and Senate.

LEGISLATION

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

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

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

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

See M&G for continuation next page.....

From M&G previous page.....

Solicitation of Funds for Volunteer Fire Companies

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

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

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

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

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

Increasing the Minimum Wage

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

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

The buzz surrounding this bill quickly died off during the budget discussions last year. However, the conversation has restarted with Governor Shapiro's 2024-25 budget proposal.

Protecting the Public from Contact with Wild Animals

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

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

The restrictions would not apply to a nationally recognized circus.

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

Banning Traveling Animal Acts in Pennsylvania

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

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

See M&G next page.....

From M&G previous page.....

LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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

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

Before the holidays, the caucus chairs, PSACF, and our team held an introductory meeting. We identified a few goals to work on throughout the next year:

Provide continued education for fellow legislators about the importance of fairs for our local communities;

Encourage legislators to visit their local fairs and refresh relationships; and

Support the fairs with annual budget line-item initiatives.

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

Cornucopia

PSACF plans to participate in the annual Cornucopia event on March 18th at 5pm.

This is another opportunity for PSACF to showcase the industry with legislators in the State Capitol. Both the House and Senate are scheduled to be in session, so there will likely be plenty of opportunities to interact with our state's decision-makers. It's also not unusual for PDA Secretary Russell Redding and staff to attend the event.

Milliron Goodman will attend and help make introductions.

As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to represent you in the 2024-25 legislative session.

IN MEMORIAM



C. Sherman Allen, Conneaut Lake, Sadsbury Twp. passed away unexpectedly on Monday, February 12, 2024.

In 1989, he formed C. Sherman Allen Auctioneer & Associates.

Sherman began hauling livestock at 16 years of age while running the fair circuit showing swine and continuing as a 4-H member, 4-H leader, and Chairman of the 4-H & Open Swine Departments at the Crawford County Fair. He has been a member of the Crawford County Fair Board since 1992., he was elected to the State Board of PSACF in 2011.

Sherman was elected Crawford County Commissioner serving two terms between 2008-2015.

Sherman volunteered his auctioneering services for the N.W. PA All Breed Calf Sale, 4-H FUND for Youth Auction, 4-H Cheese Yield Auction and 4-H & FFA Market Livestock Sale, Etc. He has been a buyer of livestock at the Crawford County Fair since 1978.

With the aid of Kerry Lange the following invitation was sent to our Legislators:

RE: INVITATION TO JOIN THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CAUCUS

Dear Legislators,

We would like to cordially invite you to join the newly established Pennsylvania Fair Caucus. We are bi-partisan and bicameral and have an overall mission of supporting the state's fair industry.

Pennsylvania is home to over 100 thriving county fairs. Each fair, no matter the size, is critical for our local communities and helps promote tourism, foster economic growth, and support positive community engagement. According to the latest study by the Shepstone Management Company titled "Economic Impact of Pennsylvania's Fair Industry," fairs have an overall economic impact of \$126 million in the state. They provide over 6,000 part-time jobs and 1,700 full-time jobs. And just as importantly, they are renowned for giving back to their communities. Over 80% of fairs fundraise for local fire and ambulance services.

Fairs also play a critical role in Pennsylvania's culture. Fairs are nostalgic and can remind us of our childhood summer days and allow us to revisit years later with our families and friends. And of course, fairs often provide an educational component for attendees by showcasing the state's agriculture and horticulture achievements.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act of 1986 created the Fair Fund with the goal of improving and investing in our fairs. This fund is administered by the Department of Agriculture and allows our fairs and agricultural societies to apply for financial assistance with general operating costs as well as building and ground improvement projects. In addition, youth organizations, including FFA and 4-H, have opportunities for reimbursement. We are proud and encouraged that legislators, on both sides of the aisle, have generously supported this grant program in the state budget for almost 40 consecutive years!

Now is the time to boost our support and maximize our representation of the fairs with a robust Pennsylvania Fair Caucus. To begin, we outlined a few goals:

- Provide continued education for fellow legislators about the importance of fairs for our local communities;

- Encourage legislators to visit their local fairs and refresh relationships; and

- Support the fairs with annual budget line-item initiatives.

Our invitation is timely, as this evening, the fairs will be showcased at the annual Cornucopia event in the Capitol. We encourage you to visit their display and learn about all they have to offer.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and encourage you to join the Pennsylvania Fair Caucus.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania Fair Caucus Chairs

Senator Lynda Culver (R-Columbia)

Representative Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia)

Representative Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin)

Update from The Zones

1

Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

The Venango County Fair received the Zone One Fair of the Year Award that was presented at our convention in Hershey. Congratulations for promoting the education and health of young people, supporting the 4-H program and sponsoring activities for youth and their families.

Now that winter is just about behind us, it is time to finalize plans for our 2024 fair season.

Our spring zone meeting will be held on Friday April 19 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds beginning at 6:30 pm. An update from PSACF will be presented as well as information from the Department of Agriculture. Registration information will be coming soon.

Looking ahead to our fall meeting, 2024 is an election year for Executive Committee members. It's not too early to begin thinking about nominating someone from your fair to represent zone one on the Executive Committee.

Remember about the Msgr. John Mignot Memorial Scholarship program. If you have college age students involved with your fair, please be sure they apply for our scholarship. PSACF awards six \$1,000 scholarships annually. Details about the scholarship program are on the PSACF website: pafairs.org.

Zone One recently lost one of agriculture's staunchest advocates. C. Sherman Allen was an Honorary Director of PSACF, having served as a director for many years. He was a proponent of youth development within agriculture and previously served as the chairman of the Junior Fair Person Committee. His auctioneering services will be missed at the Annual Queen Coronation and at the PSSA banquet where he helped these associations raise thousands of dollars for many years. The promotion of fairs and agriculture was very important to him. May you rest in peace, Sherm!

2

Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

Good day to everyone.

As I sit here writing this letter, it is a very foggy morning in the Northeast.

It is March 6th and 42 degrees. March is starting out very rainy, but warm, and without much snow. Everyone will be looking around their fairgrounds and getting ready for the Fair Season.

We had a great convention. Kudos to all that made it happen.

I would like to thank Ben Haagen for presenting Clinton County Fair as Zone Two Fair of the Year.

Don't forget to submit Msgr. John Mignot Scholarship applications by June 30th. Send applications to: Roger Dirlam – 250 Sunrise Ave., Honesdale, PA 18431.

We will see you on April 20th at the spring meeting for Zone Two at Beaver Community Fair in Beaver Springs. The fall meeting will be at Bloomsburg Fair on October 19th. There will be an election at the fall meeting for six Zone directors to serve this Zone for the next two years. I hope everyone stays healthy and well. I will see you soon.

3

Zone Three— Debbie Stephenson

It seems like yesterday we were all getting ready for convention boy time does fly! Hope everyone

Is doing well and are gearing up for an early spring. Spring zone meeting is on April 18, at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds more to come on that event really soon. Please have one person from each of your fairs in attendance and if not we will keep you updated. Congratulations to the Washington Fair as their queen Erica Teagarden was crowned our Pa State Fair Queen for 2024! Also congratulations to Shirley Moyer for the Fair Person of the Year! A special congratulation to our Zone 3 fair of the year award that is the Mt Area Fair of Farmington they worked really hard for this achievement as it is always a tough decision to make. Hope to see you all soon!

4

Zone Four— Kevin Bieber

It was great to catch up with all our fair friends from Zone 4 and beyond at convention. I hope everyone was able to leave Hershey with a new

idea or something that will help your fair as you start preparing for your 2024 fair season.

Thank you to Chloe Bomgardner of the Lebanon Fair for a great year of representing our organization as the PA State Fair Queen. You made Zone 4 proud as well as the whole PSACF. Thank you Chloe. Also, congratulations to the Mason Dixon Fair for being named the Zone 4 Fair of the Year. This fair has worked hard at overcoming some obstacles as well as continuing to charge forward with new ideas. Another congratulation goes to Shirley M. Moyer of the Oley Valley Community Fair on her selection of being named the 2023 Fair Person of the Year. Zone 4 has lots to be proud of.

As we all start to prepare for our 2024 fair, it is our hope that you will take some time and attend the Zone 4 spring meeting at Yoder's Restaurant on April 17th. Please plan on joining us. Karen will send out the invitations in the near future. Also, please do not forget to invite your legislators to your fair. You should be proud of what you are doing and what you have done, show them how hard you work to promote agriculture.

I want to take a moment to thank our very own Martha Ebersole from Zone 4 and the Perry County Community Fair. Martha just completed her first year as our President of the PSACF. Thank you to Martha for leading this great organization into 2024. On behalf of the entire Zone 4 Director's, we want to wish you a safe and successful 2024 fair. We all look forward to visiting you this fair season.

2024 DIRECTORY CHANGES

FAIRS:

Big Knob Grange Fair new Secretary Kelly Druschdl

Huntingdon County Fair Secretary Debbie Bigelow phone (814) 644=8219. Email deb@huntingdoncountyfair.com

ASSOCIATE:

Floyd Foster

PO Box 1131

First phone listed should be (717) 303-8706

PSACF Association Update



Spring Zone Meetings

Mark your calendars our Spring Zone meetings are just a few weeks away, see Dates To Remember on first page for your date, looking forward to seeing you there.

112th PSACF/PSSA Convention

The theme "Pennsylvania Fairs: "Flourishing with Opportunity, Rooted in Agriculture:" opened the Convention held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center January 17th – 20th. Registration for this year's event was 1511. The spouse's program saw an increase from last year in their fund raising, the PSACF banquet Thursday night had 841 in attendance, the Queen banquet Saturday night had 910 in attendance. Workshops, seminars, and table topics were held all 4 days. Spouse's programs had the Bag & Basket bingo, Needle Felting 101, and a Traveling Vineyard. Wednesday night the Talent Showcase had 21 acts performing. Youth Day on Saturday continues to grow and was sponsored by the Warren County. Please read the article on the YP program in this addition. Thursday prior to the opening celebration The Little Mermen entertained the audience followed by Marla Calico. At the PSACF Banquet our 4 Zone awards were presented. Presentation of symbolic checks was given to the recipients of the Msgr. Scholarship. The 2023 Fair Person, Shirley Moyer was announced. Darryl Worley provided by Variety Attractions entertainment. Friday had the Communication breakfast and the winners for the various categories were announced. The Memorial Service had Ben Haagen conducting the service, where 137 were remembered. Dan & Galla providing back ground music during the service. The Annual Meeting was held Friday with 69 fairs in attendance, the Farm Show baking awards were presented. The PSSA banquet held in the evening had Desire a Doo Wop group perform for the banquet. Saturday drawings took place for the trade show, PSACF, and PSSA. In the evening the Coronation Banquet took place, 59 young ladies vied for the title of 2024 Pennsylvania Fair Queen. Erica Teagarden from the Washington County Fair was crowned with the title. Preparations are under way for the 112th annual convention January 22-25, 2025 at Hershey, be sure to mark your calendars. We wish to Thank our longtime sponsors.

Recent Mailing

All associate members were mailed membership packets in February. If any associate member had not received their packet, please contact the association office. Due notices to Fairs were mailed earlier this month. If your Fair has not received the due notice please contact me.

Judging School

Attendance at the school was 96. The 2024 Judging Reference List will be made available shortly.

Fair Persons

Junior Fair applications are due October 1st, applications will be available April 1st on our website. Senior Fair applications are due November 1st.

IAFE Zone 1 Meeting

Early registrations are still open at this time through May 3. Website for more details: fairsandexpos.com/zone-1

May 16-18 at: Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel
1 Monarch Pl
Springfield, MA 01144
(413) 781-1010

Coming Soon

Debbie Bigelow from Huntingdon County Fair has suggested a want and surplus list from each fair and place it in FairTalk or on our website. "I just thought that if Fairs had items that they needed and another Fair had items they wanted to dispose of, it would be beneficial to each".

Harry