

DATES TO REMEMBER

— 2020 —

November 1

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

November 15

- Reimbursement apps.—Fair Fund due

November 30

- FAIRTALK material for December issue due

— 2021 —

March 25 (week of)

- 1st Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

April 15

- PSACF Board Meeting

April 21

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - TBA

April 22

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

April 23

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - TBA

April 24

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - TBA

May 31

- FAIRTALK material for June due

June 24 (week of)

- 2nd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

August 31

- FAIRTALK material for September due

September 1

- Showcase apps. For 2022 Convention mailed

September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

September 30

- Zone Junior Fair Person nominations due to Zone

October 15

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

October 14

- PSACF Board Meeting

October 20

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - TBA

October 21

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - TBA

October 22

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - TBA

October 23

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair

November 1

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

November 15

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

November 30

- FAIRTALK material for December issue due



VOL. 34

September 2020

NO. 3



From our President

Sadly, the 2020 Fair Season has come to an end with 103 cancelled or modified fairs and only 5 fairs operating. I had looked forward to visiting fairs that I didn't get to in 2019. I am hopeful that all fairs will be able to return in 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my regrets to the Ox Hill Fair. They would have celebrated their 50th fair in 2020. Sadly, they lost their lease and will be unable to continue.

I would like to thank Harry and the other members of the PSACF Board for their unending dedication and patience as we have dealt with issues placed upon us by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Also, a big thank you to Karen Dobson for making Board Meetings, Zone Meetings (including voting), and Queen Meetings possible on Zoom.

Thank you for your support of our efforts with the state legislature. Your officers were in almost daily contact with the Department of Ag and our lobbyists. It has been a trying time for all, but we are hopeful that these efforts will pay off as we continue to await the passing of SB1182. Not only will this pay fairs at their 2019 funding rate, but also it will allow fairs to proceed with the Priority 1 Capital Improvements that were submitted. Please continue to keep in contact with your legislators. Remember to thank them for their support!

See "From Our" next page.....

See "From Our" previous page.....

Today's youth are the future of our fairs! I would like to congratulate the six recipients of the Msgr. Mignot Scholarship and the four Jr. Fair Persons. I would also like to thank Grace for serving as our 2020 State Queen. She has gone above and beyond to be innovative with limited live activities. Karen has worked hard to plan for a State Queen Competition for 2021. If restrictions do not force further changes, this will happen live in Hershey in January!

Although we are not able to hold the 2021 Fair Convention, the Board will still meet to re-organize and the Annual Meeting will be

held Saturday morning, prior to the Queen Coronation Luncheon. I am hopeful that many fairs will be able to have someone attend this meeting.

Because most fairs did not operate in 2020 and the Communications Competition will not be held, the PSACF 2021 theme will again be "Making Memories – One Fair at a Time". Making memories is an important part of attracting youth as they attend their "home" fair year after year and also as they visit other fairs. Let's hope we can all make some great fair memories together in 2021!

Please stay safe!

**Message from IAFE
President & CEO, Marla Calico**

Due to the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the fair industry, the annual Convention & Trade Show of the International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE) scheduled for Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in San Antonio, Texas has been cancelled.

With regulatory restrictions making it impossible for over 90% of the IAFE members' fairs to go forward in normal fashion, the economic losses to fairs

and the hundreds of businesses involved have been devastating. Additionally, nearly 60% of projected participants are currently unable to travel either due to the quarantine restrictions upon return to their state or country, or employer travel restrictions.

"With the added uncertainty regarding the potential arc of the disease not only in Texas but across the United States over the next two months, it is the prudent thing to do," stated IAFE President and CEO Marla Calico.

PSSA

Bev Gruber has retired as Executive Secretary of the PSSA, Mary Ott has replaced Bev. Her Contact info:

PSSA
Mary Ott
75 Maple Dr
Lehigh, PA 18235
610-377-5937
pashowmen2020@gmail.com



PSACF OFFICERS - 2019-2020

President

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

Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

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

Vice President

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

Immediate Past President

David Hallstrom
482 East 8th St
Clearfield, PA 16830
(814) 765-8366

PSACF DIRECTORS - 2019-2020

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

Lyn Klingerman
11 Edwards Dr.
Mountain Top, PA 18707
(570) 262-2520

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

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

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

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

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

John McMullen
363 E. Phila. St. (Box 175)
Armagh, PA 15920
(814) 446-6692

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jeff Romesberg
169 Romesberg Rd.
Rockwood, PA 15557
(814) 926-2313

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

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

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

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

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

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

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

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

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Harry Reffner
128 Cumberland Rd,
Bedford, PA 15522

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From the PA State Fair Queen



Greetings, Everyone!

In spite of these uncertain days of Covid where most of Pennsylvania's fairs have been canceled, I've been privileged to attend several Fair Queen contests this summer and visit communities where sustainable agriculture continues to thrive. I've been so impressed with fair communi-

ties who have joined together in finding alternative ways to promote their fair activities. While fair rides and food vendors might be missing from many of the fairgrounds I've visited, community spirit and love for agriculture abound. Enthusiasm lights up faces of Fair Queens and Fair Board members as they reminisce about their fairs, and as they share the new ways they've found to be involved in their communities. I have enjoyed attending Fair Queen contests that have still been held and am impressed with the strength and creativity of the incoming county fair queens in the midst of uncertain times ahead.

My 2020 Fair visits started with a Western PA Ag and Fair Tour hosted by Denise Leigh, a previous PA Fair Queen. Although the Washington County Agricultural fairgrounds were empty, I was treated to a trolley ride into the fairgrounds where I met the fair board members and county commissioners. The many fair cancellations actually opened up great opportunities to visit community members and businesses that are vital to community agricul-

ture and infrastructure across Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties. It was a great experience to visit Grow Pittsburgh (Braddock Farms) and learn about how their urban garden provides fresh produce for the local community. A tour of Jackson Farms by Bill Jackson himself was followed up with lunch and Jackson Farms ice cream with some local Fair Queens and Senator Stefano. Other great experiences include Kiln to Table Pottery and Eatery (a farm to fork restaurant), Simmons Farm (fresh flower delight!), Thistlethwaites Winery (for the agricultural aspect :), Lippencott Alpacas, and Spring House Farm. Thanks to everyone who has worked this year to find creative ways for me to engage with your fair queens and communities to be an advocate for fairs and agriculture!

As I've shared with many of the incoming Fair Queens, this is a year that requires flexibility and creativity, along with a spirit of hope and determination. It is a time to come together and learn from one another as we advocate for Pennsylvania fairs and agriculture.

While the details about the 2021 Fair Queen Contest in Hershey are still unknown, I'd like to encourage all of the Fair Queens to continue to represent your counties well. It has been an honor to visit so many events and meet incredible people along the way. I look forward to what the last Quarter of 2020 brings, and wish you all good health as we look forward to 2021!

For Pennsylvania Fairs and Agriculture,
Grace VanSciver
2020 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen

Welcome New State Directors

These new Directors will take office at the January 23 Board meeting:

Zone 1 Jody Lambert, Sullivan County Fair

Zone 2 Shirley McIntire, The Great Stoneboro Fair

Zone 3 David Cowden, Washington County Ag Fair

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TENTATIVE PSACF HERSHEY JANURARY 23, 2021

9:00 AM Chocolate Ballroom—State Directors Meeting
Including Reorganization of the Board.

10:30 AM Chocolate Ballroom – Annual Meeting
Including Installation of New President
Awards and Recognitions

Check the December issue of FAIRTALK for updates.

PSSA HERSHEY JANURARY 23, 2021

The PSSA Directors will be holding their meeting and a luncheon.

Check the December issue of FAIRTALK for updates.

PSACF By-laws

By Sam Zaffuto

As everyone knows, this pandemic has caused all of us to do things differently. We have had two Zoom Zone meeting and many fairs have had virtual board meetings this year. To prepare our Association for the possibility of future adjustments to the way we do business, the bylaws committee of our board has been working on amendments to the bylaws that will allow us to operate under new regulations in the future if necessary. There are no major changes to the bylaws being considered just changes that will allow us to meet virtually if necessary in the future.

The committee has not completed their recommendations yet. When they are completed, they will be shared with the Executive Committee members. Then each fair will receive a copy of the proposed changes 30 days prior to our annual meeting which will be held in Hershey on January 23. Bylaws can only be changed during an annual meeting with a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

IAFE is also going through the process of amending their bylaws for the same reasons.

So, please watch for the proposed changes so you can be prepared to act on them.

HARRISBURG OVERVIEW:

The PA General Assembly only has three scheduled session days left until the election. However, we're anticipating that they add session days after the election to finish out the remaining 7 months of the budget. So far, only 5 months of the 2020-2021 budget have been completed. It was a \$25.8 billion interim budget. So they will have to return and finish the remaining portion by November 30th.

We're hearing mixed rumblings about the specifics of the budget. Initially, there were discussions about potentially increasing the PIT (personal income tax) to fill the nearly \$4 billion budget deficit. PIT has been at 3.07% since 2004. Now it sounds like Republicans are trying to steer away from that idea and utilize the same budget from 2019-2020, similar to what they did for the first 5 months of the fiscal year, and then address the deficit at another time. As always, we'll be in the Capitol and our Harrisburg office throughout the entire budget and will keep you apprised on the latest developments.

BUDGET:

The Governor's 2020-2021 budget proposal fully-funded Pennsylvania's fairs at \$4million. Throughout the first half of the budget negotiation process, Milliron Goodman advocated to maintain this funding and succeeded. The Pennsylvania Fairs' line item was fully funded in [HB 2387](#) at \$4 million. Unfortunately, most had to cancel/modify their events as a result of the Governor's COVID-19 crowd restrictions, which brings us to SB 1182 (see below).

LEGISLATION:**SB 1182**

Senator Michelle Brooks' SB 1182 amends the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act of 1986 by creating the COVID-19 Emergency Agricultural Fair Grant Program. The program will essentially provide for continued state funding for fairs who were forced to cancel their annual events as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency. The total grant dollars for eligible fairs will be equal to the amount received last year. And the authority of the Department of Agriculture to distribute funds will terminate when there are no remaining dollars left under the program. We note that any fair that continues as scheduled and is not forced to cancel will not be eligible for funding under this new program. But they can apply for all other grants available under the Fair Act.

We were able to get the bill out of the Senate with a unanimous vote and are actively working to get a vote in the House Agriculture Committee. There are some outstanding concerns regarding the legality of receiving these state dollars without having to prove expenses. So we are trying to get this resolved as soon as possible. Again, we have until November 30th to get this across the finish line. Continued grassroots efforts from both the Showmen and County Fairs Association will help tremendously.

On 10/20/20 Kerry emailed:

SB 1182 was amended (A00749/A7603) and passed the House Ag Committee with a unanimous vote. It will now go to the full House for its consideration.

I'm reaching out to the House leadership now to keep this moving along. Once it's out of the House, it has to go back to the Senate for a concurrence vote. Then onto the Governors desk.

Congratulations 2020 Junior Fair Persons

Due to COVID recipients received their awards by mail.



Zone 1 Landis Crawford from the Crawford County Fair



Zone 2 Cameron Koppenhaver from the Gratz Fair



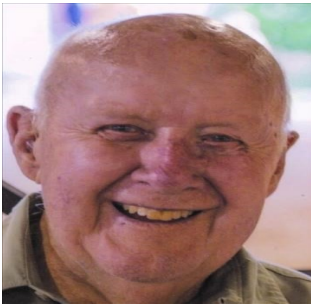
Zone 3 Colt McDonald from the Bedford County Fair



Zone 4 Brandon Sauder from the Ephrata Farmers Day Fair

The PSACF Junior Fair Person Committee will select the State Junior Fair Person recipient. The PSACF Junior Fair Person will receive an invitation to attend the PSACF Convention award presentation (pending COVID mandates). PSACF will pay for (2) banquet tickets and one (1) paid hotel room (room/tax only). The three runner-ups will receive an invitation to attend the award ceremony at their own expense.

IN LOVING
Memory



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Lee A. Robinson, shares his passing on September 6, 2020.

He served on the Washington County Fair Board and the Pennsylvania State Association of Fairs, leading them as President for many years. He received the PA State Fair Person of the Year Award in 2003.



Richard A. Blood, 77, passed away on October 7th, 2020. Richard spent his days outside of work helping others as a member of the Albion Masonic Lodge and an active member of the Albion Fair Board. He had a special place in his heart for the 'Biggest Little Fair Around,' where he served as Second President, Draft Horse barn chairman, and judge.

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Hannah Jo Nickerson, 14, of Scotts Crossing Rd., Corry, Pa., passed away Friday, October 16.

Hannah lived everyday as a sassy, smart, beautiful, farm tough girl. Her biggest highlight was being crowned the 2019-2020 Warren County Jr. Miss Fair Queen with her sister Queens, Chelsey and Anna. Hannah lived for fair week every summer, and was an active Warren County 4-H member.



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PSACF Association Update

SB1182

See the report from Milliron & Goodman for an update.

2021 Fair Information Request

Request for changes to be placed in the 2021 Directory were sent out, with a requested return date by December 1st.

Associates Invoices

Invoices for the 2021 dues were mailed. To be listed in the 2021 directory, dues are to be received by December 1st.

Mailing

A Convention schedule, Credentials, registration for a Queen dinner Friday night, the Queen luncheon Saturday will be sent to the Fairs later. There will be no registration fee.

Hershey Room Reservations

Hershey's web-based group reservation system is under construction for required updates. New reservations and changes to existing reservations are not currently available through the link. At this time, we do not have an anticipated completion date.

Please direct your guests to call our group reservations team at 855-923-8089 to make reservations or make changes to their existing reservations by phone.

Memorial Service

The 2020 service will be combined with the 2021 service.

Harry

Msgr. John W. Mignot Scholarship

-- Sally Nolt

We had 18 applicants, they were outstanding.

Zone 2

Cheyenne Bastian-Brown Troy Fair

Zone 3

Holly Long Derry Twp. Agricultural Fair

Macy Walason Bedford County Fair

Zone 4

Trenton Balmer Manheim Community Farm Show

Thomas Gabel Perry County Community Fair

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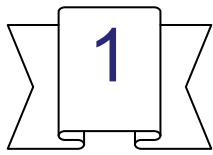
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Update from The Zones



Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

What a year this has been! At this time last year, we were finalizing our fair seasons and looking forward to the convention in January. No one could have predicted what was in store for us this year.

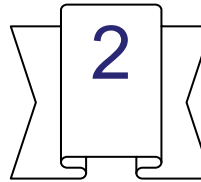
We recently completed our combined Zoom zone meeting for zones one, two, and four. Much good information was presented about a modified Queen Coronation program being planned for Hershey, as well as legislative reports, Association updates by our Secretary Harry Reffner and our President, Sally Nolt, and a report from Tracy Barone, our Fair Fund Administrator. If you were not able to join us for the meeting, a recording is available to view at your convenience.

I'd like to congratulate the six representatives to the Executive committee from zone one: Jeanne Miller from Albion Area Fair, John Berne from McKean County Fair, Sherman Allen from Jamestown Community Fair, Shirley McIntire from Mercer County Grange Fair, Jim Reed from Jefferson Township Fair, and Sam Zaffuto from Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair. Sam will once gain serve as Zone Chairman and Jeanne will be our Zone Secretary. I'd like to thank Dave Hallstrom from Clearfield County Fair and John McMullen from Indiana County Fair for their many years of service to PSACF.

Congratulations also go out to Landis Crawford from Crawford County Fair for being named the Jr Fairperson of the year from our zone. She will now compete with the winners from the other zones for the state Jr Fairperson title.

It looks like SB 1182 is getting closer to the finish line. This bill will provide much needed assistance for those fairs that had to cancel their events this year due to COVID-19. Please stay tuned and we will keep you informed of the progress of this bill.

Hoping that you and your families stay healthy and hope that next year's fair season returns with some semblance of normalcy!



Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

The summer is over and only 5 fairs were held in the State of Pennsylvania, due to COVID 19 Restrictions.

The following were held in Zone 2: McClure Bean Soup Festival & Fair and Beaver Community Fair conducted their fairs in full and Juniata County Fair conducted a modified Fair.

Congratulations to Cameron C. Koppenhaver for receiving the 2020 Zone 2 Junior Fair Person of the year.

Since only a few Fairs were held, Zone 2 Fair of the Year was not awarded.

Senate Bill 1182, which has been introduced to the Legislature, will pay Fairs the same amount of funding that they received in 2019. Reach out to your Legislators and ask that they work to get it passed.

We had our Zone 1, 2, and 4 Zone meetings on October 21, 2020, via Zoom. Some of the speakers were President Dr. Sally Nolt, Vice-President Sam Zafuto, Secretary/Treasurer Harry Reffner and Tracy Barone of the Department of Agriculture.

Elections were held for Directors for Zone 2 – Your Directors are as follows:

Roger Dirlam, Tony Frazier, Ben Haagen, Judy Kmetz, Jody Lambert, Dr. David Reese

As we approach Convention, things are changing daily. Tentatively, the following schedule is in place:

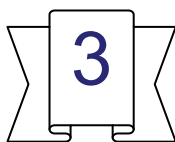
Friday	Queen Banquet
Saturday morning	Annual meeting
Saturday at Noon	Queen Coronation

There will be more to follow.

If you have made reservations for the Convention and they need to be cancelled or adjusted, please do so now.

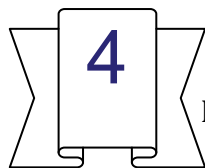
I would like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season – Hope to see you soon.

See Zones nest page



Zone Three — Debbie Stephenson

Our zone meeting was hosted by the Berlin Brothersvalley Community Fair, whom we wish to thank for the social distancing and the good dinner. 44 were in attendance. Directors elected were John Blaney, David Cowden, Craig Lash, Jana Malot, Harry Reffner and Debbie Stephenson. Updates were given by Sally, Harry and Ruth. Because of the travel ban with the Department of Agriculture Tracy could not attend but her updates were given by Sally. A discussion regarding a modified program in Hershey was discussed. By-laws are being reviewed due to the Pandemic and will be mailed out 30 days before the annual meeting. Congratulations to Macy Walason from Bedford County Fair and Holly Long from Derry Twp Agriculture Fair for being awarded the Msgr Mignot Scholarship. Also congratulations to Colt McDonald from the Bedford County Fair for his award as Junior Fair Person from our zone. Our Spring meeting will be hosted by the Westmoreland Fair.



Zone Four - Kevin Bieber

Let's just say that 2020 was one for the record books. Not a record we ever want to think about breaking !! Although it has been a challenging year for everyone, we need to be thankful that we all have our Fair families to lean on and help us through

these difficult times.

As I look back on this past year, I cannot help but to remember all the phone calls and e-mails asking for advice, guidance and thoughts on cancelling or not cancelling a Fair. Unfortunately, for most of our Fairs across Pennsylvania, that very difficult decision was made to cancel the Fair. That decision came with lots of sadness and dejection as we were now faced with cancelling something we all love doing, that one event throughout the year that brightens our days and of course the communities that so look forward to attending your Fair. Although this was certainly a tough decision for all of us, I have no doubt in my mind that we will all come back stronger and better in 2021.

With all this said, 2020 did have some bright moments for some very well deserving Zone 4 individuals. Please help me congratulate Brandon Sauder from the Ephrata Fair. Brandon was selected as the Zone 4 Junior Fair Person of the Year. Congratulations Brandon, all your hard work paid off. Zone 4 also had three very well deserving individuals who won the coveted Msgr. Mignot PSACF Scholarship. Please also help me congratulate Thomas Gabel from the Perry County Community Fair, Abigail Wurzbach from the York State Fair and Trenton Balmer from the Manheim Community Farm Show.

It is my hope and wishes that all of you continue to stay safe and healthy and before long, I am certain that we will all be back doing what we love to do, planning a 2021 Fair !!!!

Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

John Berne, Chairman
Judy Kmetz, Vice Chairman
Karen Dobson, Secretary
Gary Moore, Treasurer,
Ruth Trumbetta, Director
ing
Dr, Sally K. Nolt, PSACF President 2019-2020

2020 PROGRAM COORDINATORS:

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



Message from Our Associates

— Galla Higinbotham

With COVID 19 spiking again throughout Europe, the UK and here in America, much as we had hoped it would be otherwise, this virus isn't going away anytime soon.

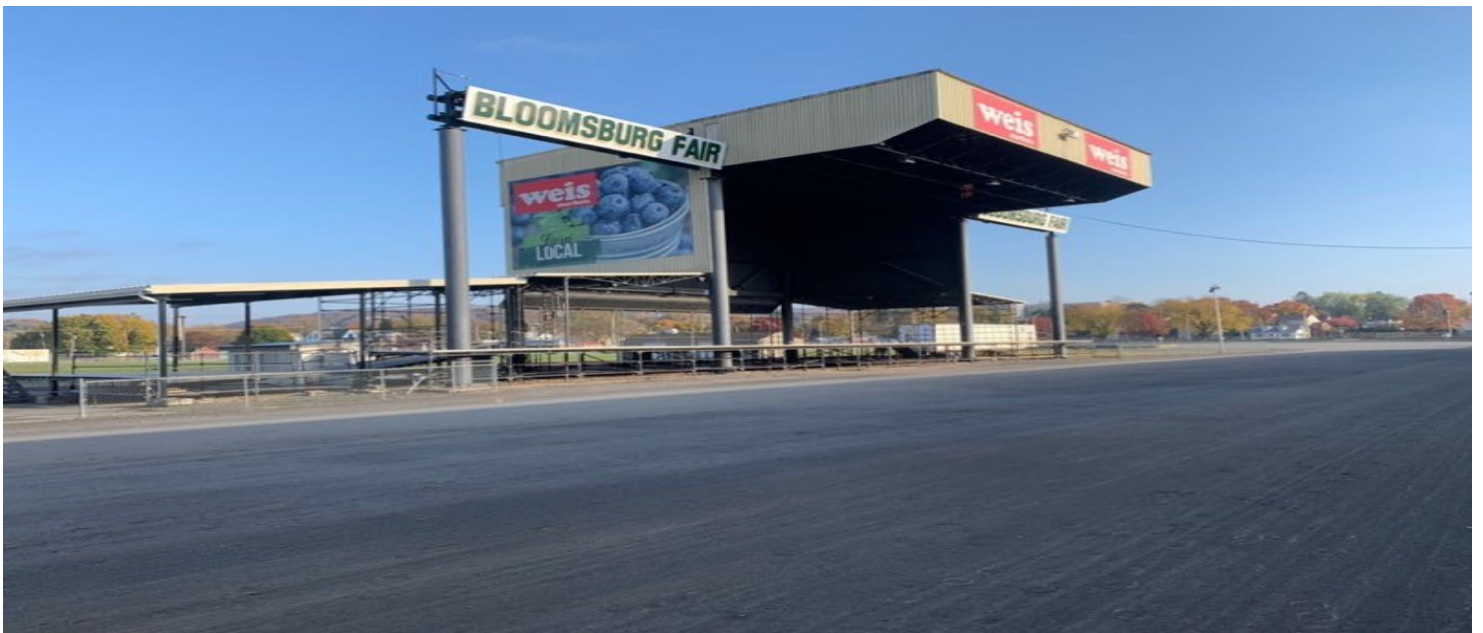
Associates continue to cope as best they can in a changed world. Though it seemed like practically everything was cancelled this summer, the successful events that did take place came up with innovative ways to spread out, to be able to socially distance, be safe and still provide a family-friendly outing. I like what someone said to me recently: "Let's call it physically distance, but still be social."

Going the virtual route has kept us closer and more connected than we would have been otherwise, although nothing replaces seeing everyone face to face, in person. But thankfully, the technology is here. Some associates are offering virtual concerts, others find themselves going in different directions, to keep their businesses alive. There are those who have been discovering other passions and occupations or are retiring and finding new interests.

For those associates who have been doing business with fairs for years and years, it just didn't feel right to not have been a part of the fairs this summer.

It's been a long few months and heading into winter, I hope everyone stays safe and well. Looking forward to seeing you all when the "coast is clear", as they say in the movies.

Galla



The Bloomsburg Fair is selling our large stage. We would love for a fair to be able to use this. We are selling very cheap, \$50k.

Contact:
Jeff Giger
Supt. Livestock Bloomsburg Fair
570 764 1775. Cell



Fairs are as constant as the sun in Pennsylvania. Fairgoers can't wait to see the sights and watch folks compete for bragging rights for the best apple pie, largest pumpkin, or best-dressed bovine at their annual fair. While the 2020 fair season turned out to be quite gloomy, fairs across the U.S. continue to get creative and

serve their communities in different ways. The IAFE's July/August *Fairs & Expos* magazine offers examples of fairs stepping up and out of the "fair comfort zone" to host socially distanced community events that are not only helpful to the community but generate much-needed income for the fairs as well. Here are some highlights:

Drive In Movies-The Alameda County Fair in California is now hosting drive-in movies. Just think, your fair could bring back this retro-classic and help make it mainstream again!

Community Support-The Maryland State Fair is working with federal, state and county entities to serve in various capacities: drive-thru food pickups, food storage, and blood drives, all which are great for the community and the fair.

Drive-Thru Fair Food-The Elkhart County 4-H Fair in Indiana holds drive-thru events that feature independent vendors and local organizations. In August, my husband and I waited in line at the Lisburn Community Fire Company's drive-thru event for an hour for a BBQ chicken dinner—totally worth the wait! The community support for this event was overwhelming!

The Fair that Wasn't-The Fulton County Fair in Arkansas crafted a fair T-shirt (above) that will certainly be a collector's item. Note that the zeros on the shirt are toilet paper rolls—very funny!

I would love to hear how your fair has switched gears to help your local community, such as hosting modified events or getting creative with fundraising activities.

This year was tough for the fairs, showmen, exhibitors, local organizations and those who visit every year. As always, the PA Department of Agriculture values all 108 agricultural fairs and will continue to work to support them now and in the future. We've weathered the 2020 storm; let's hope for sunnier days in 2021!

Fair Reimbursements

As of Sept. 15, Senate Bill 1182 is currently in the House of Representatives for consideration. Once the bill moves through the legislature, we'll know more about fair reimbursement funding. Additional information and instructions will be distributed in early October.

FY 2020/2021

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Applications

The 2020/2021 applications are under review. Fairs will be notified of final approval in mid-December. We must wait until the applications for Fair Reimbursement, 4-H, FFA, and Statewide Ag Organizations have been submitted (November 15) before deciding on next year's capital improvement matching grant funding.

FY 2019/2020

Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grants

The payments associated with the FY 2019/2020 Matching Funds Grants are in process. Once the contracts are fully executed and final reports submitted, fairs will receive their payment. If your fair has not submitted its final report, please do so as soon as possible. Many fairs have requested an extension of time to complete projects as the COVID-19 emergency created a contractor shortage.

2020 Fair Poster Contest

Please be sure to submit your Fair Poster Contest entries by November 1, 2020.

2021 PA Farm Show

I have received several calls regarding entries for the 2021 PA Farm Show, which will be held as a virtual event due to COVID-19. The Department of Agriculture is currently devising a plan and will distribute additional information as it is available. For the most up to date and accurate information visit the 2021 PA Farm Show tab at farmshow.pa.gov.

You can always call or email the Fair Office:

tbarone@pa.gov, office: 717-772-3094; cell: 717-0510-8037
hzarefoss@pa.gov, office: 717-787-6298

2020 Calendar Deadlines

November 1	2020 Fair Season Poster Contest Entries Due
November 15	Fair Reimbursement Applications Due

