

DATES TO REMEMBER

—2023—

October 1

- Junior Fair Person of the Year apps.
Due

Oct. 12

PSACF Board Meeting-Centre Hall

October 15

- Showcase apps. Due
- 2024 Request for Fair info material,
PSACF

Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA
Convention material, Trade Show
apps. mailed.

Oct. 18

Zone 4 Mtg. -Yoder's

Oct. 19

Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

Oct. 20

Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair

Oct. 21

Zone 2 Mtg. - Montour-Delong

November 1

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

November 15

- Queen Competition Applications due
- Reimbursement apps.—Fair Fund
due
- Baking Contests Summaries due

November 26—29

- IAFE Convention and Trade Show
Salt Lake City, Utah

November 30

FAIRTALK material for December is-
sue due

—2024—

January 6—13

- PA Farm Show

January 6

- Cornucopia

January 17—20

- 111th Annual Convention Hershey

April 11

PSACF Board Meeting-Centre Hall

April 17

Zone 4 Mtg.

April 18

Zone 3 Mtg. -

April 19

Zone 1 Mtg. -

April 20

Zone 2 Mtg. -

May 16—18

- IAFE Zone 1 meeting Springfield MA



VOL. 37

September 2023

NO. 3

SEMINARS, TABLE TOPICS & YOUTH DAY PROVIDE A FULL CONVENTION AGENDA

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

The seminar and table topic committee has spent quite a bit of time this summer in preparing a full agenda of educational seminars and table topics to be highlighted in Hershey. I would like to remind you that as you look at the "tentative" schedule, please keep in mind that we try very hard to put as many topics in the schedule as it allows. Having said that, you may see some overlap. Unfortunately, we only have so much time in Hershey at the convention, and it is the goal of the committee to give you as many educational seminars and table topics as possible in that timeframe. It is our hope that your fair has several people attend the convention that would then allow you to split up and take in all what we have to offer in regards to seminars and table topics.

Many of you provided some great feedback on the surveys last year, thank you, we really appreciate that, and yes, we read each one. As a result of the surveys, you will see that we listened and some of the seminars and table topics reflect for what you asked for. Unfortunately, we cannot act on every suggestion, but we will do our best to continue providing what you ask for. As I mentioned earlier, there is only so much time while at convention.

One of the changes you will find this year is the Saturday morning program. We are going to limit the activities that we have on Saturday morning in favor of a program that Shirley McIntire agreed to run for us. We tried this last year on a scaled down version, and it was so successful that we are expanding it. On Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, we will have a room that we invite you to come in and talk "Anything Fair Related". This topic of discussion is wide open and will be moderated by Shirley. Shirley does a similar event like this in her Zone twice a year and has found it to be very worthwhile. I encourage you to come to this and share ideas, problems or anything fair related. What better place to "bounce" ideas and problems you may be having off of others. Just remember, there may be another fair that has the same idea or problem you have. Supporting each other is one of the best things we can do in our industry.

See Convention next page

PSACF OFFICERS - 2023-2024

President

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

Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

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

Vice President

Craig Lash
246 Dairy Ln
West Newton, PA 15089
(724) 433-9395

Immediate Past President

Samuel J. Zaffuto
355 N. Park St.
Sykesville, PA 15865
(814) 591-3485

PSACF DIRECTORS - 2023-2024

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

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

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

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

Dan Dickey
10145 Church Road
Espyville, PA 16424
(814) 724-9667

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

Roger Dirlam
250 Sunrise Ave.
Honesdale, PA 18431
(570) 253-3540

Sally Nolt
25 Ins Circle
Elizabethtown PA 17022
(717) 367-7256

Karen Dobson
9 Ebelhare Rd
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 212-6180

Charles F. Nutaitis
1158 Candlewood Dr.
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
(610) 863-8873

Tony R. Frazier
1303 Franklin Drive
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
(570) 317-8099

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

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

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

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

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

Joe Irons
12669 Route 59
Smethport, PA 16749
(814) 598-5446

Jeff Walason
6528 Cortland Rd
Alum Bank, PA 15521
(814) 839-0177

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

David Wilcox
6365 Miller Hill Rd
Sugar Grove, PA 16350
(814) 688-2066

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

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

Continued from previous page

As you look at the tentative convention schedule, you will see that we have several great presentations from many well-known individuals in our industry. We will warmly welcome our own IAFE President and CEO, Marla Calico for the keynote speech as well as an additional seminar that she has agreed to present. We also look forward to Rey O'Day, Executive Director of NICA joining us to present two seminars. I had the chance to hear Rey at the IAFE Zone 1 Meeting in Albany New York and invited her to attend our convention. We will also welcome Joe Yedlick to present a Parliamentary Procedure seminar. Aside from these three guests, we will have many more topics to cover including some of our normal seminars with current updates.

On Saturday we will welcome our Youth as we present the third annual Youth Day. We are very excited this year for Youth Day as we have a sponsor for the event. Special thanks go out to the Warren County Fair for agreeing to the sponsorship. That sponsorship will allow us to expand on what we are able to do for these fine young future fair leaders. Each youth participant that is registered will receive a complimentary portfolio as well as we will be providing a pizza lunch for the participants. The youth are also encouraged to attend the full convention and youth day will be included with that full registration, however if you are only able to attend that Saturday for the youth day, registration will be \$20.00. As a reminder, youth are considered 16 to 30 years of age.

So, as you can see, we have a full agenda and something for everyone. Please plan on attending the 2024 convention and partaking of these educational opportunities that we have provided for you. I will see you in Hershey!



Radio Rentals
Audio INNOVATORS INC.
1-800-222-9929
KENWOOD
LISTEN TO THE FUTURE
MOTOROLA
www.audioinnovators.com

From our President



What great experiences my husband, Ray, and I have had traveling to Fairs across Pennsylvania. I've learned so many things to bring back to my own Fair, made some new partnerships and had way too much fair food. Attending other Fairs is a great way to help your Fair, you can see what others

are doing to make their Fair successful.

When you visit other County Fairs you can get new and different ideas. Is there something that they do the same but with a different twist, that would make it work for your fair? Nobody likes change but if we do a little at a time maybe it won't feel like change but making better what we already have. I have gotten two new ideas for Perry County fair through past visits - a mommy/baby changing/nursing tent, and a bicycle giveaway each night. Both were simple, low work, and no cost for our Fair because of sponsors. These are both great ideas to involve a Junior Fair Board, or your Fair Queen winning Court. Be sure and check out the Communications Department during convention for great ideas that other Fairs have done this past year. Sometimes we came up with Ideas, but maybe don't

know how to get started. Talking to people at other Fairs about how they started can move us on to start that project. If all this seems overwhelming, start with smaller projects and move on from there... your fair will expand in no time! I have said it before there are many different ways to do things, be open to new Ideas and project.

When we visit other Fairs, we also get to enjoy different entertainment. Yes, there are a crazy number of entertainers at convention, both performing and in the trade show rooms, but do we really get to see every entertainer there, I thought I did a good job of it, but found out I don't. I've seen two great shows recently and mentioned to them about coming to convention, they already attend. There's never enough time to do everything you want during convention, so take advantage of visiting other Fairs to see additional entertainment options.

WE ARE 107 FAIRS STRONG BUT WE NEED TO
WORK TOGETHER AS ONE UNIT-
ED.

Martha

Spouse Programs Friday January 19 Needle Felting 101—Linda Grove

What is needle felting? Needle felting is when you take wool roving or wool yarn and a felting needle and turn it into a fiber art piece. If you can move your hand up and down you can create wool art.

We are going to turn wool balls into tree ornaments or bowl fillers.

Linda will also bring examples of other ways you can needle felt. By using cookie cutters to make ornaments or trace onto wool felt and make table runners or candle mats.

Anyone can do this craft. It is a great way to relieve stress!

Saturday January 20 Traveling Vineyard — Jeanne Miller

Plans are to have Traveling Vineyard at the presidential suite Saturday from 2 - 4 pm. Will have more info for the next issue.





iafe[®] YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

By: Maria Zaffuto

If there is one way to describe the Young Professional Community that we have been building across the state that word would be family. In my travels this summer to 12 fairs across the state I experienced firsthand the meaning of “fair family” that has developed through our young professional community. If you are looking for a place of friendship and family, a place of unwavering support from like-minded individuals, we welcome you to join us in our upcoming events to be held at the convention in January. I have heard from several individuals how excited they are for our time together in Hershey! Plans are in progress for many educational and networking sessions and events for those aged 21-40. I hope that you will be able to join us!

We will once again be having our annual Young Professional Lunch and Peer Networking Event on Friday of convention. A free lunch will be offered courtesy of our sponsors, as well as the donors to last year's egg hunt fundraiser that was held at the 2023 convention. This is a fun time to enjoy lunch together, while meeting individuals from across the state, networking and sharing valuable ideas with one another. We are also looking forward to once again hosting the Mentor Speed Dating and Network Session. This session was a huge hit last year with special requests to bring it back for another year. This is one session that you don't want to miss, filled with valuable insight from our mentors in quick small group conversations as you rotate around the room. The Young Professional Community will also be choosing, at random, a young person to receive a free convention registration for 2024! This free registration is made possible by our very gracious sponsors in support of furthering industry education among young people. To be eligible to win the free registration, you must be between the ages of 21 and 40 during the PSACF 2024 convention. To enter, please join the Pennsylvania YP email list by emailing Maria Zaffuto at mariazaffuto@gmail.com no later than Thursday, November 2nd. The drawing will take place live on the PSACF Young Professionals Facebook group page on Friday, November 3rd at 1:00pm.

I am so proud of everyone's efforts this past fair season. I see how hard you have all worked to put on successful events for your community. Congratulations on a fantastic fair season!





2024 PA STATE FAIR QUEEN CONTEST SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

Raffle Table Set Up

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

12:00pm – 4:00pm	Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
2:45 – 3:15pm	Queen Contestant Check-in for Orientation Contestants drop off Auction Gift Cards (<i>Orientation check-in table</i>)
3:15pm – 4:00pm	Queen Contestant Orientation
6:00pm	Line Up for Stage Introduction Competition
6:15pm	Stage Introduction Competition
6:45pm	PSACF Annual Banquet
Immediately after Banquet	Queen Contestants Group Photo

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

7:00am – 12:00pm	Interviews - Morning Session <i>2024 Fair Queen Contest Packets available in Tower Suite 1 Interview Waiting Area</i>
10:00am – 4:00pm	Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
11:00am – 12:00pm	Seminar - Young Women's Leadership
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Interviews - Afternoon Session <i>2024 Fair Queen Contest Packets available in Tower Suite 1 Interview Waiting Area</i>
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Seminar - Young Women's Leadership
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Round Table/Idea Exchange for Queen Coordinators <i>2024 Fair Queen Contest Packet Distribution at Round Table</i>
5:30pm – 6:15pm	Judges Reception with Contestants
7:00pm – 9:00pm	PA Fair Queen Chloe Bomgardner's Party with Contestants

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

7:30am – 12:00pm	Speech Competition – Morning Session
9:00am – 12:45pm	Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
11:00am – 12:00pm	Queen Program Seminar – Panel Discussion
12:30pm	Drawing for Raffle Table items
1:15pm – 3:00pm	Speech Competition – Afternoon Session
4:30pm	Rehearsal for Coronation
6:00pm	Coronation Banquet (<i>Reserved Seating - Ticket Required</i>)
7:15pm	Line Up for Coronation
7:30 – 8:45pm	Coronation Ceremony
9:00pm	Media Photos / 2024 PA Fair Queen Meeting with State Coordinator

Visit the PA Fair Queen Program's Basket Auction and Raffle Table in the Great Lobby.

A 50/50 cash raffle drawing will be held Wednesday through Saturday.

Tickets can be purchased as follows:

Wed, Thurs, and Sat. evenings - Chocolate Ballroom Lobby

Fri 11:00 am – 3:30 pm - Great Hall across from Trade Show entrance



Welcome New Associates!

Attractions, Thrill & Stunt Shows

Steve Kish the Magician

20333 Advantage Ct Ashburn VA 20147

Phone: (703) 727-4411

WebSite: www.stevemagic.com

E-Mail: kishsteve@hotmail.com

Info: Stage and Strolling Magician

Musical Attractions

Addi Grace

482 Sweetwater Dr Palmyra PA 17078

Phone: (717) 222-2602

WebSite: www.addigracesmiles.com E-Mail: jo-sephmcpeak77@gmail.com

Info: Addi Grace 14 year old singer, songwriter

Stephanie & the Wild Hearts

111 Tina Drive Hollidaysburg PA 16648

Phone: (814) 215-5317

WebSite: stephanieAndTheWildHearts.com E-Mail: stephanieandthewildhearts@gmail.com

Info: Danceable, family-friendly classic to modern

country and rock & roll music

The Suns of Beaches Band

877 Red Tail Court Leechburg PA 15656

Phone: (814) 244-4414

Fax: WebSite: sunsofbeachesband.com E-Mail: sunsofbeachesband@gmail.com

Info: Margaritaville-inspired Beach Party Band

Talent/Booking

Farm Town Productions

301 Stoneybrook Lane Dawson PA 15428

Phone: (724) 880-7385

WebSite: farmtownproductions.com E-Mail: derek@farmtownproductions.com

Info: Booking/Talent/Lights & Sound

Reed Promotion

1043 Chatsworth Drive Old Hickory TN 37138

Phone: (607) 425-5835

WebSite: www.reedpromotion.com E-Mail: sarah.b.reed@gmail.com

Info: Reed Promotion is a artist booking agency. Specializing in booking and cross promotion thru radio.



**DO
YOU
REMEMBER
2016????**

WISHING

2024



You don't just need entertainment.



You need the **right** entertainment.

You can trust our consultants to match you with
the right options **you need to be successful.**

Grandstand Concerts

Educational Shows

Ground Attractions

Comedians

Major League Eating
Competitions

Strolling Acts

Wrestling

Simulators

Tribute Shows

**Media
Personalities**

...and more!

Virtual Reality

Extreme Sports

Championship Rodeo

Stunt Shows

Monster Truck
Spectaculars

Scan the
QR code
to see
more!



VARIETY ATTRACTIONS

Call (740) 453-0394

info@varietyattractions.com



**111th ANNUAL CONVENTION
PA State Association of County Fairs and
PA State Showmen's Association**

**The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey PA
Wednesday - Saturday, Jan. 17 – 20, 2024**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2024 Convention reservations will now be accepted by the Hershey Lodge. Deadline is December 15, 2023. For lodging:

Call Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108, and ask for the room block for the PA State Association of County Fairs, January 16 - 21, 2024.

Rooms will be available by 4:00pm and check out at 11:00am daily for all.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

ADVANCE REGISTRATION is essential to the smooth operation of the convention. Registration is:

- \$40 (received on or before December 15, 2023)
- \$60 (received after December 15, 2023)

MEALS

Meal(s) that are purchased are not refundable; there will be a bulletin board near the registration area for you to place a "for sale" notice if you wish to resell them. A limited number will be available for purchase at convention.

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

MEALS ON YOUR OWN-ALL

9:00am-1:00pm "Serv-Safe" (see newsletter article for details – PA Showmen or fairs who are members of PA Showmen [1 person per fair may register; others to be considered after deadline if space available])

11:00am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open
12:30pm Judging School Orientation Session

1:20pm – 2:30pm First Session of Judging School
2:35pm – 3:55pm Second Session of Judging School

2:00pm-3:00pm Seminar – "Fairs 101"

3:00pm-4:00pm Table Topics 1,8

3:15pm-4:15pm Seminar – "60 Tips in 60 Minutes"

4:00pm-8:00pm Enter Communication Exhibits
Trade Show Set-up

4:45pm PSSA Board Meeting

4:45pm PSACF Board Meeting/Reorganization to follow

6:30pm-10:00pm ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE

Thursday, January 18, 2024

MEALS ON YOUR OWN-BREAKFAST & LUNCH

8:00am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

8:00am-9:00am Enter Communication Exhibits

8:00am-10:30am Trade Show Set-up

8:30am-9:00am First-Timers Session

9:00am-9:30am Opening Entertainment

9:30am-10:45am Opening Ceremony
Keynote Speaker – Marla Calico

10:30am-4:00pm Trade Show Open
Communication Exhibits Open
(Badge Required)

10:30am-4:00pm PA Dept. of Agriculture display, etc.

1:00pm-2:00pm Table Topics 6,7,10

1:00pm-2:30pm Seminar – Animal Health Updates

1:00pm-3:15pm Spouse Program - "Bag & Basket" Bingo

1:30pm-3:00pm Meeting – Sire & USTA

1:30pm-3:00pm Seminar – Parliamentary Procedures
2:00pm-3:00pm YP Mentor Speed Dating
2:15pm-3:15pm Table Topics 3,9,11
3:15pm-4:30pm Seminar – Roles and Responsibilities of a Board
3:30pm-4:30pm Table Topics 5,6,12
4:00pm Associates Gathering
5:30pm PSACF & PSSA Board
Group Photos
5:45pm Hospitality Time & Cash Bar
6:15pm PSACF ANNUAL BANQUET
6:45pm Dinner (reserved seating-ticket required-\$43)

Friday, January 19, 2024

MEAL ON YOUR OWN-LUNCH

7:30am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open
7:30am COMMUNICATIONS BREAKFAST
meal (served) 7:30am; awards 8:15am-9:00am
(ticket required-\$21)
9:15am -11:30am Memorial Service /
PSACF Annual Meeting
11:30am Fair Advisory Committee Meeting
11:00am – 12:30 YP Idea Swap, Networking & Lunch
10:30am-4:00pm Trade Show Open
Communication Exhibits Open
(Badge Required)
10:30am-4:00pm PA Dept. of Agriculture display, etc.
1:00pm-2:00pm Table Topics 2,3,10
1:00pm -2:15pm Seminar – Blue Ribbon Guest Service Tips
1:30pm -2:30pm Seminar – Trucking Regulations
1:30pm – 2:30pm Seminar – Capital Improvement Grants
2:15pm-3:30pm Seminar – "Special Baking Contests"
2:00pm-3:30pm Spouse Program – Needle Felting 101
2:15pm-3:15pm Table Topics 3, 8, 9
2:30pm-3:45pm Seminar – Human Trafficking
3:30pm-4:30pm Table Topics 4,7,12
6:15pm Hospitality Time & Cash Bar
6:45pm PA SHOWMEN ANNUAL BANQUET
(Reserved seating-ticket required-\$57)

Saturday, January 20, 2024

MEAL ON YOUR OWN-BREAKFAST

7:30am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open
9:30am -11:30am Seminar – Let's Talk Anything Fairs
9:00am-10:30am Seminar – Food Safety Updates
9:00am-Noon Trade Show Open
Communication Exhibits Open
(Badge Required)
11:30am-12:30pm PSSA Annual Meeting
Noon-12:30pm Communication Exhibits Released
12:30pm Auction Drawings - Winner must be present
2:00pm - 4:00pm Spouse Program – Traveling Vineyard
6:00pm QUEEN CORONATION BANQUET
(Reserved seating-ticket required-\$52)

Saturday Youth Day, January 20, 2024

9:00am - 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 21, 2024

8:00am PSACF Exec. / Conv. Breakfast

SPOUSE PROGRAM

Felting 101

Presented by Linda Grove (Huntingdon County Fair)

What is needle felting? Needle felting is when you take wool roving or wool yarn and a felting needle and turn it into a fiber art piece. If you can move your hand up and down you can create wool art. We are going to turn wool balls into tree ornaments or bowl fillers. Linda will also bring examples of other ways you can needle felt. By using cookie cutters to make ornaments or trace onto wool felt and make table runners or candle mats.

Traveling Vineyard

Presented by Traveling Vineyard

Plans are to have Traveling Vineyard at the presidential suite Saturday from 2 - 4 pm. More information to come.

TABLE TOPICS

1. Volunteer & Community Meetings
2. Sponsorships & Grants
3. Facebook Video (step by step how to)
4. Digital Scrapbook
5. Fair Queens
6. Marketing Your Fair, Traditional & Social Media
7. New Contest Ideas
8. Demo Derbies / Junk Car Races / Tractor Pulls
9. What was your "challenge" this year
10. Farm Bureau
11. Benefit Auctions & Other Fundraisers
12. Are we adjusting our fairs to society today? & How?

SEMINARS

Judging School

Session choices for this year are as follows:

- Apiary, Baking and Canning
- Queen Contest
- Hay and Grain
- More topics to follow

Serv-Safe

The Food Safety updates will be presented by Paster Training, Inc. Paster Training Inc.'s trainers are the best and most passionate in the business. We are thrilled about the opportunity to provide your association members with a 4 hour food safety review session and proctoring of the ServSafe examination.

Trucking Regulations Update

A representative from the Pa. Motor Truck Association, located in Camp Hill, Pa. will give the latest updates for the industry.

Fairs 101

Presented by Tracy Barone

Review of requirements under the Fair Act, state premium guideline book, fair reimbursements, and frequently asked question. Additionally, we'll open the floor to attendees to share their best management practices and good ideas.

Fairs Capital Improvement Grants

Presented by Tracy Barone

Information regarding planning, applying for and reporting on Capital Improvement Matching Funds Grants.

60 Tips in 60 Minutes

Presented by Marla Calico

Food Safety Updates

Changes and Updates from the PA Dept. of Agriculture.

Parliamentary Procedure

Presenter: Joe Yedlick

Animal Health Rules

This presentation will cover the PA Department of Agriculture Animal Health Requirements and Recommendations, biosecurity considerations, and the Animal Exhibition and Sanitation Law. Information on the new exhibition swine and poultry quarantine orders will also be presented. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion for fair managers challenged with incorporating these requirements into their programs

Special Baking Contests

Presented by Kevin Bieber (Oley Valley Community Fair) and Karen Dobson (Kimberton Community Fair)

This is the annual seminar to update everyone who runs any of the Special Baking Contests at your fairs. This is also the perfect time to come and ask questions regarding any of the contests.

Non-Profit Board Governance

Presented: Rey O'Day, NICA Executive Director

Ever wondered "What's My Job" as a Board member? In the words of Bill Chaney "The Board's Job is not to run the organization, but rather to ensure that it is well run." In order to do that, Board Members need to know their role and responsibilities, the tools to use, the art of effective delegating, how to determine their operating style, and how to participate effectively in meetings. Moreover, Board Members who commit to understanding the power of building robust relationships between CEO's or Executive Director's and their Boards will find they serve productive and well-run organizations. "Trust" is the core value and "Speaking as One Voice" is the action. Come meet Rey, who has a lifetime of experience working successfully with Boards.

Blue Ribbon Guest Service Tips

Presenter: Rey O'Day, NICA Executive Director

WE are in the business of making good memories, which means we all share the responsibility for being friendly and helpful. Philosophically we agree that providing excellent customer service for our fair and event attendees is something we want to do on a consistent basis; however, in our "busyness" we don't always remember to do it in the moments when it is necessary. Our guests need to feel welcome, comfortable, understood, and important. This is a session of useful, practical tips like "Know Your Neighborhood" and the "10/4 Greeting" that are simple and easy to implement. Learn how to provide Blue Ribbon Service Experiences that are so compelling that our guests can't stop talking about them to others.

Human Trafficking

Presented: The South Central Task Force

Let's Talk Anything Fairs

Moderator: Shirley McIntire

We invite you to come in and talk "Anything Fair Related". This topic of discussion is wide open and will be moderated by Shirley. You are encouraged to come to this and share ideas, problems or anything fair related. What better place to "bounce" ideas and problems you may be having off of others. Just remember, there may be another fair that has the same idea or problem you have.

YP Event

– Maria Zaffuto

We will once again be having our annual Young Professional Lunch and Peer Networking Event on Friday of convention. A free lunch will be offered courtesy of our sponsors.

We are also looking forward to once again hosting the Mentor Speed Dating and Network Session. This session was a huge hit last year with special requests to bring it back for another year.

Youth Day

– PA State FFA Officers



Photo Credit: Tim McGowan Studios

A Fair Queen to Serve on 2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show Junior Committee

For the past few years, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has committed to making the PA Fair Queen an honorary member of its Junior Committee. This special appointment supports our mission to connect PA agriculture with PA fairs.

It is now Chloe Bomgardner's turn to serve on that committee. We look forward to seeing her contributions to the success of the 2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Chloe will also be representing PSACF and the PA Fair Queen Program at events throughout Farm Show Week – January 6-13.



State Contestant Hotel Room Block Deadline October 15

The PA Fair Queen Program has reserved a block of rooms designated specifically for state contestants. This room block is guaranteed through **October 15**. After that, the hotel reserves the right to release any unused rooms to other convention guests.

There is a separate Hotel Room Form that can be downloaded from the PA Fair Queen Program's website - <https://sites.google.com/view/pastatefairqueen/home>

Forms must be submitted directly to Hershey Lodge. The room reservation process is the responsibility of the fair, queen coordinator and/or the contestant's family. Be sure that your contestant is getting clear communication from your fair and queen coordinator about who is making her hotel reservation.



State Contestant Application Now Open Through November 15

The 2024 PA State Fair Queen application is now available on the PA Fair Queen Program's website.

<https://sites.google.com/view/pastatefairqueen/home>

The application must be completed online. Queen Coordinators were contacted with instructions on how to access the webpage so that their contestants can complete the application forms. Completed applications and all required documents must be uploaded by **11:59 pm on November 15**.

An online "2024 State Contestant Application Tutorial" was hosted for Coordinators and contestants on September 17. The session was recorded so anyone else interested in receiving a copy of the training can contact Karen Dobson at kardob@msn.com.

Convention Registration for Contestants and Guests

In addition to securing the contestant's hotel room, and the contestant completing her online application, each contestant – and any of her personal guests – **must** be registered for the Convention. This is done by completing PSACF's Convention Registration Form and submitting the associated payments. The fee to register a contestant for the state competition is \$125 and covers her convention registration, Thursday's PSACF Banquet, Friday's contestant pizza party, and Saturday's coronation banquet. Anyone else attending a convention event or banquet must also register and pay using the PSACF form. **Deadline to register and pay is December 15**. The form can be downloaded from PSACF's website.

<https://www.pafairs.org/p/members/2024-convention>

See "Fair Queen to Serve" on next page



NEW! PA Fair Queen Quarter Zip Pullover

Thanks to our Fundraising Coordinator Amy Hawn, we have quarter-zip heavy pullovers for sale this year! **Orders must be placed by November 15** if you want to pick up at the Convention. Cost is \$40 each plus \$3.00 if you want a name embroidered. See our website for order form and details.

<https://sites.google.com/view/pastatefairqueen/home>

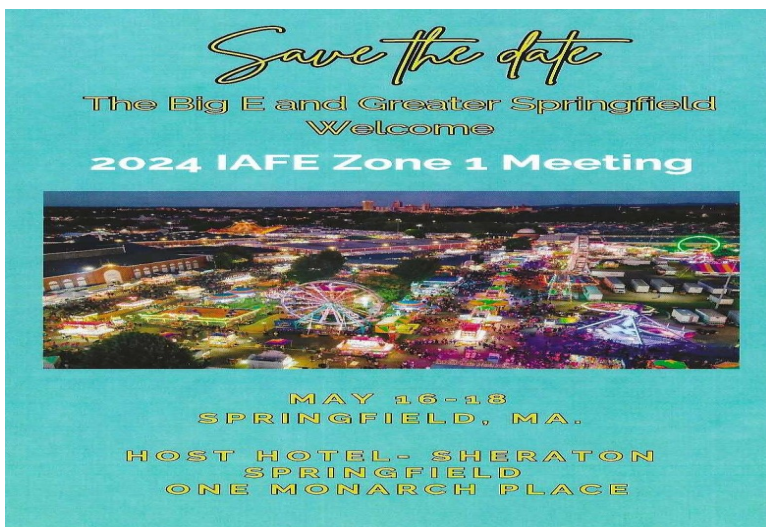
Queen Program Fundraising Opportunities



Supporting the PA Fair Queen Program is a great opportunity to invest in the next generation of PA's finest young women leaders. There are two opportunities:

- 1. Donations** - We are seeking items for our fundraising events at convention in January. Individuals, fairs, and businesses can help by donating gift baskets, live auction items or contributing a monetary donation. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Contact Amy Hawn with any questions. 814-386-1860 or amyhouck267@yahoo.com. **Deadline to sign up: November 30.**
- 2. Sponsorships** - The PA Fair Queen Program is also seeking sponsors for the upcoming state competition in January 2024. Sponsors are partners who maintain the high standards of excellence that has made us one of the top commodity programs in the Commonwealth. Sponsors receive great visibility and recognition with over 1300 delegates from fairs, showmen and associates who attend the annual convention. Be part of this program that celebrates the young women who are dedicated to promoting PA fairs and agriculture. Contact Judy Kmetz for more details – 570-675-2952 or luzernecounty-fair@hotmail.com. **Deadline is November 30** to be included in our publications.

Thank you to all the fairs who are using social media to share how their queens are participating and volunteering at a variety of agricultural and community events. "Follow" our **@pafairqueen** Facebook and Instagram pages to keep up to date on the 2023 PA Fair Queen's activities, as well as updates about the upcoming 2024 state competition.





Pennsylvania Fair Queen Program 2023 Fundraising

**Great opportunities to invest in the
next generation of PA's finest young women leaders**



Individuals, Fairs and Businesses can participate as follows:

- ☐ Donate a **Gift Basket** for Convention
- ☐ Donate a **Live Auction** item for Coronation
- ☐ Contribute a **Monetary Donation**
- ☐ Help at the **50/50 Nightly Cash Raffle** Table
 __ Wed __ Thurs __ Fri __ Sat
- ☐ Help at the **Basket Raffle** Table at Convention
 __ Thurs __ Fri __ Sat



Please indicate your preference above and return form by November 30.

Mail Form & Checks To: **Amy Hawn**, 9669 Kyper Road, Petersburg, PA 16669

FOR MONETARY DONATIONS – **CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PA STATE FAIR QUEEN PROGRAM"**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING NEEDS

Contact Amy Hawn at 814-386-1860 (Baskets/Auction) or Ruth Trumbetta at 724-433-3571 (50/50)

PA State Fair Queen Program is a non-profit corporation with 501(c)3 tax exemption status



ATTENTION FOOD HANDLERS!

PSSA is hosting an educational seminar in conjunction with our annual Hershey Convention.

Paster Training will again be taking care of the instructional portion of the class as well as proctoring the exam on Wednesday January 17, 2024. Cost \$175 and includes study materials and test. The course is open to all PSSA and PSACF members. Class size is limited to 35 persons.

Study materials will be mailed directly to you and you will be able to study at your own pace and on your own schedule. A wrap-up session of materials review, current updates and questions and answers will be given at Hershey on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, and testing for your license will take place on site. The time allotted for the session is 4 hours after which you break for lunch on your own at the Lodge.

Registration deadline is November 18, 2023. (Registrations received after the deadline will be held on a waiting list pending any cancellations.)

SERV SAFE EDUCATION/REGISTRATION

Sponsored by PSSA

COURSE DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 (approximately 4 hours)

COURSE TIME: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Check In @ 8:30 am

LOCATION: Hershey Lodge, 325 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033

COST: \$175.00

PAYABLE TO: PSSA Scholarship Account

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

Email is required for downloading your own ServSafe certificate upon successful completion/passing of the test. Email_____

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION RESERVATION AND INCLUDE CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO PSSA TO:

Donna M. Kramer
Treasurer
318 Vinemont Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

PSACF COMMUNICATIONS AWARD COMPETITION

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>-CRITERIA</u>
Premium Book & Tabloid	-Follow PSACF guidelines. Attractive cover design and binding; table of contents; includes judging schedule, premium list, entry form, list of officers, directors and/or department chairs; easy to read; overall appeal. Online premium books will be printed and enter in a three ring binder or bound.
Non-Premium Tabloid	-Follow PSACF guidelines. Attractive cover design and binding; overall layout; balance of ads and fair information; easy to read; overall appeal.
Video/Slide Show	-Entry must be on flash/thumb drive, and marked accordingly. No commercial entries, amateur only. Must be at least 3 minutes in length, no longer than 5 minutes and should include all areas of your fair, blending the agricultural and commercial aspects of your fair. Soundtrack, photos and or scenes should complement each other, be of good quality and narrated when appropriate.
Brochure	-Overall appearance, layout and flow of information, fair highlights and information, quality and use of graphics and photos, use of theme.
Power-Point Presentation	-Flash/thumb drive, with soundtrack; no commercial entries, amateur only; must be less than 5 minutes in length. Overall appearance, use of graphics, photos, animation, transition and use of fair theme.
Billboard	-Must be an 8X10 photo of your billboard; Judging on billboard, NOT photo - use of graphics, content, appearance, design and creativity.
Placemat	-Layout, content, use of graphics and/or photos, creativity, use of a theme, includes fair information and overall appearance
Website	-Website address and brief paragraph (max. 100 words) explaining usage and promotion of the site, to be submitted on letterhead with registration form prior to 11/ 1. Judged on overall appearance; use of graphics and how they affect load time; content; organization; purpose and promotion to the public (how to you direct people to your site).
Scrapbook cover	-Cover will be judged as a separate item and as part of the scrapbook entry. Identification of Fair, follows theme of fair; overall appeal; durability; creative use of materials.
Scrapbook – Traditional	-This is NOT a Photo Album. Follows theme of your fair; covers all areas of the fair and blends ag, commercial and entertainment aspects; includes table of contents and list of fair officers; photos identified; layout, overall appearance and creativity.
Scrapbook – Digital	-Created digitally, you can use a professional company such as Shutterfly or Snapfish. Follows theme of your fair; covers all areas of the fair and blends ag, commercial and entertainment aspects; includes table of contents and list of fair officers; photos identified; layout, overall appearance and creativity.
Promotional Material	-Display of promotional items from your fair - <i>display should be neat and appealing, but the judging is of the promotional items, not the display itself.</i> All items follow common theme; variety and creativity of materials, use of media outlets - print, radio, TV and internet; fair name and dates prominent in appropriate items. All items are to be arranged by your fair personnel at the State Convention. One 6 ft table will be provided; maximum size for "uprights" or "proper" is 3 ft high and 6 ft wide and must be self-supporting. Any display that is not self-supporting will be disqualified. No ribbons or awards for promotional items should be displayed (i.e. past PSACF or IAFE competitions)
Fair Display	-Floor or table - specify on registration form. Floor display to be a maximum of 8 ft wide X 8 ft high X 4 ft deep. Table display to be a maximum of 6 ft wide X 4 ft high X 2 ft deep. Will be judged from distance of 3 ft - use of current PSACF theme, conveys a message, creativity, neatness and overall appearance. Tables at Hershey are 24". Deeper than 24", make set up difficult with available space.
Creative Fair Idea	Must be displayed on 11"x17" black paper. Include photos (Black/white or color) and narrative of 50 words or less detailing the idea and how it was used at your fair. Judged on design, creativity, layout, content and overall appearance.
Facebook Page	Include Facebook address and brief paragraph (max 100 words) description of how you use Facebook to promote your Fair and interact with community, to be submitted on letterhead prior to November 1st. Will be judged on overall appearance; use of graphics and photos, interaction with followers, frequency of posts and relevance to your Fair activities.

PSACF COMMUNICATIONS AWARD COMPETITION

Registration Form

All forms must be postmarked by NOVEMBER 1, 2023.
Mail to Martha Ebersole 640 Dellville Road, Duncannon PA 17020

Fair: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone No: _____

Address: _____

The following entries must be submitted with this registration form before November 1.

____ PREMIUM BOOK

____ PREMIUM TABLOID

____ NON-PREMIUM TABLOID

____ BROCHURE

____ BILLBOARD (8X10 photo)

____ POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (amateur)

____ PLACEMAT

____ VIDEO TAPE (amateur)

____ WEBSITE (include web address & explanation of the site – typed, max. 100 words)

____ FACEBOOK (include address and brief paragraph – typed, max. 100 words)

The following entries should be brought to the convention, the registration form is still due by Nov. 1. Entries will be accepted at the convention on Wednesday from 4 to 8 pm and Thursday from 8 to 9 AM. (NO EXCEPTIONS). Judging will begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

____ PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

____ SCRAPBOOK Traditional _____ Digital _____

2023 PSACF Theme:
PA County Fairs: Growing The
Future

____ SCRAPBOOK COVER Traditional _____ Digital _____

____ FAIR DISPLAY - FLOOR (max. 8' high x 8' wide x 4' deep)

____ FAIR DISPLAY - TABLE (max. 4' high x 8' wide x 2' [24"] deep)

Please note the display tables are only 24" deep @ Hershey.

____ CREATIVE FAIR IDEA

____ BEST OF SHOW (Fair qualifies for this category if they've entered 5 other categories.)

Questions should be directed to the following executive committee members:

Martha Ebersole (717) 834-4435

Craig Lash (724) 872-8967

Joe Irons (814) 598-5446

Ben Haagen (814) 383-4428

Paul Britcher, Jr (717) 567-6779

In Memory



John J. Berne, 78, of Crosby, passed away Saturday (July 8, 2023) at UPMC-Cole, Coudersport.

John graduated from Smethport Area High School in 1962. He attended Clarion University where he received his B.S. and Master's Degrees. He also attended St. Bonaventure University for additional education in administration. He also studied at Penn State University and Indiana University of PA.

John was a teacher for thirty-three years at Cameron County School District in Emporium. Each year he awarded The John Berne Scholarship to a deserving young person to further their education.

John was a well known entertainer. He was an outstanding accordion player.

He was a member of the McKean County Fair Association, where he served as Treasurer, Vice president and President over the years. He was also the Zone #1 director for the PA State Association of County Fairs, and the State Chairman for the PA Fair Queen Board .



Jack D. Fullerton Sr., 89, of Meyersdale, died August 23, 2023 at Windber Hospice.. A member of the Pennsylvania State Showman's Association. Following his board position on the Somerset County Fair Board for 40 years, he is currently a honorary board member of the Somerset County Fair. Jack owned his own auto body shop for many years and also Fullerton Promotion and Sound. He was the promoter of the Somerset County Speedway for many years.

The PA State Association of County Fairs room block is OPEN and guests may begin to reserve their room reservations.

Your guests may begin to reserve their room reservations by calling the **Hershey Lodge Reservation office at 855-729-3108**, and asking for the room block for the **PA State Association of County Fairs, January 16 - 21, 2024.**

The Hershey Lodge Reservation office hours: Monday - Sunday, 8:00am - 8:30pm

Your Group's Room rate is:

One person in Room: \$123.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes

Two or more persons in the Room: \$126.00 per room per night plus 11% taxes

We are asking guests for their credit card numbers to guarantee their reservations, but NO advance deposits are being charged at the time the guest is booking their room reservation.

You're Group's cancellation policy is:

Cancellations must be received by the end of day, Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Any room reservation cancelled after this date, a cancellation fee of one night's room and tax will be charged to the guest's credit card.

Guests who need to reserve their room reservations in the Showmen Hallway, Rooms 2200 - 2250, please have them call me, and I will assist them with reserving their assigned room in this section. Could we ask these guests to contact me by Friday, Oct 27, 2023. I could provide you with the names of the guests who have not reserved their room reservation after this date, giving you time to check to see if the guest will be attending your conference.

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



From the PA State Fair Queen

As the 2023 Fair season throughout the state of Pennsylvania quickly approaches its end, I can't help but reflect on this past summer. Being the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen, representing not only the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs, but also the members therein, 107 county and community fairs across the state, has been an experience of a lifetime! It has been quite a summer, to say the least! I have traveled just under 7,000 miles attending over 30 fairs in just a short few months.

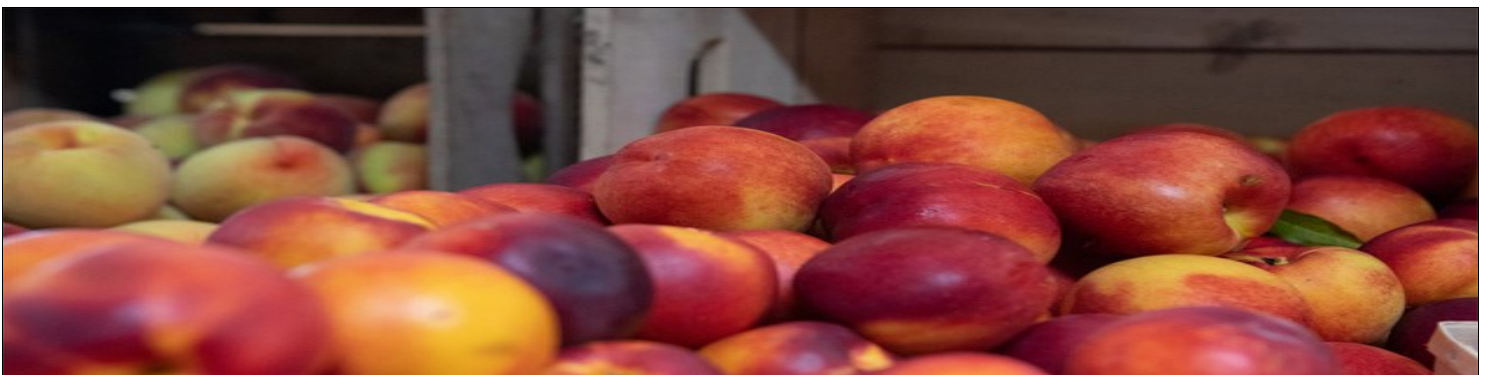
Because there are 107 fairs across PA, you can imagine that there are countless ways to showcase agriculture and tourism. During my fair travels I have seen so many unique indoor exhibits and track events, different kinds of animals I never thought I'd see at a county fair, had foods I never even knew existed, and have seen hundreds of years' worth of traditions.

Every fair has its own uniqueness from traditions, to foods and so much more, however I have learned to truly get the PA Fair experience, you need to meet the fair boards and people who are working behind the scenes. I can guarantee that behind every county and community fair, big and small, there are hundreds of passionate fair board members, volunteers, and community members ready to lend a helping hand. Being the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen has given me so many new friendships, acquaintances, and networking opportunities as I have traveled the state over the past few months. From fair to fair, not only was I meeting new people, but I was also seeing familiar faces! It is so humbling to see so many passionate people at county fairs! From the moment I stepped onto the fairgrounds at each and every one of my fair visits, I felt welcomed. From fair board members picking me up in golf carts and showing me around their fairgrounds, to exhibitors smiling and saying a friendly hello as I walked by, and county fair queens sharing their involvements at their fair; I felt like I was at home.

Throughout my travels, I have been able to attend many fair queen contests, tour fairgrounds, participate in local fair contests, and share my passions for the fair industry with countless people. I have had the opportunities of a lifetime this past summer, and would not trade it for anything. To say I am very grateful for this opportunity would be an understatement. With that, THANK YOU PA FAIRS! Thank you for welcoming me with open arms this past summer; thank you for sharing your passions with me; thank you for giving your time to the future generations; and thank you for never giving up on "Growing the Future"!

Though my fair travels are starting to slow down, I am not done with my fair queen duties. As many of you know the Pennsylvania Farm Show is quickly approaching, and as the PA Fair Queen, I have a spot on the PA Jr. Farm Show Board. I am beyond excited to be helping prepare for the Farm Show alongside the Jr. Board, and can't wait to meet so many new people while doing what I love, promoting the importance of PA agriculture and tourism!

With blessings,
Chloe Bomgardner
2023 PA State Fair Queen



THE

Fair

PUBLISHING HOUSE

1

ONLY 1 GRAND CHAMPION

ONLY 1
Fair
PUBLISHING HOUSE

ONLY 1 BEST IN SHOW

Phone: 419.668.3746

Fax: 800.340.9988

orders@fairsupplies.com

www.fairpublishing.com

Proudly Made in the USA

PA Fairs On Parade A review of 2023 Pennsylvania Fairs

PA Fairs on Parade was a huge success at this year's convention so we are bringing it back for 2024. During the PSACF Banquet at the 2024 convention on Thursday January 18, 2024, we will present "PA Fairs on Parade", a picture review of our fairs. All fairs are invited to submit 7 photos from your 2023 fair.

Look for a good variety of high quality, high-resolution photos that best represent your fair. Submit 7 photos and a logo. Photos must be in .jpeg format. Your best 5 photos will be included in the presentation. Your logo will precede your photos so that everyone will be able to identify your fair.

Please email your photos and logo to Pafairsonparade@gmail.com. In the subject line of your email please enter the name of your fair. To be included in the "Fairs on Parade", we must receive your photos no later than December 15, 2023, in order to allow time to produce the presentation.

Please plan to share the best from your fair with everyone at our banquet!



**DEADLINE
OCTOBER 1**

JUNIOR FAIR PERSON NOMINATIONS

Recognize and honor a youth Fair volunteer for his/her **blue-ribbon** efforts and achievements, and for making a difference at your fair!

**Application available at
www.pafairs.org
on the Home Page**



SCAN ME



Judges School 2024 State Fair Convention Hershey, Pa.

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs will be holding its annual judge's school as a pre-empt to their annual convention in Hershey, Pa. The judge's school will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 starting at 1:00 p.m.

Jana Mellott is serving as the chair of the Judging school again this year. Some of the topics for this year's judging school are Apiary, Baking and Canning, Queen Contest, and Hay and Grain. Stay tuned for more topics in the registration packet for the convention.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jana at auntjana@embarqmail.com or (717) 571-8637.

With just a few more weeks left in the 2023 Fair season, here are some reminders as we head towards the 2024 PA Special Baking finals at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Every participating fair must submit the Contest Summary Report **by November 15** either through the Google Form <https://forms.gle/hVZAxuVU41wiQRjYA> or by paper form. It will help us communicate better about the PA Farm Show finals if fairs can provide their winners' email addresses.

There are **Winner Certification Information sheets** available to give your fair winners so they can prepare for the PA Farm Show contests. Fairs **no** longer fill out any Farm Show Certification Entry forms. Those Certification Forms will be sent by the PA Special Baking Contest Committee directly to the winners as designated in the fairs' Contest Summary Forms.

If a first-place winner is unable to attend the state finals, the PA Fairs Special Baking committee will certify the next available winner listed on the fair's Contest Summary.

Local winners should NOT register directly with the PA Farm Show to compete in the Farm Show special baking finals. The Certification Entry Form signed by the PA Fairs Special Baking committee is their "ticket" to enter. Instructions are listed on the Certification Entry Form.

The online Baking Contest Packet has been updated with the Contest Summary Forms, Winner Certification Information sheets and press releases. Coordinators were also emailed copies of the Contest Summary Forms and Winner Certification Information sheets.

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

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests –

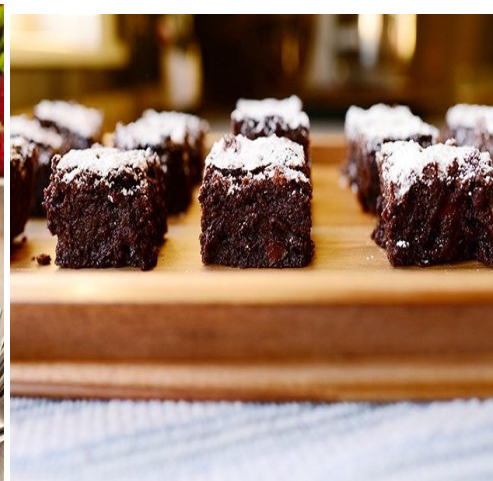
Kevin Bieber (484-256-8009, email kbieber1123@comcast.net)

Junior Baking and Chocolate Cake Contests –

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

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

#



M&G LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-PSACF

HARRISBURG OVERVIEW

With a very divided state government (a one-seat Democratic-Majority in the House, a Republican-controlled Senate, and a Democratic Governor), the 2023 budget season was expected to be less amicable. Below is a brief recap on the most recent developments.

On June 30th, the Senate sent the House the general appropriations budget, HB 611. Senate Republicans claimed that they had a deal with Governor Josh Shapiro. They would support the spending bill, so long as he would support the inclusion of a \$100 million line item for a school voucher program.

Shortly after the Senate passed the bill and sent it over to the House, Governor Shapiro promised House Democrats that he would line-item veto the voucher program and urged their support for the budget bill. To Senate Republicans, he argued that there wasn't enough House support for the voucher program, but he still wanted an on-time budget. With 86 Republicans in opposition, the House passed HB 611.

As part of normal operating procedure, each chamber is required to sign the bills that they've passed. Because Governor Shapiro reneged on his agreement with the Senate Republicans, Senate leadership refused to reconvene to sign the bill and send it to the Governor's desk. However, after mounting pressure from public schools, county human service program providers, and others who depend on state funding, the Senate reconvened on August 3rd, signed the bill and sent it to the Governor's desk.

The Governor quickly signed HB 611 into law, allowing state departments to start distributing some of the funding and prevent various disruptions in schools and human services programs. But the budget package is not quite finalized. The general appropriations budget bill is simply the spending portion of the budget package, detailing how much funding shall be allocated to each line item. However, many line items require additional authorization through a supplemental fiscal code bill, detailing *how* the money should be distributed within each line item.

On August 30th, the Senate reconvened to debate two fiscal code bills, HB 1300 and SB 757. HB 1300 directs funding to many non-controversial and bipartisan line items. SB 757 addresses the more controversial priorities, including funding for educational options for students in failing schools. Both bills were passed by the Senate and now await consideration by the House.

We are not anticipating that the House reconvene before the September 19th special election. The winner of that election will fill former Representative Sara Innamorato's seat in the 21st district. With her recent resignation, the House is currently split evenly between 101 Democrats and 101 Republicans.

BUDGET LINE ITEM

Good news for the fairs! With the help of House and Senate leadership and various fair champions, including Representative Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia) and Representative Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh), we were able to protect the county fairs line item in the 2023-24 state budget. Under HB 611 PN 1811 (Page 553), the county fairs were fully funded at \$4,000,000.

5	PART XX		
6	PENNSYLVANIA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT		
7	RESTRICTED ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS		
8	SECTION 2001. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.		
9	THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ARE		
10	APPROPRIATED FROM THE		
11	PENNSYLVANIA RACE HORSE		
12	DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTED ACCOUNT TO		
13	THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR		
14	THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR:	FEDERAL	STATE
15	FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA		
16	VETERINARY LABORATORY SYSTEM.		
17	STATE APPROPRIATION.....		5,309,000
18	FOR PAYMENTS TO PENNSYLVANIA		
19	FAIRS.		
20	STATE APPROPRIATION.....		4,000,000

See M&G next page.....

From M&G previous page.....

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.

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.

The bill 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.

PSSA is supportive of this bill and continues to advocate for committee consideration of the bill.

Increasing the Minimum Wage

HB 1500 (Dawkins, D-Philadelphia): Amends the Minimum Wage Act requiring the tipped minimum wage to be 60 percent of the cash wage and gradually raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by Jan. 1, 2026, and increasing each Jan. 1 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 and has not been a priority in any recent talking points in the Capitol. However, that's not an indication that it won't arise again during fall session days.

OTHER

We are keeping the momentum going from our legislative reception in June. We are working to rally a core group of legislators who will continue to champion the fairs in the Capitol. If possible, we'd like to reorganize a more official fair caucus.

As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to represent you in the 2023-24 legislative session.



Fall is just around the corner and the sun is about to set on the 2023 fair season. I've made my way to thirty fairs so far, and at every fair I met board members, youth board members and volunteers who are new to their roles at the fair.

It's exciting to see their enthusiasm and support for the fair.

Pennsylvania's county fairs are often described as quilt squares that form a large quilt, each fair with its own unique traditions and talents. If that's the case, our volunteers are the thread that binds this beautiful quilt together. In the past few years the topics of board succession and youth engagement have been on everyone's mind. Volunteers don't typically come looking for opportunities, like crops they need to be cultivated.

Succession planning should be part of your fair's strategic plan for the future. If you're looking to enhance your board's volunteer base try reaching out to community businesses, trade associations, service and fraternal organizations, youth groups, educational institutions, and local government agencies. Not everyone involved with the fair needs to have an agriculture background; volunteers can put their business and life experience to work doing all sorts of things for your fair. Here are a few things you can do now, before you're in dire need of volunteers:

- Get organized and have your "elevator speech" ready. Identify your volunteer needs and have a concise speech ready to give to folks you're trying to recruit.
- Advertise! Let the community at large know you're looking for volunteers. Many publications, television and radio stations will convey your message for free or at a discounted rate because you are a not-for-profit organization.
- Start networking. Build relationships with potential volunteers now.

You can start small and work with individuals to increase their roles. The tradition of county fairs is strong in Pennsylvania and fairgoers are counting on you to secure your fair's future.

We're here to help! We can develop press releases and volunteer tool kit templates you can use to support your fair's recruitment plan, and help you find resources to enhance your efforts.

Poultry and Swine

- **Poultry:** The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's HPAI General Quarantine Orders are still in effect. No poultry, eggs, or poultry products can be exhibited during the fair.
- **Swine:** The Swine Quarantine order is still in place. Swine Health Monitor Training is offered by Penn State Extension and must be renewed annually.
- **Rabbits:** There is no current prohibition of out-of-state rabbits for exhibition at Pennsylvania Fairs. Sections 15 & 16 of the 2023 Animal Health Rules for PA Fairs contain both requirements and recommendations related to rabbit exhibition at the fairs.

Fair Reimbursement Applications

Applications are due by **November 15th**. Fairs are welcome to submit their applications earlier. Please be sure to submit all the required information. Here are a few reminders:

- Remember to submit your premium books along with your application.
- Provide your fair's total attendance in Section V.
- You must use the fair's official legal address as it's listed in our system on your submission. If you are unsure, please reach out to us to verify it.
- Include the fully executed signature sheet.
- Be sure to provide the name, address and phone number for each exhibitor as follows below. You may submit data from Show Works or Martech to support your application so long as the above referenced information is provided.

12.	Hay & Grain					
1.	Tracy Barone, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110					717-772-3094
2.	Tom Jones, 1313 Mockingbird Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17110					717-772-3094
3.	Elvis Presley, 2222 Water Tower Road, Pottsville, PA 17000					717-772-3094
4.	Chuck Berry, 1010 Miss Molly Blvd., Green Acres, PA 17111					717-772-3094
5.	Michael P. Keaton, 1994 Success Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110					717-772-3094

Fair Poster Contest

The Fair Poster Contest entries are due on **November 1st**. You can bring your fair's entries to the Fall Zone Meetings or send them to the fair office at the following address: PA Department of Agriculture, Attention Fair Office, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Please **DO NOT** send your entries to the Farm Show.

Update from The Zones

1

Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

It has been a successful fair season so far and it is very evident of the hard work and dedication that goes into each and every fair. We would like to thank the fairs that have used this year's theme of: GROWING THE FUTURE. The theme was prominent and was being used in unique ways in displays, events, t-shirts and even parades. Be sure to be thinking about submitting photos for "Fairs on Parade" which will be shown during the fair banquet at the convention.

Our zone one fall meeting will be held on Friday, October 20th at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds near Brookville. We will be presenting awards for Zone Person of the Year and also Junior Fair Person. At this meeting, we will also be electing someone to represent Zone One on the Queen Board. Please plan to have your fair represented at this important meeting. The state officers will be updating us on the upcoming convention in Hershey. Tracy Barone, Fair Fund Administrator, will be updating us on information from the Department of Agriculture. Once again, we will be having the Msgr Mignot Scholarship Raffle. See you at the zone meeting.

2

Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

The fair season is now coming to an end. It seems we had a wet and hot fair season. As I am writing this letter, we are entering a dry stretch for the middle of September. I know one fair I attended, Luzerne County, got flooded. Our thoughts are with you, Judy.

Everyone will soon be getting their grounds and buildings ready for the winter.

I would like to thank our directors for getting out and visiting the fairs in our Zone.

Junior Fair Person nominations are due by September 30th. Fair Person of the Year nominations are due on November 1st.

Our Fall Zone meeting will be at Montour Delong Community Fair on October 21st. You will be receiving more information including place and time.

Everyone enjoy the fall foliage. See you at the meeting.

3

Zone Three— Debbie Stephenson

It's hard to believe that fair season is almost over for another year. We hope all fairs had a successful fair. Our Zone 3 meeting is set for October 19 at 630pm at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds. Dinner will be served with our meeting following with information being discussed for convention. Please make sure at least one person is in attendance to provide the information to the rest of your board. Please make sure your baking contest winners are submitted as well. Also remember to submit your Jr Fair Person of the Year by October 1 if you have one please submit it as directions on the form. Thanks to all fairs for the great hospitality when your zone visitor attended your fairs. It's always nice to see your members in their environment. See you there!! Sincerely Debbie Stephenson Zone Chairman

4

Zone Four— Kevin Bieber

As we start to wind down on yet another Fair Season, I certainly hope all of you that had your fair already, experienced great weather, large crowds and a strong sense of "job well done". For the Zone 4 fairs that are coming up, we wish you all the best as well. The Zone 4 Director's had a great time in visiting your fairs and as always, we thank you for all the hospitality you provided.

Before long, we will be heading to Hershey for another great convention and fellowship. I hope that all of you are making those plans to head to Hershey in January. If you have never been to the convention, I urge you to attend this year and see what all your association has to offer by way of educational seminars, table topics and so much more. I also would like to encourage all of you to attend the upcoming Zone 4 meeting which is being held at Yoder's in Lancaster County. The date for this meeting is set for Wednesday October 18th. Karen will soon be sending out the invitations. Please remember to register by the deadline.

Speaking of deadlines, please remember to get your nominations in for the Zone 4 Fair Person of the Year as well as Zone 4 Junior Fair Person. Nominations are due to me no later than October 1st.

As you can see, Zone 4 and your PSACF Association is quite busy in preparing to bring you all the information possible from our industry. It is our goal to make your fair successful as well as making sure you have all the information needed to run a safe and successful fair. The Zone 4 Director's look forward to continuing to service you and your fair. Please feel free to reach out to us if we can be of any assistance.

See you at the Zone 4 Meeting as well as Hershey !

PA County Fairs:
GROWING
THE FUTURE

Message from Our Associates



Plans are moving along well for the 2024 PSACF/PSSA convention to be held in Hershey on January 17th – 20th.

Welcome new associates and those associates who have renewed their memberships!

Musicians, bands, solos, duos, jugglers, magicians, circus performers! Once again, now is the time to apply for the very popular annual Showcase of Entertainment taking place this year on Wednesday, January 17th, at 6:30.

If you are selected, you will be performing for over 100 fairs and buyers from all over Pennsylvania (from Maryland and New Jersey too) who are actively looking for acts that will make their fair special.

The showcase is a highlight of the convention, an excellent opportunity for fairs to experience acts/attractions/bands firsthand and book them early for the 2024 fair season.

The showcase committee looks for diversity - juggling/magic/illusion and novelty stage acts as well as musical groups, bands, tribute artists and singers – for all sizes of venues.

Additionally, strolling acts/street musicians and grounds entertainers (roving acts who do not offer a stage show) may apply to entertain and mingle in the Chocolate Ballroom lobby prior to the fair banquet on Thursday evening.

The applications for the showcase and strolling entertainment must be received by October 25th. Associates must be current members (or represented by an agent who is a member). You are eligible to apply if you have not showcased in the last 2 years. Those who meet these qualifications should have received an invitation to apply.

If you have not already done so, book your room now. In the past, some people were not able to get rooms as they waited too long to make their reservation. Follow the instructions on the PSACF website to get the convention room rate.

All the best,

Galla

dangalla@uplink.net





PSACF Association Update

It is hard to believe the 2023 Fair Season is coming to an end and we are looking forward to the 2024 Convention. When we were younger time seemed to drag by, but now as we have matured it seems to be a sonic fly over.

Showcase

Associate members eligible to showcase were mailed an application in mid-September. To be considered for the showcase, that application can be done online or postmarked by October 25th. Showcase participation is my invitation only. Note: Dues must be paid in the year you received the application, and if selected, in the year you showcase.

Junior Fair Person of the Year

The deadline of October 1st quickly approaching. As I have visited fairs there is youth involvement and deserving of the recognition.

Fair Person of the Year

An application is available in the "Member Fairs Only" section of our website. Applications are also available in the convention packets to be picked up at your zone meeting. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than November 1st.

Communications Competition

A Communications Competition criteria and registration form are also available in the "Members Fairs Only" section of our website, and will be in the convention packets at your zone meeting.

Fair Dates for 2024

I will be mailing a request for the dates of your 2024 Fair and any changes that you may wish to make personnel, directions, etc. The dates are not only used for the Department of Agricultural Fair 2024 Fair Guides but our 2024 Directory. I will also be requesting these dates at your zone meeting. During the year please notify me of any personnel, date changes and I will note them in the next FairTalk issue.

Msgr. John W. Mignot/PSACF Scholarship

Scholarship selection process is under way those selected will be notified by the Chairperson or the Zone Chairperson. At the Fall zone meetings, recipients will also be recognized.

Associates Members Convention

Packets will be mailed in October, as well as invoices for membership. The invoice requests current information to be printed in the 2024PSACF directory. Information needs to be returned to the PSACF office no later than December 1, 2023 to be published in the 2024 directory.

Poster Contest Winners

"Rooted in Progress" poster contest can be brought to your zone meeting and given to Tracy. Do not fold or bend posters, they must be flat and protected. Tracy will deliver them to the Farm Show.

Hershey Convention Rooms

Book your rooms now, if plans change you can always cancel up to January 11, 2023 and no penalty. Save your anxiety of No Room at the Inn. Just spoke with Michele and we are at 77% of our total reservations.

Judging Reference List

Now that the Fair season is over, if you have found anyone listed that should be removed due to retirement, etc, please let Jana or myself know.

Harry

