

DATES TO REMEMBER

2010

September 1

- * Showcase apps. for 2011 Convention mailed
- * Baking Contest checks (Hershey, Angel Food) mailed

September 30

- * 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

October 14

- * PSACF Board Mtg.-Centre Co. Grange Fairgrounds

October 15

- * Showcase apps. due

October 20

- * PSACF Zone 4 Mtg.-Shady Maple-East Earl

October 21

- * PSACF Zone 3 Mtg.-Fayette Co. Fairgrounds

October 22

- * PSACF Zone 1 Mtg.-Scrubgrass Grange

October 23

- * PSACF Zone 2 Mtg.-Bloomsburg Fairgrounds

October 31

- * 2011 Request for Fair Info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed

November 1

- * Fair Person Of The Year apps. due
- * Communications Competition apps. due

November 15

- * Queen Competition apps. due

November 30

- * FAIRTALK material for December issue due

November 29 to December 2

- * IAFE Convention - Las Vegas

December 31

- * 4th Quarter FAIRTALK – emailed

2011

January 8 to 15

- * PA Farm Show

January 19 to 22

- * PSACF/PSSA Convention - Hershey

April 28 to May 1

- * IAFE Zone 1 Conference - Warwick, RI



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

FAIRTALK



"News From The PA State Association Of County Fairs"

"THE VOICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR INDUSTRY"

VOL. 24

SEPTEMBER, 2010

NO. 3

FULL FIELD OF CONVENTION SEMINARS PLANNED AGAIN THIS YEAR

- Kevin D. Bieber

The 2011 Pennsylvania State Fair Convention seminar committee has been hard at work this past summer in putting together another full field of outstanding educational and fun seminars. Last year we heard from many of you that we had great seminars, but your concern was that there was just too many to attend at one time. So this year the committee is continuing to bring top quality seminars but we have tried to focus on limiting the seminars and working with the Table Topics committee in order to make the schedules much more friendly. We hope you agree that our schedules will allow you to maximize your time at convention a little better.

I am excited to bring to you our keynote speaker in the name of Jeff Tobe. Upon my checking around to receive feedback on Jeff Tobe, I have been assured by many that we will really enjoy him as he will be a great speaker to kick off our convention. Jeff is from the great state of Pennsylvania and is looking forward to visit all of us in Hershey.

Speaking of some great speakers, your fair will definitely want to send a representative to the "Grantwriting" seminar on Thursday. With all of us facing major cuts in fair funding, we need to start taking different avenues in finding some money that makes it easier for all of us to operate our fairs. Brian Carlson will share his expertise and ideas in order to help us succeed in "finding" more money. Back once again to Hershey will be Larry Helms who has graciously offered to speak on different topics both Thursday and Friday. Understanding our budget, Larry is making the most of his time in Hershey and I would ask that all of you please thank him for helping us out. Larry will speak on "Imagineering" as well as "Tough Times Don't Last, Tough Fairs Do." He will also be speaking to the Queens as well as offering his time for a Table Topic subject about how fairs can best utilize a trade show at convention. Becky Brashear from The Great Frederick Fair in Maryland, will bring to us something we all need to think about, technology competitions at your fair. Friday afternoon you may want to have a representative from your fair join Kevin Bieber and Karen Dobson on the ever changing "Special Baking Contests." Every year we try and make sure your coordinators are well aware of the changes that are taking place. Saturday we will wrap up the convention with our guest speaker from the IAFE, Phil Hurst. Phil will speak to us about how he has found that "Making the Unusual the Usual" has changed his way of looking at fairs. Bill Chirdon from the PA Department of Agriculture will be here

See "Seminars" - page 5

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Jim Davis



It is 2010 and the new millennium completely changed our way of thinking, communicating, and doing business. Web Sites, My Space, Twitter, and many others are replacing newspapers, radios, and surprisingly TV with our daily contacts in seeking information. As you envision the future, follow your mission, contemplate growth, consider the way you must communicate to increase the passage through your gates.

We have been blessed to have the experience of working with some very fine people who share our mission. Kristi Rooker, our most recent fair fund administrator, was more than a paper dispatcher. Kristi grew up at a fair because generations who preceded her played a major role in establishing the Fayette County Fair in 1955. Ms. Rooker became our fair friend, concerned about many of our needs, and dedicated to being forthright, honest, and professional. Having been a former state fair queen, Kristi came to the position with an excellent knowledge of where the Pennsylvania fairs were located, and some sense of the differences among the many fairs in the commonwealth. As she relocates to State College to be spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Beef Council, we know she will continue to bless the agricultural community with articulateness, self-discipline, and a richness of thought for the industry.

In addition to Eric Cowden's duties as director of regions V, VI, & VII, he will return as our Fair Fund Administrator. Eric, too, has a rich background from Washington County Fair. Both Eric's maternal and paternal genealogy have played a major role since the first fair in 1822. Today, three or four generations of family represent the agricultural segment of the historical fair.

Eric is a natural leader, is sensitive to your needs, and will have an open line to any of your questions.

Jean Lonie, home grown in the city of Brotherly Love, has accompanied the Secretary of Agriculture to the many fairs. Ms. Lonie is now hooked on fair food and country folk. It could be easily stated, Jean is now a fair junkie. We are most appreciative for all the photos taken, processed, and returned to the many commonwealth fairs. Jean is at the top of her craft. The Philadelphia Agricultural High School has a strong reputation for developing some of our finest agricultural leaders.

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Secretary, Russell Redding, continues his passion for the county fairs. Secretary Redding grew up participating in the South Mountain Fair developing his leadership style through FFA. Russell Redding has included PSACF throughout his tenure in communicating to all the organizations who benefit from the Fair Fund Act of 1986. In 2010, Secretary Redding has presented many fair volunteer awards in person. It has been an inclusive relationship and agriculture continues to be his focus.

Among all these folk, our relationships have been genuine, professional, and always on task. It is a joy to be associated with the fair industry where warmth, understanding, and celebration are the components which are so evident from the top down and the bottom up.



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once again to share the changes that are taking place concerning food safety. I would highly recommend you have someone attend that seminar as well.

As you can see, we have provided to you some great speakers on some very important topics. Your attendance at these seminars is requested as you will walk away with some ideas that I know you can incorporate at your fair. Please feel free to offer your comments and suggestions on the seminars to any

seminar committee member. As always, we continue to look for new ideas for seminar topics to bring to you, please share your thoughts. See you all in Hershey !!!!!

EDUCATION THROUGH SEMINARS

COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION

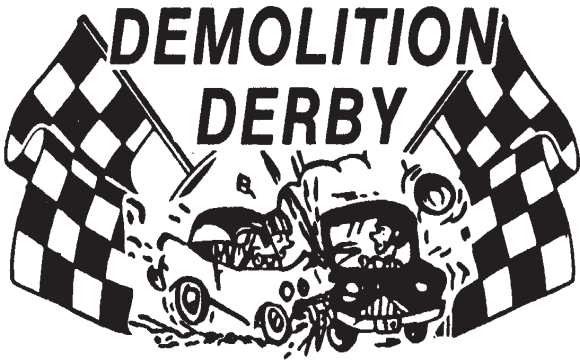
- Debbie Stephenson

Communications applications are on the web site and the committee hopes that all of you enter at least 1 area. Remember, we all can learn from each other. Please be sure to take note of the deadlines, and if you run into a problem please let me know by either phone or email. Please be sure to "send" items that are to be sent and bring the others to convention as listed on the entry form. Also take note that on the meals entry blank for convention 2011 the

Communications Awards will be just like last year "a breakfast" but the good news is we are going to have breakfast first then the announcements of the winners. We would also like you to be thinking if you or someone on your fairboard has a little time to help out in the Communications Area we will gladly accept the extra help. Thanks so much for all your help.

Debbie and the Communications Committee

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THE SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

- Bruce Koppenhaver, CFE



Hershey Contests & Angel Food Cake Contest

Checks for Hershey Contests and/or Angel Food Cake Contest were mailed in August. Please cash this check as soon as received. Also, coordinate between the contest coordinator(s) and fair that the check was received for the contest(s) and cashed. Note that you are obligated to pay full premium for each placement regardless of the state budget and any decision your fair makes to pay less than full premium. In addition, any unpaid premium due to the lack of entries, etc. are to be returned to PSACF. Failure to do so will result in next year's check being reduced by that amount. Your post contest report will be used to identify unpaid premium. Any questions are to be directed to the appropriate state baking contest coordinator. Remember to submit your Contest Summary information to the appropriate person by the deadline specified; otherwise, your fair will be ineligible to participate in 2011.

Showcase

Associate members eligible to showcase were mailed an application in early September. To be considered for the showcase, that application must be postmarked by October 15th to the showcase chairperson. Note: Dues must be paid in the year you receive the application, and if selected, in the year you showcase.

Fair Person of the Year

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

Communications Competition

A Communications Competition application is available in the "Fairs Only" section of the association website and must be postmarked no later than November 1st.

Future Association Mailings

Please refer to the "Dates to Remember" on the cover concerning future mailings for the remainder of the year. These mailings will be important to both fairs and associate members as we approach the 2011 convention and the next fair season.

Fair Dates for 2011

I received some fairs 2011 dates previously; however, I will be confirming those dates at the zone meetings or through personal contact. Many requests are received before the end of the year for next year's

dates, and those dates will be posted on the association web site by mid-November. Please assist me in compiling this information.

Reimbursement Applications

Read the instructions, complete the 2010 Reimbursement Application using the current version of the MarTech Blue Ribbon software or the application through the association/PDA website. Print 3 copies of the completed application, obtain original signatures on all copies, and send to PDA Fair Fund Office along with the required supporting documentation (i.e. Premium Book, addendums, etc.). Also, an electronic copy is to be emailed or placed on a CD and mailed with the paperwork. Deadline is November 15th.

Friends of Pennsylvania Fairs

The grass roots effort to develop a base of support for the Fair Program (fairs, 4-H, FFA and statewide ag organizations) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was launched at the Spring Zone Meetings.

Membership brochures were distributed and a number of them have already been returned. Additional brochures can be obtained by calling 866-814-6985. Help us build this base of support by distributing them among your local agricultural organizations and throughout the community.

The online membership process is in place at www.friendspafairs.org.

Continue soliciting members.

Msgr. John W. Mignot Scholarship Fund

Six scholarship selections have been made and the selected applicants/fairs will be notified by the committee chairperson. Those not selected will be notified by the committee chairperson or the zone chairperson.

County Fairs Appropriation Dips Below \$1M

The Governor has issued an across-the-board decrease of 1.9% in discretionary spending in agencies under his jurisdiction. That means the County Fairs appropriation has been cut \$19,000. It will go from \$1M to \$981,000.

The Fair Advisory Board met on Sept. 27 and the decision is that fairs, 4-H, FFA and statewide ag organizations will receive the same percentage this year. The percentage will be determined after all reimbursement applications are received. The deadline for applications is November 15.

Belmont Magic

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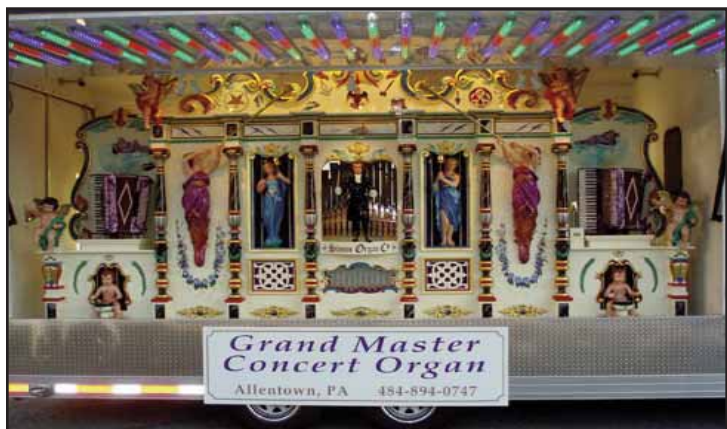


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A 'THANK YOU' TO PENNSYLVANIA'S FAIRS

- Russell C. Redding, PA Secretary of Agriculture

If you want to see Pennsylvania, go to the fair. I've stated this a number of times this summer, because I know that our 114 fairs represent the best that our state has to offer, from the agricultural and competitive exhibits on display to the spirit of cooperation and community you can't help but feel. As I travel the Commonwealth, I am reminded that this line has very literal meaning as well. I thought I knew Pennsylvania pretty well ... I know it a lot better now!

It's been amazing to visit the fairs and realize that no matter how similar a schedule may look on paper or online, each fair has a completely different look and feel. Our fairs are as unique as the communities that host them, and I think that this is one of the main strengths of our state. Whether a fair has run for 200 years or is celebrating 30 years, each has a special

history of its own that is a part of the larger heritage of our state. Each fair is a completely unique patch that, when you pull them all together, creates the amazing quilt that forms Pennsylvania.

As different as our fairs may be, there is one constant: the heart of the fair is the team of volunteers who take a week or so off from everything else to work from sun-up to sun-down at the fair.

To those who serve on fair boards, coordinate displays and contests, manage the fairgrounds, guide our Fair Queens, lead our 4-H and FFA activities, and generally run the fairs we enjoy, thank you for the work that you do all year long to make the fairs such a great success. Your efforts are notice, valued and deeply appreciated.

ECONOMICS 101

- Jim Davis

As the month of August became history, reports from fairs were very positive. Attendance records are being shattered in many instances. In spite of the mercury in the thermometer hitting the 90's, many of our Pennsylvanians stayed at home and the local fair became their vacation. In most part, the weather has been warm and favorable.

It appears the team approach is most effective when we establish our goals. It takes a village for this production. Consequently, we need to join hands in this pursuit. Our vendors, in many cases, are fund raising for a service which benefits the local needs in a variety of ways for citizens. Fairs are a business and the bottom line dictates the longevity of this existence. Many times our fairs are hesitant to move forward because the general public tends to feel

entitled. It is the fair venue which provides fund raisers for a plethora of needs represented by volunteers.

In addition, your fair adds economic impact to the area, region, and state. Agriculture is the number one industry in the commonwealth. Our sustenance is dependent on the survival of agriculture. Fair Volunteers are making tremendous sacrifices, working long hours, and the venue happens because free labor is not an expense. Make your decisions based on mental toughness versus emotional weakness. Fairs will survive if the industry is proactive and keeps an eye on the bottom line. You are a business, and those of you who are good managers will continue to see the sun rise.

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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT

- Galla Higinbotham

As I write this article, I marvel at the many people from all walks of life who are brought together by the all-American tradition of the state, county and community fairs: the fair boards and planners, the volunteers, all those who enter exhibits and show their animals, the carnivals, the attractions, the entertainment, vendors and service providers and the many tens of thousands who walk through the gate at fair time. It makes me reflect on the preparation for months before, getting ready for fair week. It also reminds me how much people look forward to that time spent at the fair. It makes all the hard work worth it.

I've talked to quite a few people this fair season; many have been working with their animals, creating their art, caring for their vegetables and flowers for months. And as fair week gets closer, the excitement builds. Then, for a short week or so, we all come together and before we know it, fair week is over. Another year, another season gone by. And the process starts all over again.

Though funding issues and a sluggish economy continue to plague the fair industry, we all move forward. It's too important not to. We Associate Members of the PSACF offer a vast amount of services to make the fairs strong and are eager to work together. As the moneys get tighter, what brings the people through the gate? The attractions and entertainment, the blue ribbons, the traditions long enjoyed.

Plans are moving forward for the 2011 convention. At the state board meeting in Hershey on July 13th, Hershey Lodge representatives gave us an overview of improvements made since we were all last there. Among other changes, they assured us the motel is more "navigation friendly"! We will be seeing digital screens around that can be updated with new information within minutes and different signage.

By now Associate Members should have received a letter along with an application to participate in the talent showcase taking place on Wednesday evening, January 19, 2011. I strongly urge those of you who qualify, to submit an application. For those of you who are new, I cannot stress the importance of this showcase. It is one of the highlights of the convention and you will be performing for nearly 100 fairs and the buyers are looking for talent. The showcase committee carefully reviews every application and

selects the strongest acts to appear, not only in the showcase but also at the opening ceremonies and other time slots. The committee is looking for diversity – music, juggling, magic, novelty – for all sizes of stages and venues. Do send in your application (include a video) – by October 15th. Remember, you must be a current Associate Member.



Whether you are chosen to showcase or not, plan to attend the convention. Having a booth in the Trade Show is a great opportunity. There will be dedicated time on Thursday and Friday (with no table topics and seminars) so everyone has time to conduct business in the Trade Show. One fair board representative said he was in the trade show all 3 days and still ran out of time to see everything there was to see. The state fair board will again sponsor Kevin Bieber's popular "Sticker Game".

I invite all fairs to visit the Trade Show and meet some of the wackiest and friendly people in the industry. It's a one-stop center of professionals, some of whom have been in this industry for many years, who know and understand fairs and love them.

A good lunch menu will again be available in the trade show daily, with good soups, sandwiches and quick service.

Send suggestions, etc. to dangalla@uplink.net.

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HOTEL RESERVATIONS

2011 Convention reservations will now be accepted by the Hershey Lodge. Deadline is December 31, 2010. All those attending from the Fairs, Showmen, Trade Show, Associates, and guests can phone the Hershey Lodge room reservation's office at 1-800-HERSHEY (437-7439), or log onto the Hershey Lodge at https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcoming_ei_new&eventID=2631014.

All Queen candidates must use the Queen special code of 2011QUEEN; otherwise, no special code is required. Be sure you have a credit card with you and respond to all questions. Rooms will be available by 4:00pm and check out at 11:00am daily for all.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is essential to the smooth operation of the convention. This year a \$25.00 registration fee is being charged. If you plan to attend the Convention for less than the four days, the registration fee is still \$25.00.

If you register after December 31, 2010 (mail postmarked after that date) or register when you arrive in Hershey, the fee will be \$40.00. Send registration to: PSACF, P.O. Box 546, Gratz PA 17030-0546.

MEALS

Any meal ticket(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 guaranteed count must be given to the Lodge for each meal three days before the convention and will be based on what has been "sold" at that time. The Lodge permits a meal count to be exceeded by no more than two and one-half percent. For example, if the communications breakfast guaranteed meal count was 500, the maximum of additional meal tickets that could be sold at the convention for the meal will be 13. So, don't wait until you get to the convention to purchase meal tickets!

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

MEALS ON YOUR OWN-ALL

11:00am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

Judge's School

12:30pm-1:15pm Orientation

1:20pm-2:30pm Session 1

2:35pm-3:55pm Session 2

2:00pm-3:00pm Table Topics 4, 15

2:00pm-4:00pm Seminar-"Trucking Regulations Update"

3:00pm-4:30pm Seminar-"Who Knew.Did U? Technology Competitions"

3:15pm-4:15pm Table Topics 2, 17

4:00pm-8:00pm Enter Communication Exhibits

Trade Show Set-up

4:45pm PSSA Board Meeting

4:45pm PSACF Board & Reorg. Meeting

6:30pm-10:00pm ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE

Thursday, January 20, 2011

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 Celebration

Keynote Speaker - Jeff Tobe

9:45am-10:15am Associates Gathering

10:30am-4:00pm Trade Show Open

Communication Exhibits Open

(Badge Required)
 10:30am-4:00pm PA Dept. of Agriculture display, Treasury, etc.
 11:00am-12:00pm PA Harness Racing Commission Meeting - Open to the public
 1:00pm-2:30pm Seminar - "Imagineering"
 1:00pm-3:00pm Ride Safety Session
 1:15pm-2:15pm Table Topics 5, 6, 13
 1:30pm-3:00pm Meeting - Sire, Quaker & USTA
 3:00pm-4:30pm Seminar - "Grantwriter"
 3:15pm-4:15pm Table Topics 8, 9, 11
 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 - \$29)

Friday, January 21, 2011

MEAL ON YOUR OWN-LUNCH

7:30am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

7:30am-9:00am COMMUNICATIONS BREAKFAST (served) (ticket required - \$16)

9:15am-11:00am Memorial Service / PSACF Annual Meeting

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

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

2:00pm-3:30pm Seminar - "Special Baking Contests"

2:00pm-4:15pm Spouse Program - "Basket Bingo"

2:15pm-3:15pm Table Topics 1, 4, 16

2:15pm-4:00pm Seminar - "Tough Times Don't Last, Tough Fairs Do"

3:30pm-4:30pm Table Topics 10, 15, 18

6:15pm Hospitality Time & Cash Bar

6:45pm PA SHOWMEN ANNUAL BANQUET

(reserved seating - ticket required - \$30)

Saturday, January 22, 2011

7:30am-5:00pm Registration Desk Open

7:00am-8:30am BREAKFAST (buffet) (ticket required - \$14)

8:45am-10:30am Seminar - "Making the Unusual the Usual"

9:00am-10:00am Table Topics 3, 7, 14

9:00am-10:30am Seminar - "Food Safety"

9:00am-Noon Trade Show Open

Communication Exhibits Open
 (Badge Required)

9:30am-10:45am Spouse Program - "Antique Appraisal"

10:30am-11:30am Table Topics 2, 12, 17

10:45am-noon PSSA Annual Meeting

11:00am-noon Seminar - "Use the Internet for Entry Process"

Noon-12:30pm Communication Exhibits Released

12:15pm BOX LUNCHEON

(ticket required - \$15)

Auction Drawings - Winner must be present

2:00pm-4:00pm Family Feud

2:30pm-3:30pm Table Topic 19

4:45pm Interdenominational Service

6:00pm QUEEN CORONATION BANQUET

(reserved seating - ticket required - \$29)

Sunday, January 23, 2011

8:00am PSACF Exec. / Conv. Breakfast



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Continued - Next Page

TABLE TOPICS

1. Accounting for Fairs
2. Advertising Your Event & Your Sponsors
3. Animal Health Issues
4. Barn Safety
5. Creative Foods at Your Event
6. Decrease Cost to Increase Profits
7. Fair Queen Activities & Responsibilities
8. Freshen Up Your Displays
9. How to Best Utilize a Trade Show
10. Judges (Get, share, costs, best use)
11. Legislative Process Update
12. Museums (How to honor our past)
13. Officers Only Session
14. Premium Books (Online, Off or Both)
15. Raising Funds (Government, Foundations, Fundraisers, etc.)
16. Up your Game Revenue
17. Volunteers (What are they worth?)
18. Youth Boards Can Work!!!
19. 4-H / FFA Livestock Shows & Sales

SEMINARS

Judges School

The day starts with an orientation session on ethics in the judging process. This is followed by the six sessions. Session choices for this year are: Nuts, Vegetables, Flowers, Baked Goods, Canned & Preserved Food, Antiques. The fee for the school is \$10.00 per person. At the conclusion of the sessions a certificate of attendance is given to all participants who complete the program. A registration form is located in the convention packet and as a link from the home page of the association web site. If only attending Judge's School, convention registration is not required.

Trucking Regulations Update

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

Who Knew ... Did U? :

Incorporating Technology Competitions into Your Fair

Becky Brashear the General Manager of The Great Frederick Fair in Maryland comes to us to speak about how your fair can incorporate technology competitions at your Fair along with the many other competitions that your Fair has. Becky will bring her expertise as well as ideas for you to consider at your next Fair. Technology is here today, why not use it to your advantage?

Keynote Speaker, Jeff Tobe

Jeff was recently named 1 of the top 15 speakers in North America by Conventions / Meetings magazine. Jeff Tobe uses humor, wit and contagious energy in his presentations in order to keep the audiences on the edge of their seats. A presenter to more than 100 organizations each year, Jeff Tobe speaks and consults with organizations that urgently need to stay ahead of their marketplace.

Imagineering,

Tough Times Don't Last, Tough Fairs Do,

Queen Seminar

Larry Helm's is a nationally recognized and respected expert in the field of industrial psychology and personal development programs. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and a post-doctoral certificate in management from Harvard University. Larry has spoken before every major fair association in North America and this is the fifth time he has presented seminars for Pennsylvania Fairs.

Grantwriting

Brian Carlson was born and raised on a small dairy/potato farm in West Cohasset Minnesota. Recently, Carlson has become recognized as a leader in the area of finding funds, creative

financing, and innovative methods of "getting things done". His rule of thumb goes back to his roots at his Lutheran Church where he first read the words: "Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." ... in one simple word said it all ...just...ASK.

Special Baking Contests

Karen Dobson and Kevin Bieber will walk you through everything your fair needs to know about the Special Baking Contests that are available to each Pennsylvania Fair. These contests include the Hershey's Cake and Cookie, Brownie or Bar Contest as well as the Angel Food Cake Contest and the Apple Pie Contest.

This seminar will walk you through beginning with signing up for the contest, having the contest, judging and displaying your entries, finalizing your paperwork and of course encouraging your winners to represent your fair at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. So, bring your questions, share your ideas and learn from each other as we show you just how easy it is to have these Special Baking Contests.

Important to attend this session to keep up with the changes and additions to these contests.

Food Safety

Bill Chirdon, PDA Director of Food Safety and Laboratory Services, graciously accepted to return and keep our vendors and food handlers current on the latest regulations with food. This is always a topic of concern and, at present, we are not clear on food re-certification regulations. In particular, who it affects, when does the present certification expire, and what are the expectations. Bill will give us the answers to all questions.

Making the Unusual the Usual

"Making the Unusual the Usual" is not just a slogan for Phil Hurst; it's a philosophy that helps to draw over 300,000 attendees each year to the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa. Located in Northwest Iowa, and with a population of 11,317, Spencer is the largest city within a 90 mile radius.

You will find yourself laughing with pure enjoyment as Hurst regales you with amusing stories of how he fell in love with fairs as a youth by discovering unusual things that only could be found at the fair. "Making the Unusual the Usual" will not only keep you laughing, but will have an impact on how you plan your event in the future!

Use the Internet for Entry Process

Utilize the internet for the fair entry process: (1) To facilitate taking entries much easier and less labor intensive. (2) To allow your exhibitors to enter their own classes, pay fees, buy tickets, etc. all linking to your website. Presented by MarTech Systems.

Advertise in the newsletter "FairTalk"

****Purchase three consecutive ads and make the entire payment up-front, the fourth ad is "HALF PRICE".**

****The cost is as follows (non-member rate is 25% higher):**
Business Card \$25 per issue size (2" h x 3 1/2" w)
1/4 page \$40 per issue size (4 3/4" h x 3 1/2" w)
1/2 page \$60 per issue size (10" h x 3 1/2" w) or (4 3/4" h x 7 1/2" w)
Full Page \$105 per issue size (10" h x 7 1/2" w)

*****"FairTalk" is published March, June, Sept., Dec. Circle issues and ad size.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

New Ad – enclose camera-ready copy - black & white.
Make payable to PSACF and
send to: PSACF, PO Box 546, Gratz PA 17030-0546

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"Specializing in Quality"



WEST END FAIR, GILBERT, PA

2011 SPOUSE PROGRAMS

The activities at the 2011 PSACF/PSSA Convention will feature:

- A "Ticket Auction" in the Chocolate Ballroom (prizes to be awarded on Saturday at 1PM).
- Wednesday and Thursday – shopping on your own at the many outlets and malls in the Hershey area.
- Friday afternoon, the Showmen's Association and the Fair's Association will conduct a Longaberger Basket Bingo from 2:00PM - 4:15PM. Purchase cards at the door.
- Saturday morning, "Antique Appraisal" from 9:30AM - 10:45AM.

All fairs and showmen are requested to donate one (1) or two (2) gifts for use in the above activities. Your support is truly needed and will be greatly appreciated.

2011 PA STATE FAIR QUEEN CONTEST TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

12:00pm – 4:00pm Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program

Thursday, January 20, 2011

9:00am – 4:00pm Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
2:00pm Early Hotel Check-In – Queen Contestants
3:00pm – 4:00pm Queen Contestant Orientation Check-in
4:00pm – 4:45pm Queen Contestant Orientation

6:00pm
6:15pm
6:45pm
8:30pm
9:00pm

Line Up for Evening Gown Competition
Evening Gown and Introduction Competition
PSACF Annual Banquet
Queen Contestants Group Photo
Gift Exchange

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

7:00am – 12:00pm Interviews - Morning Session
9:00am – 4:00pm Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
9:30am – 10:30am Seminar – Larry Helms
11:00am – 12:00pm Seminar – Denise Yoho
1:00pm – 5:30pm Interviews - Afternoon Session
2:15pm – 3:15pm Queen Coordinators' "Idea Exchange"
2:30pm – 3:30pm Seminar – Denise Yoho
6:00pm – 6:45pm Judges Reception with Contestants
6:45pm PSSA Annual Banquet
8:30pm – 10:00pm Queen Casey Hall's Party with Contestants

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2011

7:30am – 12:00pm Speech Competition – Morning Session
9:00am – 12:45pm Raffle Table Open to benefit Queen Program
9:00am – 10:00am Table Topic – "Fair Queen Activities and Responsibilities"
11:00am – 2:00pm Hair Styling Appointments
1:00pm Drawing for Raffle Table items
1:15pm – 3:00pm Speech Competition – Afternoon Session
4:30pm Rehearsal for Coronation (Contestants only)
6:00pm Coronation Banquet (Reserved Seating)
Ticket Required - \$29
7:15pm Line Up for Coronation
7:30 – 8:45pm Coronation Ceremony
9:00pm Media Photos

Visit the PA State Fair Queen Program's Basket Auction and Raffle Table in the Great Lobby.
50/50 raffle tickets will also be sold in the Chocolate Ballroom Lobby.
Wed, Thurs & Sat. evenings, and Fri evening in the Fireplace Lobby.

Support the...

Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs

Lifetime Warranty
Register your Basket

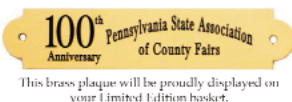
The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs is proud to present the "Mail" Basket as the 100th Anniversary 2012 limited edition collector basket. The baskets are custom made exclusively by the American Traditions Basket Company in Canal Fulton, Ohio. Each basket is hand woven with expert craftsmanship. **The baskets are a great fundraiser that will last a lifetime and capture your fair memories.** Order your custom collector basket today to support the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs!

Orders taken in 2011

Delivery at the 2012 Convention



2012 Limited Edition
Collector Basket



Made in the
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by American
workers.
Every one of
American
Traditions Baskets
is handwoven of
hard maple,
signed and dated
by the artisan.

The "Mail" Basket

Includes brass tag, custom engraved
laser lid, blue ribbon tack covers, and a
plastic protector. **\$45.00**

8" x 5" x 5.5"



The Jeanne Zano Band

EXCITING NEWS: Jeanne named SingerUniverse Magazine's "Best Vocalist of February". See story at: www.singeruniverse.com

Nashville Recording Artist and PA native ~ Jeanne Zano ~ currently booking for the 2010-2011 Fair season

Her debut CD "Here I Am" produced by Mark Oliverius (Lorrie Morgan's producer)

2005 Kiwanis Wyoming County Fair Vocal Talent Search Winner

Opened for Lorrie Morgan, Jason Aldean, Sawyer Brown, Jamie O'Neal, Crystal Shawanda

Hit Song "8 Years of Life" WINNER of 2009 HITSONGFINDERS.com Songwriting Competition and Honorable Mention in 2009 Great Lakes Songwriting Competition

Contact info: 570-905-1946 or jeannezano@gmail.com

www.jeannezano.com www.sonicbids.com/jeannezano www.facebook.com/jeannezano

www.myspace.com/jeannezano www.twitter.com/jeannezano

Covering all your favorite country music artists and songs from Jeanne's CD with high-energy, stellar musicianship, soaring vocals and crowd-pleasing interactive performances for all ages!

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Pa State Association of County Fairs Questionnaire for Gubernatorial Candidate - Tom Corbett

- 1) If elected Governor, do you plan on attending the PSACF convention and dinner banquet in Hershey, Pa January 19-22, 2011 (banquet Jan. 20, 2011) Circle one: yes or no

Though I have not planned my schedule that far ahead, I will make every effort to attend. I appreciate the advance invitation.

- 2) If elected Governor, do you plan on maintaining the Fair line item in your first budget? Circle one: yes or no
Yes. I have released a comprehensive policy to sustain and promote agriculture throughout the Commonwealth. My plan includes support for fairs statewide, as they are important to the fiber of rural Pennsylvania.

- 3) 2007, the fair line item was at 4.4 million dollars and has been cut every year since. To which level do you anticipate restoration? Circle one: a. 2 million, b. 3 million, c. 4.4 million, d. other \$_____

I support Pennsylvania's fairs as a means to promote agricultural products, ensure sustainability of agritourism and support sectors of our economy such as harness racing. As governor, I have a comprehensive plan to restore our state's fiscal discipline by rooting out waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars, eliminating WAMs and through greater adherence to eligibility guidelines. Cutting overall state spending will give my administration greater budgetary flexibility in supporting crucial line items, such as those that promote small family businesses and agricultural operations. However, until my administration is able to get a closer look at next year's specific budget and revenue projections, it would be impossible – and possibly misleading – to attempt to guarantee a specific dollar amount.

- 4) Would you sign a bill written to include the fair funding as a permanent fund rather than a line item? Circle one: yes or no

I strongly support Pennsylvania's fairs as a showcase for agriculture, our state's number one industry. Promotion of Pennsylvania's agricultural products to world markets is one aspect of my comprehensive plan to help jump start our economy and support small businesses and job growth. I support Pennsylvania fairs as a component of a strategy to sustain agriculture statewide, though it would be impossible for any candidate to guarantee that adequate revenue will be available to maintain a permanent fund.

- 5) As Governor, how many county fairs will you attend out of the 114 total fairs? Circle one: a. less than 25 b. more than 25 but less than half c. more than half

More than half. Pennsylvania's county fairs are peerless as a means to come in contact with a variety of interests, taxpayers, family business operators and everyday cross sections of our state's culture. The people, products and businesses that come together to create the county fair experience cannot be experienced in any other way, and as governor I will endeavor to reach as many as possible.

- 6) As the number one industry in Pennsylvania, do you plan on restoring the funds that were cut in the Department of Agriculture? Circle one: yes or no

Enhancing the Department of Agriculture is one of the cornerstones of my agricultural policy. While state spending has exploded by nearly 40% over the last 8 years, the general fund appropriation for the Department of Agriculture has decreased by \$4.5 million. Agriculture has clearly not been a priority for the current administration. While a specific funding level is impossible to guarantee, I recognize that the Department provides a critical service to Pennsylvania's farming community, and I will bring a new sense of priority to its activities and responsibilities. In addition to supporting fairs, my administration will continue support for the Department's consumer protection, marketing support, horse and harness racing programs, and bureaus which operate programs related to human, animal and plant health and safety.

- 7) Do you support funding for a comprehensive marketing plan to promote tourism, agriculture and the fairs? Circle one: yes or no

Yes. Promoting Pennsylvania's agricultural products to world markets is an important component of my comprehensive plan to spur a statewide economic recovery. Promotion of our energy and agricultural products will be a priority to help businesses within the state increase prosperity while increasing job creation potential within the Commonwealth. Tourism is another major industry in Pennsylvania, and support from the next administration is crucial in order to protect job growth and to sustain such a significant sector of our economy. Increased tourism can result in growing businesses, more jobs and greater revenue to the state, making the promotion of Pennsylvania as a leader in cultural and historical tourism a cost-effective way for the state to be a partner in job growth.

- 8) 5 sentences or less, what would you like to say to the number 1 industry- agriculture and PSACF?

While our agriculture industry is strong due to the hardworking men and women who run Pennsylvania farms, I know that the industry is in critical need of leadership at the state level to ensure the viability and success of our agriculture community for generations to come. Pennsylvania has the ability to expand and grow its agricultural presence both nationally and around the world, and I believe it is time to harness that potential and make agriculture a cornerstone of Pennsylvania's economic recovery. My agricultural plan will work to support and grow our farming community, and embrace Pennsylvania's fairs as a mechanism to showcase and promote our number one industry statewide.

Pa State Association of County Fairs Questionnaire for Gubernatorial Candidate - Dan Onorato

1) If elected Governor, do you plan on attending the PSACF convention and dinner banquet in Hershey, Pa January 19-22, 2011 (banquet Jan. 20, 2011)

Circle one: **yes** or no

2) If elected Governor, do you plan on maintaining the Fair line item in your first budget?

Circle one: **yes** or no

The next Governor is going to face major budget challenges because of the Commonwealth's budget crisis. I support our county fairs and understand their positive economic impact – as I described in my Agriculture policy paper – and will fund them to the greatest extent possible.

3) 2007, the fair line item was at 4.4 million dollars and has been cut every year since.

To which level do you anticipate restoration?

Circle one:

a. 2 million

b. 3 million

c. 4.4 million

d. other \$ _____

Please see my response to question #2.

4) Would you sign a bill written to include the fair funding as a permanent fund rather than a line item?

Circle one: **yes** or no

I would consider a bill that establishes a Fund for fair funding.

5) As Governor, how many county fairs will you attend out of the 114 total fairs?

Circle one:

a. less than 25

b. more than 25 but less than half

c. more than half

As many as I can!

6) As the number one industry in Pennsylvania, do you plan on restoring the funds that were cut in the Department of Agriculture?

Circle one: **yes** or no

An effective Department of Agriculture is important to our state's overall economy, to our communities and to the food security of all Pennsylvanians. As the economy recovers, I will work to restore these funds.

7) Do you support funding for a comprehensive marketing plan to promote tourism, agriculture and the fairs?

Circle one: **yes** or no

I will emphasize marketing so that we can take advantage of our extraordinary resources to attract visitors and boost our economy.

8) 5 sentences or less, what would you like to say to the number 1 industry- agriculture and PSACF?

I'm running for Governor to get Pennsylvania's economy back on track and reform Harrisburg so that state government works for the taxpayers – not the special interests. As a County Executive for the last seven years, I am the only candidate who has a record of making government live within its means and balancing budgets – without ever raising property taxes. Agriculture is at the heart of Pennsylvania's rich heritage and as the Commonwealth's largest industry, it is also far more: a fundamental driver of our modern economy, the source of livelihood for millions of the state's residents, and essential to the nutritional well-being of each of the Commonwealth's 12.5 million citizens. As Governor, I will pursue state policies that support the growth and development of Pennsylvania farmers by providing them with the tools, support and services they need to grow their businesses and strengthen our communities. Please visit my website to learn more about my Agriculture plan: <http://www.voteonorato.com>.



GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT

- Fred A. McKillop

This last month, I visited the Elizabethtown Fair, West End Fair, Perry County Fair and the Allentown Fair. This month, I visited the York Fair.

I thank the fairs visited for their invitation and hospitality. The fair officers and their boards were very courteous and supportive of the state association and their efforts to restore funding.

And in this newsletter, you will see the questions asked the Governor's candidates and their responses. It is difficult to pin them down on numbers, but both candidates show support for the fairs and agriculture with their responses.

And please do not forget the legislators and their visitations to the fairs. We need and want their support. Continue your efforts to support them. Continue your efforts to support adequate state funding.

The president and I will be meeting with the Health Department in September sometime to clarify the no smoking provisions in the fenced in fairs and you will receive a report on this meeting at your zone meetings.

Your officers continue to come to any meeting necessary and work with the Governor's candidates and the leadership in the House and Senate.

I would like to thank Rep. David Millard for his continuing leadership in support of the fairs, his fair caucus members and the leadership of those legislators that speak out on the need to support agriculture and the fairs.

The officers met recently with the Standard-bred Horse Breeders Association and issues common to both groups were discussed. The meeting was cordial and informative and in my opinion, moved in the direction of good cooperation in the future.

The legislature will return on the 20th of September with about 9-12 days of session prior to election. We will be electing a Governor, the entire house and 25 Senators. Please support those candidates that support agriculture and the fairs.

My thanks to all of you for your help and support. And a special thanks to all of you that volunteer for the 114 fairs throughout the Commonwealth!



OUR DEPARTED FRIENDS

DOUGLAS FARRINGTON, age 44 years, of Delta, PA died on Monday, August 23, 2010 at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center.

He was currently serving as the chairman of the Mason-Dixon Fair, an office he had held for the past 25 years.

Doug was employed by the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Department as a fire inspector. He was

the current president of the Delta Cardiff V.F.C. and had also served as treasurer, Captain and Lieutenant. Doug was active with the DABSY where he had served as president. He was also an active member of the Whiteford V.F.C. and had worked with the Baltimore Ravens Grounds Crew at the M & T Bank Stadium.

Doug is survived by his wife Stacey, three children and a number of other relatives.

FREDERIC WAGNER, 71, of Meadville, died Friday, Sept. 17, 2010, at home.

He was treasurer for the Crawford County Fair and a PSACF Director.

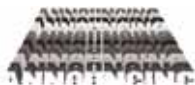
Fred first worked a year on the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad in Youngstown, Ohio, then for 10 years at Robert M. Powers, CPA. In January 1974, he took office as the Crawford County treasurer and was elected to 10 consecutive four-year terms.

He was a 1956 graduate of Cochranon High School. He then attended Penn State University and graduated in 1965 from Allegheny College with a bachelor of arts degree in economics with a minor in

accounting.

He was a member of St. Mark's United Church of Christ and he also attended First Presbyterian Church. He was a member of Meadville Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge 408, Scottish Rite Bodies, Meadville Elks Lodge 219 and Meadville Sertoma Club. He was an avid softball player and was the oldest actively playing member in the area. He enjoyed hunting, golfing and spending time with his family, especially his granddaughters.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, Patricia, include two sons, five grandchildren and a number of other relatives.



"New" PSACF Associates *Welcome!*

Attractions, Miscellaneous

Carousel Organ Music, LLC

39 York Rd. Wayland MA 01778

Phone: (508) 358-2563 Phone 2: (617) 875-9107 Fax:

WebSite: www.carouselorgan.com

E-Mail: roger@carouselorgan.com

Info: Mammoth antique fairground organ provides "the happiest music on earth!" all day long.

Events

Fullerton Memorial Fair

4307 N. Church St. Whitehall PA 18052

Phone: (610) 502-0307 Phone 2: (484) 892-7564 Fax:

WebSite: www.fmpaa.org E-Mail: nehrlichman@verizon.net

Info:

Fireworks

Bixler Pyrotechnics

111 Hinkel Rd. Ashland PA 17921

Phone: (570) 527-6008 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.bixlerpyrotechnics.com

E-Mail: mike@bixlerpyrotechnics.com

Info: Professionally choreographed fireworks displays.

Musical Attractions

Leah Burkey

1337 Wicklow Dr. York PA 17404

Phone: (717) 324-0120 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.myspace.com/leahburkey

E-Mail: chrissybtoo@yahoo.com

Info: Modern Country Music Singer.

Leilani Chesonis

PO Box 311 Sheppton PA 18248

Phone: (570) 916-8688 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: E-Mail: lightofsong@gmail.com

Info: Lively and engaging variety singer and entertainer performing a medley of enduringly popular favorites.

Todd Fulginiti

131 S. Spruce St. Lititz PA 17543

Phone: (717) 625-3090 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.toddfulginiti.com

E-Mail: tfulginiti@windstream.net

Info: I perform with and manage several musical acts including Back in Motion (dance/R&B) and the Dixielanders (dixie).

Mirror Image Productions

PO Box 664 Fogelsville PA 18051

Phone: (610) 442-7322 Phone 2: (610) 285-2339

Fax: (610) 285-2339

WebSite: www.marieba.net E-Mail: marie@marieba.net

Info: Marie looks, sings and performs an impersonation tribute to Reba McEntire.

Josh Oldaker

Rt. 1, Box 342A Mt. Clare WV 26408

Phone: (304) 669-3880 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.josholdaker.com

E-Mail: cntrysinger87@aol.com

Info: Country-Gospel singer.

Wendy Owens and Renegade

2 Owen Hollow Rd. Big Flats NY 14814

Phone: (313) 444-9627 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.wendyowens.net

E-Mail: paul@wendyowens.net

Info: One of New York state's hottest up and coming original country music acts.

The Steve Smith Band

282 Hopwood Fairchance Rd. Uniontown PA 15401

Phone: (724) 963-9683 Phone 2: Fax:

WebSite: www.reverbnation.com/steveasmith

E-Mail: mr_steve_smith@yahoo.com

Info: Country band.

Other

Butch & Ruth Fulton

570 Mercer Rd. Greenville PA 16125

Phone: (724) 456-8720 Phone 2: Fax: (724) 589-5260

WebSite: E-Mail:

Info:

Special Services

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FROM THE ZONES



Zone One

Fairs weathered good this year; but, many were off to a slow start due to the weather. Fairs are an annual homecoming for many attendees and is very rewarding to all of the individuals who volunteer their time and to the local area. Dinner at Scrubgrass Grange on October 22, 2010 at 6:30PM with the election of six directors. Applicants should send resumes to Sam Zaffuto, 355 N. Park St., Sykesville PA 15865. News about the convention will be discussed and state officers will be in attendance.



Zone Two – David Reese, DVM

The fairs that I have visited are reporting a successful season. The weather has been cooperating quite well for the most part this year, maybe a little too hot at times (too much heat is still better for a fair than rain). Everyone is trying to devise some plans to compensate for the decrease in funding. Most are finding ways to carry on the “Fair Tradition” in spite of these trying economic times. Best wishes to the fairs still to be held.

The Bloomsburg Fair will host the Zone II fall meeting on Oct. 23, 2010. Elections will be held for PSACF Directors and Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program Board of Directors. The Zone Fair Person of the Year Award will also be presented. Please forward all nominations for these positions to me by Sept. 30, 2010. Plan to have your fair represented. Your support is needed to help make our organization a success.



Zone Three – Debbie Stephenson

Well, fair season is almost over and hopefully everyone had a good year or are going to. I want to remind you about the annual fall zone meeting that will be held at Fayette County Fairgrounds on Thursday, October 21, 2010. This is a very important meeting as we elect new officers for our zone this year. Please be sure and have at least one representative at this meeting. Details to follow shortly. We will also have announcements regarding convention 2011 and so much more. We are still hoping that our funding will be somewhat restored but only time will tell. Also, if you would like to contribute to the door prizes that would be greatly appreciated. See all of you there!



Zone Four – Sally Nolt

Congratulations to all completed fairs for another successful fair season and best wishes to those fairs yet to be held! In spite of heat or rain (or both!) the fair season continues.

I would like to thank our officers and Fred McKillop for all the hard work and many hours they put into getting some funding restored to the State budget. No Zone 4 Fairs were canceled this year, although some are struggling with the extreme cut in funding.

The Zone 4 Fall Meeting will be held at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord in East Earl. The dinner meeting will be held Wednesday, October 20, 2010.

Reservations may be made with Karen Dobson. At this meeting an award for Fairperson of the Year for Zone 4 will be presented. Six Directors to serve on the PSACF board will also be elected at this meeting. Please send someone from your fair to vote!

If time allows, the program for the evening will be “2010 Fairs in Review.” Each Fair will have an opportunity to share one highlight of their 2010 Fair. Please plan to attend this important Fall Meeting and share your successes.



“FRIENDS OF PA FAIRS”

Over the last 6 months, the “Friends of PA Fairs” has attempted to gain members in support of fairs, 4-H and FFA. This has been through membership brochures distributed by fairs and other organizations, and an online membership website.

To date, the number of members is considerably less than anticipated at this stage. During convention, a meeting will be held to strategize for next fair season. As can be seen over the last several years, funding has steadily declined and without a broad base of support, it is anybody’s guess as to the future of the fair fund program.

Help us build this base of support through brochures, link from your website to www.friendspafairs.org, facebook, tweets, and more.

HELP BUILD A BASE OF SUPPORT FOR THE FAIR FUND PROGRAM.



pennsylvania fairs

ERIC COWDEN PA Department of Agriculture

Fall begins as a summer filled with fairs comes to a rapid close. The 114 county and community fairs across the great commonwealth have been experiencing record crowds and fantastic weather, and I would like to congratulate the fair boards and their volunteers on a great season. The fairs certainly provide Pennsylvania's number one industry an excellent means of showcasing its efforts.

This summer, the PDA executive team has been busy making visits to all 114 fairs. Special congratulations go to the recipients of the new Pennsylvania Fair Ambassador Award, for without these fine people – and all of those who give of their time and energy – the fairs wouldn't be nearly as successful.

It is my privilege to be serving the Pennsylvania

Department of Agriculture as the Fair Fund Administrator, and as this time of year also brings on the PSACF state board meeting and the zone meetings, I look forward to attending each of those. A special thank you goes to the PSACF leadership team - Jim Davis, Ron Miller, Bruce Koppenhaver and Larry Krome - as these gentlemen are dedicated to supporting the fair industry.

Again, thank you for your kindness and hospitality this summer, and I look forward to running into old friends, and meeting new ones at the fall zone meetings

Take care,

Eric

PENNSYLVANIA STATE FAIR QUEEN

- Casey Hall

Hello Fair Lovers,



I hope that everyone is enjoying fair season as much as I am! I have had a wonderful summer traveling all across the state and meeting the best people in the world, fair people of course. So far I have attended 15 fairs, starting off with the Schnecksville fair in June and following shortly after in the second week of July with the

Derry Township Agricultural Fair,

Mason Dixon Fair, Jefferson County Fair, Troy Fair, and Kimberton Community Fair. In August, I attended the Potter County Fair, Huntingdon County Fair, Cumberland Ag Expo, Tioga County Fair, Warren County Fair, Washington County Fair, Dayton Fair, Indiana County Fair, and most recently the Grange Fair. Luckily, the season isn't quite over yet and I still have two more fabulous fairs to attend. I will be at the Luzerne County Fair on September 11 and the Oley Valley Fair on September 18. I would just like to take a moment and thank all of the wonderful people that have made my summer so great, it has been the people that I have met at the fairs that have made my year so memorable. I cannot thank all of

you enough for all the hard work and love that you show to your fairs. To all of you across the state who have attended your fairs or volunteered your time, thank you for making your county fair the best it could be!

Every fair I attend has something different and unique, I have watched chainsaw carving competitions, participated in bake sale auctions, handed out ribbons in numerous 4-H and FFA shows, eaten delicious homemade doughnuts, helped in opening ceremonies, met wonderful people who volunteer, emceed a "Little Miss" Pageant, walked around with many beautiful fair queens, and the list goes on. This has truly been a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am so honored to have been selected to represent the county fairs and Pennsylvania's agriculture this year. After my next two fairs, I will be attending Farm-City Day in October and the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. Unfortunately, State Fair Convention will be here before we know it and I'll hand my title over to a new lovely lady who will make you proud as the 2011 PA Fair Queen. I want to remind you that it isn't too late to have me come to your fair, just contact Sarah Long for more information. I hope that everyone has had a wonderful fair season and best of luck for those upcoming fairs!



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CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR SEES ITS FIRST WEDDING

- Lisa Byers MEADVILLE TRIBUNE



WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP
C. Sherman Allen knew years ago what he wanted. But Arvilla Baird simply wasn't interested.

"I didn't care for the boys then," said Arvilla,

who was a classmate of Sherman's through junior and senior high school at Conneaut Lake.

"She turned around and hit me," Sherman said. "She said, 'Leave me alone.'"

"It took me 30 years to get that cured," he added with a big grin, pointing to his right shoulder where Arvilla had supposedly clobbered Sherman back in the day.

Years later, and after several visits to the clerk's office at the Crawford County Courthouse, Sherman finally got what he wanted: Arvilla. On Sunday afternoon, Sherman and Arvilla were joined in marriage before nearly 600 guests at one of Sherman's favorite destinations, the Crawford County Fair. And what a celebration it was.

The event — the first of its kind at the fair — took place in the Youth Show Arena, which was decorated throughout with sunflowers and hay bales. The cake, a three-tier masterpiece, also carried the sunflower theme and was topped with a figurine of two pigs kissing.

Sherman's attire included a suit jacket in his signature orange with matching tie. His bride wore a beautiful off-the-shoulders ivory dress, topped with an ivory cowgirl hat with attached veil. Best man Raymond Anthony and groomsman Rich Burrows, both friends of the groom, were dressed head to toe in denim. Tracy Murdock, matron of honor and daughter of the bride, and bridesmaid Georgia Piatt, sister of the bride, wore denim dresses and cowgirl boots.

"I love the fair," said Sherman, a Crawford County commissioner and local auctioneer.

"He's been a part of the fair for so long," Arvilla said. "He's shown pigs. It was a perfect place."

Sherman, a usually jovial individual, was unusually serious and kept his eyes locked on Arvilla throughout the ceremony. It wasn't until the Rev. Lila M. Bachelier, who presided over the wedding with the Rev. David Meckley, announced Sherman and Arvilla as husband and wife that Sherman finally cracked a big smile.

The congregation, including local politicians, county officials, family and friends, erupted in laughter. One member raised a broom as if to toast

the newly married couple. The couple were later presented with the broom by Scott Ladner, president of the Meadville Lions Club.

"I told him, 'This is in case you get out of line. Arvilla can use it on you,'" Ladner told Sherman, a member of the Linesville Lions Club.

It was a fitting celebration, in a fitting setting.

"We've know each other since seventh grade," Sherman said. "We went to high school together at Conneaut Lake. We graduated together."

But following graduation, they went their separate ways. Then, when Sherman was elected a county commissioner, he started making visits to the courthouse and would stop in regularly at the clerk's office where Arvilla worked.

"I didn't really know what he wanted," she said.

"I knew what I wanted," Sherman responded.

He got it.

The ceremony was followed by a reception in the arena that included a corn roast and refreshments along with country music and line dancing.



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