

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 2012

#### August 31

- Baking Contest checks (Hershey, Angel Food) mailed

- FAIRTALK material for Sept. issue due

#### September 1

- 'Showcase apps. for 2013 Convention mailed

#### September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

#### October 15

- Showcase apps. due
- 2013 Request for Fair Info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed

#### October 18

- PSACF Board Meeting

#### October 24

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Oley Valley Comm.

#### October 25

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Bedford Co. Fairgrounds

#### October 26

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - Scrubgrass Grange

#### October 27

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fairgrounds

#### November 1

- Fair Person Of The Year apps. due

- Communications Competition apps. due

#### November 15

- Reimbursement apps. - Fair Fund due

- Baking Contests Summary due

- Queen Competition apps. due

#### November 30

- FAIRTALK material for December issue due

#### November 26 - 29

- IAFE Convention - Las Vegas

#### December 24 (week of)

- 4th Quarter FAIRTALK - emailed

### 2013

#### January 5 to 12

- PA Farm Show

#### January 23 to 26

- 101st PSACF/PSSA Convention - Hershey

#### April 18-20

- IAFE Zone 1 Conference - Portland, Maine



# FAIRTALK



*"News From The PA State Association of County Fairs"*

**"THE VOICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR INDUSTRY"**

**VOL. 26**

**JUNE 2012**

**NO. 2**

## PSACF 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY HELP US CELEBRATE!

Help the PA State Association of County Fairs celebrate its' 100th anniversary!

By going to the "Fairs Only" section of the association web site [[www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org)], you will find a press release template to inform the media in your area of this celebration.

In addition, a number of 8" x 9" decals are on hand for use in promoting the 100th anniversary. It is the same decal that was affixed to the golf cart at the drawing during convention. This decal can be used/affixed to a golf cart, other equipment, etc. The cost per decal is \$11 (including postage). Contact the association office if interested.



Thanks and have a great fair!

Bruce Koppenhaver

**Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs**

## PA COUNTY FAIRS FUNDING AT \$2M

The PA State Budget, which passed over the weekend, has Pennsylvania County Fairs receiving \$2 million in assistance through the Race Horse Development Fund. Further details to be forwarded as they become available!

**2013 PSACF/PSSA Convention  
January 23 - 26**

## PSACF OFFICERS - 2011-2012

### President

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

### Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

Bruce C. Koppenhaver, CFE  
PO Box 546  
Gratz, PA 17030  
(866) 814-6985

### Vice President

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

### Immediate Past President

James H. Davis  
5223 Davis Rd.  
Petersburg, PA 16669  
(814) 669-4268

## PSACF DIRECTORS - 2011-2012

C. Sherman Allen  
903 Diamond Square  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 382-2922

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

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

Sarah J. Long  
244 Quarry Rd.  
Tyrone, PA 16686  
(814) 684-4379

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

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

Luke E Bruckhart  
1063 Shelly Rd.  
Manheim, PA 17545  
(717) 665-5198

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

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

Rodman R. Ralston  
7015 Old Berwick Rd.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815  
(570) 759-0406

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

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

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

Harry Reffner  
128 Cumberland Rd.  
Bedford, PA 15522  
(814) 623-2352

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

Debbie Stephenson  
PO Box 107  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
(724) 627-4752

Dick Horstman  
5 S. Kings Creek Rd.  
Burgettstown, PA 15021  
(724) 729-3701

George Witherite  
675 Fountain Rd.  
Snow Shoe, PA 16874  
(814) 387-4916

Robert E. Huston  
9430 Akerley Rd.  
Albion, PA 16401  
(814) 756-4833

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

Larry Krome  
PO Box 7  
Gilbert, PA 18331  
(610) 681-4788

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

McKillop & Associates  
Fred A. McKillop  
Legislative Consultant  
213 State St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 232-5445

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

Boots Hetherington, Admin.  
PA Agricultural Fair Program  
PA Farm Show Complex  
2300 N. Cameron St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 787-6257

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's fair time across Pennsylvania. The state association hope's every fair has a successful and profitable 2012 fair.

At this time funding for the fairs is an unknown other that the original money that was proposed by Governor Corbett, in his budget in February. We have been corresponding with Rep. Millard for additional dollars to assist all fairs across the state. Hopefully in the near future, we will have a better handle on the amount we will receive for the 2012 fair season. As we spoke to the possibility of additional funds, please remember to apply for Capital Improvement Matching Funds.

Thanks again, for the opportunity to serve you as the president of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs. All fairs will have a visit from the state association board this summer. Wishing all of you a great fair in 2012!

Sincerely,

Ron Miller



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## PA FAIR QUEEN PROGRAM

- Karen Dobson

The PA Fair Queen Program is gearing up for another year of preliminary queen contests and the 2013 State Competition. 63 Requests were received from Fairs for a 2013 State Competition application packet. These Application Packets were distributed at the Spring Zone Meetings in April. Completed Applications must be submitted to Bitsey Kopfinger, postmarked by November 15.

The Program is also actively soliciting sponsors and donations for its fundraising events. Flyers were distributed to all Fairs at the Spring Zone meetings. The info is also available on the PSACF website ([www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org)). Opportunities to support the Queen Program's fundraising include being a sponsor, bringing a gift basket, making a monetary donation and/or helping at the 50/50 nightly cash raffle or the Basket Raffle Tables. Any Fairs or individuals interested should return the Fundraising form by November 15. If you have a suggestion for a new sponsor or a fundraising idea, contact John Berne (McKean County Fair) or Judy Kmetz (Luzerne County Fair).

The 2013 State Contest will be held Thursday, Jan 24 through and including Saturday, January 26. Contestant Orientation will be held at 3:30 pm on Thursday afternoon during Convention. The Queens Party will again be a Pizza Party on Friday night, sponsored by *Drum The Bucket*. A detailed "Contestant Handbook" will be sent to all qualified State Contestants and their Coordinators in early December. It is strongly

recommended that Coordinators and Contestants work together on the state contest application and convention registration process. Fairs should also follow up with their Queen Coordinators and Queen Contestants on all Convention registrations and Hotel accommodations that will be required. Convention instructions will be available online through PSACF's website after October 31.

The PA Fair Queen Program is excited about the wonderful job that our 2012 PA Fair Queen Drew An Brubaker has been doing to promote PA fairs, agriculture and tourism. She would be a great asset at your or agricultural event! Both Drew An and First Runner Up Amanda Mitcheltree (Lawrence County Fair) are available for appearances throughout the year. These can include special ceremonies, contests, parades and ag-related events. All appearances are to be initiated in writing using the Queen Program's official Scheduling Request Form (available at [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org)) from an authorized event coordinator or event board member.

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

Applications/Registrations - Bitsey Kopfinger, 570-296-8790

Fundraising - John Berne, 814-887-5396 or Judy Kmetz, 570-675-2952

PA Fair Queen's State Appearances & Media Events - Sarah Long, 814-684-4379

State Contest Schedule - Karen Dobson, 610-212-6180

## TABLE TOPICS

- Debbie Stephenson

Some of you have made suggestions in the past for Table Topics and I am asking for suggestions this year. If you have had a problem and can't solve it, need idea's, or just a thought of what could be a great Table Topic please email me so that we can get the idea into place for Hershey Convention. You can email me at [greenecountyfair@windstream.net](mailto:greenecountyfair@windstream.net). We also would like to have some presenters for these table topics as well. If you are interested in being one of those please let me know. We will have the list available soon.

## HELICOPTER FLIGHTS AT COUNTY FAIRS

- John Melville



One of the most exciting attractions at a county fair can be the scenic flights provided by independent helicopter operators. The thrill of rising up in vertical flight and obtaining a birds-eye view of the region can be very alluring to fair goers. Yet, while most of us are aware that this is a high-risk activity, many are not aware that it is also highly regulated by both Federal and State authorities. Strict licensing requirements exist for both the helicopter operator and for county fair organizers if they wish to offer this attraction at their event.

Prior to conducting flights for hire, helicopter pilots must be certified as a Commercial Helicopter pilot in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 61, which requires a higher level of flight proficiency and aeronautical knowledge. The aircraft used for scenic flights must also meet minimum inspection standards as specified by FAR Part 91, which requires a frequent inspection schedule, conducted only by certified aircraft mechanics.

On the ground side, the area where the helicopter will operate should also be inspected for safety and licensed by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. Fair organizers should coordinate with the Bureau of Aviation well in advance of the event, to assure compliance with PA Title 67, Chapter 471, (PA Regulations Pertaining to Aviation), and the various Federal Aviation Advisory Circulars.

Minimum space requirements associated with helicopter operations depends upon the size and number of helicopters planned to use the site. Minimum dimensions of a landing area generally range between 70 and 100 feet in diameter. Considerations must also be afforded to assuring a clear pathway into and out-of the landing site, preferably one that does not require the helicopter to fly over the fairgrounds or occupied buildings.

Aside from the formal licensing requirements for heliports, fair organizers should also assure that local emergency response teams are familiar with the activity, and that sufficient control measures are in place to segregate fair goers from the landing area.

By and large, helicopter rides at County Fairs can be accomplished on a routine basis without incident. The combined oversight of Federal and State agencies has effectively transformed a high-risk activity into a low probability of accident flight environment. If you have any questions about conducting helicopter flights at your fair, you can contact the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation at (717) 705-1239, or at [jmelville@pa.gov](mailto:jmelville@pa.gov).

**John Melville** | Aviation Specialist Supervisor  
PA Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Aviation  
400 North St || Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone: 717.705.1239

Fax: 717.705.1255

[www.dot.state.pa.us](http://www.dot.state.pa.us)



## FROM THE ZONES



### **Zone One ... Sam Zaffuto**

Our Spring Zone meeting was held on April 27 at the Scrubgrass Grange. Twenty-five of our fairs were represented at the meeting. Our state officers were in attendance and updated us on the state Association. Boots Hetherington joined us for a report from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Many fairs in Zone 1 will soon be underway. Our zone directors plan to visit all fairs in our zone this year.

Please mark your calendars for our fall zone meeting. It will be held Friday October 26 at Scrubgrass Grange. In addition to presenting a zone person of the year award, we will be electing six directors to represent zone 1 during 2013 and 2014. Each fair may nominate one candidate for the Executive Committee of PSACF. Nomination information will be mailed to each of our fairs at the end of August.

Hope you have a great fair season. See you at your fair!



### **Zone Two ... Dr. David Reese**

The Clinton Co. Fair was host to the Zone II Spring meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at The Country Barn Restaurant. Following a wonderful meal, the State Officers, President Ron Miller, Vice-President John Blaney and Sec. Bruce Koppenhaver brought us up to date on the concerns of the association. Boots Hetherington, Special Advisor to the Governor for Agriculture, filled us in on information from the Department of Agriculture. Following the business meeting, door prizes were given out. Thank you to all the fairs and persons donating the prizes.

Fair season will soon be here. We wish everyone good weather and a very successful fair. The Zone II directors are looking forward to visiting all the fairs.

The Fall Meeting will be held at the Bloomsburg Fair on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. This is election year. Election notices and information will be sent out in August. Also, nomination forms for Zone Person of the Year will be sent.



### **Zone Three ... Debbie Stephenson**

Zone 3 held their meeting on April 26, 2012, at 6:45PM, at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in the Fiddler Building. 21 out of 25 fairs were present. What an accomplishment! Dinner was served by Myers Catering Service with special guests present PA Dept. of Agriculture Boots Hetherington, and Secretary of Agriculture George Greig. Reminder: if you want the State Fair Queen to come to your fair, you need to fill out the request application on the website. Also keep in mind while the fair season has started it is our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. When hiring for your fairs, make sure they are a partner of PSACF. Remember you can go on our website and get the application for convention if they also want to showcase in Hershey 2013. We are urging all fairs to participate for the Mgrs. John W. Mignot Scholarship Program. We are going to try to hand out 6 scholarships as long as the donations keep coming in. Please make note that Martha Ebersole will be doing the Communications Department at Convention...all items are to be sent to her. Debbie Stephenson will be doing the Round Tables Department. Discussion was on Queen Dinner should it be returned back to the original day and time...President Ron Miller is to take it back to the Queen Board. Thank you to all who brought the great door prizes they are really appreciated. I hope all of you have a wonderful fair season and we will see you on the fair visits or at the next zone meeting.

*See "Zones" - next page*

### **PLAN TO ATTEND YOUR FALL ZONE MEETING**

**ALL ZONES - Election of PSACF Directors**

**ZONE 2 & 4 - Election of Queen Program  
Representative**

**Your fair did/will receive nominating  
information from your zone chairperson or  
secretary**

From "Zones" - previous page



### **Zone Four ... Dr. Sally Nolt**

The Fair season is underway throughout Zone 4 and Pennsylvania. Best of luck to everyone for a successful 2012 Fair Season!

The Spring Zone 4 Meeting was hosted by West Lampeter Community Fair. Zone 4 members enjoyed a night of great food, fellowship and information. We extend our thanks to Donald Welk and his committee for their hospitality.

Fred McKillop and our officers continue to be hard at work for us in an effort to not only maintain, but increase fair funding. Please contact your legislators!!

The Zone 4 Fall Meeting will be hosted Wednesday, October 24, 2012 by the Oley Valley Community Fair. At this time six directors

will be elected for the PSACF Board. Nominations are due to Karen Dobson by September 1, 2012. A PA Fair Queen Board Member from Zone 4 will also be elected at this meeting. Nominations are due to Karen Dobson by September 1, 2012.

The annual Fairperson of the Year for Zone 4 will be presented at this meeting. Nominations are due to me by September 1, 2012. For the first time this year we will also be awarding a Jr. Fair Person of the Year Zone Award for Zone 4. These nominations are also due to me by September 1, 2012.

Please support PA Fairs - visit as many fairs as possible this fair season!



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## GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT

- Fred McKillop

The budget for state for 2012-13 is presently being negotiated between the House, the Senate and the Governor's office. The Senate has passed a budget that increases the Governor's proposed budget by 500 million dollars with most of the increase going to basic and higher education. It is presently in the House and the leadership and Governor's office are working to iron out their differences.

The Fairs have \$874,000 in the Governor's proposed budget and was maintained in the Senate budget. An increase in the fair funding is proposed by Rep. David Millard, a member of the House Appropriation's Committee. Rep. Millard has held a meeting with the Horse organizations to try and increase funding from gambling proceeds. The fair officers will be meeting with the leadership of the House and Senate to support Rep. Millard and his efforts to

increase funding. June is crucial to our funding and every fair should make that extra push to increase our funding.

The Fairs have also submitted a \$10,000 grant proposal to M & T Bank Foundation in support of the Fair Queen contestant support. It should take 2 or 3 months for the Foundation to consider the request. The Fair Queen officers are to be congratulated on their hard work in providing the necessary research.

The Fair season is upon us and we all wish for our Fairs a safe and prosperous fair season. Please invite our legislators, the Governor, Lt. Governor and Agriculture Secretary and staff to share the great experience of our fairs. Good luck and a special thank you for your service to the fair season.

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## BEWARE: BLACK WALNUT SAWDUST

David Reese, DVM | Animal Health Committee

It was brought to our attention that one fair in the state had a severe problem resulting from the use of Black Walnut Sawdust last year. They had no previous knowledge of this condition. The result was that they were held responsible for financial damages.

Black Walnut produces a chemical toxin called juglone. Symptoms can be caused by eating leaves, stems and roots. However, the toxin is found in highest concentration in shavings and sawdust. The fresher the sawdust or shavings, the greater the danger becomes. Juglone breaks down into non-toxic components with prolonged exposure to air. Symptoms usually appear in 12-24 hours

following exposure to new bedding.

Early signs of illness include distress, pawing, refusal to move, refusal of food and water, abdominal pain and respiratory distress. Severely affected horses develop severe laminitis. They exhibit increased digital pulse, heat in the feet and pain to the hoof tester from pressure on the sole, white line and near the tip of the frog. There is often edema (swelling) from the foot to the knee. Severely affected animals require immediate veterinary care.

Prevention is the best course. Inspect new bedding and discuss its origin with the dealer. If necessary, ask the mill to insure there is no Black Walnut sawdust included in the shipment. If you have misgivings, don't use the shavings or sawdust until you are sure they are safe. If it cannot be identified, don't use it.

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#### INTERNET ADVERTISING

Internet advertising has become an essential part of a successful advertising mix, as it is an extremely cost-efficient way to reach your fair's local audience online.

#### WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

We do not simply program fair websites, we take time to understand your fair, learn exactly how we can help, and present online options which help increase sponsorships, vendors and attendance.

#### FACEBOOK PAGES

Having a presence on Facebook is vital. Using our expertise, we will build, manage and maintain your fair fan page, allowing you to create a community online.

#### OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

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#### VOLUME RATES

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## CONTROL ALT ENERGY, LLC TO MAKE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS ENERGY EFFICIENT

Schuylkill County Fairgrounds will be the first of its kind to be energy independent in the state of Pennsylvania. Over the course of several years Control Alt Energy, LLC will make the fairgrounds less dependent on the local electrical energy supplier and more independent. The grounds may possibly supply energy back to the grid. Through the use of solar energy the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds is on its way to becoming energy independent. In just the first week of operation the six solar panels have produced 47 Kilo watt of energy. This was during a week where 4 of the 7 days it rain in the area. The fairgrounds will be able to use the energy it produces during peak operating times like during the Schuylkill County Fair, July 30 through August 4 and send energy to the grid when grounds are not in use.

The company that is so generously supplying the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds with its energy independence is Control Alt Energy, LLC. Control Alt Energy is a family owned and operated small business located right here in Schuylkill County founded by Ed and Annette Woll. They founded the business in February of 2006 as a way to get America's sons and daughters out of the Middle East through energy independence.

The Woll's founded the business based on the principle of providing residents of Schuylkill and nearby counties with the means to reduce their electric bill. They do this by providing proven technology such as solar PV, Solar thermal, and wind turbines.

Control Alt Energy, LLC is a listed approved

solar PV installer with the State's PA Sunshine Energy Grant program. They are ready and willing and able to help customers achieve energy independence by showing them first how to conserve energy and then by providing alternative energy systems. The systems could be solar, wind or micro-hydro. Their services include design, sales, installation and maintenance service. Control Alt Energy, LLC is dedicated to providing quality products and services at competitive prices to its customers. They pride themselves on great customer services. Their goal is to make everyone a long term customer.

The Schuylkill County Fairgrounds is fortunate to be a recipient of Control Alt Energy generosity and are looking forward to being a long term customer. Come see the system in operation on the fairgrounds during the Schuylkill County Fair, July 30 through August 4. Speak to the experts of Control Alt Energy at the Fair to learn how they can make you and your homestead more energy independent. Visit Control Alt energy at [www.controlaltenergy.com](http://www.controlaltenergy.com) for more information on how to make your home more energy independent. For the latest information on the Schuylkill County Fair visit, [www.schuylkillfair.com](http://www.schuylkillfair.com).



## JON DORENBOS SET TO GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT CONVENTION

- Kevin D. Bieber

As we all are concentrating on Fair season, we also have to be thinking about January and the annual Pennsylvania State Fair Convention in Hershey. The seminar committee has been working hard once again to have a stellar line up of seminars to educate and continue leading us all in the right direction. As we all know, nothing ever seems to stay the same anymore and we need to utilize this convention to stay up to date.

Current Philadelphia Eagles Long Snapper and NFL Pro Bowler Jon Dorenbos will be coming to Hershey to address us at the opening ceremony. As we all have hurdles in life, (and at our Fairs) you will be amazed to hear Jon's story as how he has overcome some very difficult situations and turned them into positives. I guarantee his words will be an inspiration to all of us both on and off the fairgrounds.

At the time of writing this article I am still waiting on certain confirmations for various seminars, but I am more than happy to share with you the seminars that are already confirmed.

Wednesday afternoon a representative from the PMTA will be on hand to address all the recent changes to the laws in regards to truckers on the road. Thursday afternoon we are going to try something new. Have you ever wanted to enter your Fair into the

Communication Exhibits competition at Hershey? Well, this seminar will not only tell you how, but will also give you some tips on just what other Fairs have done to be successful in taking home some ribbons from Hershey. Also that afternoon we have someone coming in from the National Weather Center to help us identify emergency situations and how to handle them.

Friday will bring once again the updates to the Special Baking Contests and allow you an opportunity to ask any questions relating to these events. We are currently working on having someone come in that afternoon to talk to us about Fairs and their 501 C 3 status as well as their 990 tax forms. Yes, I know this can be boring, however, we all need to comply when it comes to the IRS.

I am pleased to "attempt" to bring back Sally Conway from Washington DC to talk about ADA rules and regulations. Sally was at the IAFE Zone Meeting and did a tremendous job. Sally tried to get to Hershey last year, but travel conditions did not allow her to make the trip.

As I mentioned we have lots more in store for you, but I would rather have the confirmations from the speakers before releasing them. Please stay tuned for the detailed announcements at your Zone meeting as well as in the next edition of FairTalk.



### 2012 Schnecksville Community Fair

(left)

Drew An Brubaker -- 2012 PA State Fair Queen & Margarita Munoz -- 2011 Allentown Fair Queen

(right)

Darlene Wirth receives her Fair Ambassador award from Boots Hetherington



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT

- Galla Higinbotham



I opened our local paper last week and the headline "Standing Stone FFA hosts annual Agriculture in the Classroom" caught my eye. This is an annual event [it said] to educate fourth-grade students about agriculture, during which FFA members

are able to showcase their own agricultural knowledge and experience. "Agriculture is Pennsylvania's largest industry. At least **one in seven** residents in Pennsylvania is employed in some area of agriculture," stated the article. One in seven, I said to myself. That is impressive. The next headline, "Farmers Market returns June 7" made it official: summer is here. Good news! Fresh produce! What a great time of year! And here comes the 2012 fair season!

There is never, ever perfect weather and I give heart-felt thanks to the farmers who continue to persevere. I think of all the participants who have been caring for their animals, or making beautiful quilts, and starting flowers and vegetables – all and much more to be showcased at their local fairs across the state this summer and fall.

I think of all the volunteers who make fairs happen and the fair boards who started planning for the 2012 fair as soon as their 2011 fair closed.

Over the winter months, the PA Associate Members have also been getting ready for the 2012 fair season. They have purchased new equipment, bought supplies, made repairs, learned new material and created routines, adding on to what they had. We all are constantly reinventing ourselves looking toward the future. The more attractions fairs can offer for the fairgoer's dollar, the better it is. Create a memorable experience for or capture the imagination of a young person at an early age at a fair and they will come back forever.

I attended the PSACF spring meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Much was discussed as a follow-up to the 2012 convention. I am happy to report that Kevin Bieber's "Sticker Game" was moved and seconded to continue at future conventions. The

next board meeting is June 26<sup>th</sup>, at Hershey.

A special note to talent: If you haven't already done so, now is the time to videotape your live performances so you can use excerpts to submit yourself to be a part of the Talent Showcase at Hershey in January 2013. We are looking for all acts – musical, juggling, magicians, balloons, comedians and the list goes on -- the more diversity the better! A DVD of what you do is of utmost importance in the selection process.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PSACF continued as Pennsylvania hosted the IAFE Zone 1 conference in Gettysburg May 3 – 5. Bonnie Brosious, CFE, Allentown Fair and I gave a seminar on "Balancing Entertainment at Your Fair". It was fascinating to meet fair people from the New England and southern states as well as New York. The Zone 1 Conference Committee 2012 and the York Fair did a wonderful job putting it all together and a good time was had by all.

Hope to see you on the road! Wishing everyone a great fair!

Galla [www.gallaanddan.com](http://www.gallaanddan.com)

### PLAN TO ATTEND YOUR FALL ZONE MEETING

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Presentation of Jr. Zone  
Person of the Year



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information from your zone chairperson or  
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## THE SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

- Bruce Koppenhaver, CFE

### Fair Season

During the fair season remember to continue your due-diligence in E. Coli prevention (signage, sanitation, backflow, etc.), equine activities liability, "no smoking" in public buildings, and other safety measures.

### Promoter License (follow-up)

The PA Department of Revenue did a renewal of each fair's promoter license for 2012 earlier this year. Every fair's license expired in January. If your fair did not receive a valid license for the year, contact Marvin Paulk at (717) 772-2906, mpaulk@state.pa.us. Reminder: if any business, person, etc. has sales (food, supplies, equipment, etc.) at your fair, the fair must have a promoter license.

### Capital Improvement Applications

If sufficient funds become available...any fair desiring to apply for a capital improvement project can acquire the 2012 application through the association website. Complete and mail to the Fair Fund Office no later than June 30th. A hard copy application can be requested by calling the Fair Fund Office.

### Fair Funding and Reimbursement Applications

Continue to follow fair fund guidelines/requirements. If you do not, you jeopardize receiving reimbursement.

All fairs should acquire the 2012 instructions through the association website. Refer to the instructions as necessary/needed.

All fairs are to use the latest version of the Martech Blue Ribbon software or the reimbursement application.

Complete and mail to the Fair Fund Office no later than November 15th. Also, submit the spreadsheet file on a CD, disk or by email. A hard copy of the instructions and application can be requested by calling the Fair Fund Office.

### Association Dues

Fairs were mailed dues notices in February and those unpaid to-date were mailed a follow-up in mid-June. Dues must be paid before your

yearly packet is mailed.

### 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.



### Msgr. John W. Mignot Scholarship Program

This year's scholarship program material was posted to the association website in late April. Deadlines to remember: applicant must submit completed application to sponsoring fair by June 30; sponsoring fair must complete endorsement section and submit application to zone chairperson by July 31.

Funds are currently available to release 5 scholarships. To release that 6th scholarship, nearly \$1,600 must be raised prior to September. Please keep Msgr. Mignot's love and passion for fairs alive by promoting this worthwhile program.

### State Funding Affecting Fairs

The legislature has been holding hearings on the proposed state budget. Publically, the dollar amount of \$874,000 has not changed but where that amount comes has been discussed. Other discussions are occurring and if the need arises requiring your assistance, we will contact you. In the meantime, a plan of action and position paper are located in the "Fairs Only" section of the association website...Grassroots Lobbying. Please contact your legislators!

If there are fairs that have not notified the PA Department of Agriculture and the fairs association of any change in their circumstance, i.e. will not operate, will operate but not within fair fund requirements, etc., please do so as soon as possible.



See "Notepad" - next page

### Payment of Royalties on Music

Periodically fairs receive notice from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and/or Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) concerning the payment of a license fee for using/playing music. Under Public Law 94-553, of the Federal Copyright Law, which was effective January 1, 1978, non-profit fairs are exempt from the payment of any royalties. That exemption is included under Section 110.



### Economic Impact Study

The association often receives requests, from the legislature and other sources, on the economic impact of fairs. The PA State Association of County Fairs has entered into an agreement with Shepstone Management Company to compile an economic impact of fairs.

Each fair will soon receive a survey requesting information. A completed survey should be returned to Shepstone in a timely manner. Our expectation is to receive a 100% response.

### MarTech Blue Ribbon Software

On Wednesday at the upcoming convention, I will be conducting training on the MarTech Blue Ribbon Software in the areas of: Installation, System Requirements, Coding Systems; Year End Processing; Entering Data (Master Fair Information, Preferences, Department Description, Section Description, Fairbook File, Market Book File, Exhibitor File); Pre-Fair Reporting (Exhibitor/Entries, Exhibitor Lists, Entry Count Reports, Fee Reports, Entry Tags, Livestock Programs, Market Animal Weigh-in Worksheet, Judging Sheets); Fair Time (Mark Market Entries Query, Enter All Judging Results, Proof Judging Results, Publicity Reports, Exhibitor Checks); After-Fair Reporting (Check Register Report, Index of Exhibitors, Departmental Premium Report, Premiums Offered/Paid); PA Fair



Reimbursement Application; Data Backup; Deadline and Types of Forms Needed. Those underlined will be reviewed based on demand along with online entries, scanning, the use of tablet computers and others.

### Communications Competition

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

### Changes in Small Games of Chance Pursuant to Act 2 of 2012

Act 2 of 2012, signed by Governor Corbett on February 2, 2012, became effective on March 3, 2012 and brings many changes to Small Games of Chance. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has reviewed the new law and working with the Governor's Office prepared a Primer that explains the new rules and regulations. This memorandum is intended to provide you with some basic information regarding the new application process, operation of games, including new increased game limits, and recordkeeping required by the law. It is strongly encouraged to have an officer of your organization download or otherwise obtain a copy of Act 2 of 2012 to be kept with the organization's permanent records.

Following are a few of the new provisions to keep in mind when applying or re applying for a Small Games of Chance license.

1. Application and Background Checks. Each application requires the results of a criminal records background check from the PA State Police. This requirement will be for the President or Executive Officer, and the Secretary of the eligible organization making the application for a license, along with any other person required by the Department pursuant to the regulations the Department is authorized to issue. THE CERTIFICATE RECEIVED FROM THE PA STATE POLICE SHALL BE ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION.

The organization can contact the PA State Police Headquarters in their district for an application or go online to: [www.psp.state.pa.us](http://www.psp.state.pa.us) and click on Public Services. There is a fee for completing the background check.

## 2. Increases in Prize Limits

- Individual prize limit increases from \$500 to \$1,000.
  - The weekly prize limitation is now known as the aggregate prize limit, which increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 in any 7-day period.
  - Raffle limit increases from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in any calendar month.
  - There is a total limit-all prizes awarded shall be subject to the aggregate prize limit of \$25,000.
  - There is still an exception for raffles; if you exceed the prize limit value of \$1,000. The total limit for exception still remains at \$100,000. Organizations that wish to raffle a prize or prizes in excess of \$1,000 need to apply for a Special Raffle Permit. Organizations may now receive eight Special Raffle Permits (instead of two) and ten for Fire, Ambulance, & Rescue Companies (as long as not a Club). However, Fire, Ambulance & Rescue Companies can award an added \$50,000 beyond the \$100,000 for special raffles.
  - The daily drawing carryover is increased from \$500 to \$1,000 and the weekly drawing carryover is increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 consistent with the increased prize limits.
3. Auxiliary Groups of a licensed organization can conduct games using the license of the eligible organization as long as they were listed on the application form. Auxiliary groups are not eligible to obtain a license.
4. All licensed eligible organizations must keep a separate bank account holding the proceeds of the games of chance which is separate from other funds belonging to the eligible organization.
5. Each eligible organization shall submit an annual report to the Department of Revenue including prizes awarded and the amounts expended for "public interest purposes".
6. Beginning in 2013, a club licensee shall submit semi-annual reports to the

Department of Revenue for the preceding six month period on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Department. This report must be attached to the application for a club license. Proceeds from games can now be split 70% for the public interest purpose and 30% for operations. This split only applies to Clubs with limitations on the operations side as defined by the Act.

Finally, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has changed the application to reflect that Social Security numbers for all Officers and persons responsible for the operations of Small Games of Chance are now optional. However, a date of birth field has been added to the application.

## PA Department of Agriculture Logo



The logo here is the official logo for the PA Department of Agriculture. This logo is to replace others you may have been using on your website, stationary, premium book or tabloid, etc.



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## Musical Attractions

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PO Box 123 Lehighton PA 18235

Phone: (610) 554-3457 Phone 2: (610) 377-5703 Fax:

WebSite: [www.americandream.pro](http://www.americandream.pro) E-Mail: [jealan@verizon.net](mailto:jealan@verizon.net)

Info: Band performing Country, Pop, Oldies, Blues and some Classic Rock, and Dance.

### **Ernie & Neal**

c/o Second Story Prod., 243 Ashmore Ave. Trenton NJ 08611

Phone: (609) 695-5007 Phone 2: (609) 273-1490

Fax: (609) 695-3775

WebSite: [www.ernieandneal.com](http://www.ernieandneal.com) E-Mail: [barry@barrychiorello.com](mailto:barry@barrychiorello.com)

Info: Family entertainment - band/recording act playing parent friendly kids' rock.





## BOOTS HETHERINGTON, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Another fair season is off and running, one that's especially exciting because of the

Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pennsylvania's strong tradition of fairs is thanks to the organization's original 1912 members who represented thirteen county fairs across Pennsylvania.

The 2012 fair season features several new programs and contests. The chocolate baking competition is being sponsored by the PA Preferred® program. PA Preferred is the official branding program of Pennsylvania's agricultural products, and encourages consumers to support local producers and Pennsylvania's economy by purchasing agricultural commodities grown and made in Pennsylvania. Look for a gold checkmark inside the blue keystone to find these products at farmers markets and grocery stores near you.

The baking contest challenges contestants to use as many PA Preferred products as they can in their recipes and list them on their entry application, identifying the items for fair visitors.

Finding PA Preferred ingredients is easier than you may think. Visit [www.papreferred.com](http://www.papreferred.com) and enter your zip code to find a listing of PA Preferred members near you. If you need more assistance, contact PA Preferred Program Director Bryan Keister at [bkeister@pa.gov](mailto:bkeister@pa.gov) or 717-772-3094.

Another new contest is the PA Preferred Products Display Competition, where fair volunteers create a display of PA Preferred

items, helping inform fair visitors about the products they can purchase from their neighbors here in Pennsylvania. Buying PA Preferred is an investment in the local economy, supporting farmers and local businesses and keeping dollars in the community.

Displays will be judged on appearance, creativity and number of PA Preferred items used. Fairs will compete for a \$1,000 first prize, \$500 second prize and \$250 third prize and winning fairs must bring their display to the 2013



Farm Show in Harrisburg. Contest details are available in the members section of the PSACF website. Contact me at [bhetherington@pa.gov](mailto:bhetherington@pa.gov) or 717-787-6257 if you have additional questions.

Secretary Greig and I enjoy presenting Outstanding Fair Ambassador Awards when we visit. Our fairs are full of great people with amazing stories of dedication to their fairs and communities. If you haven't submitted a nominee for the award, I encourage you to do so and publicly acknowledge a worthy volunteer.

The application can be found at [agriculture.state.pa.us](http://agriculture.state.pa.us) and [pafairs.org](http://pafairs.org).

See you at the fair.

### NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS

#### MSGR. JOHN W. MIGNOT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Funding is still needed to fund the 6 applications for the year. Please consider a donation to the Scholarship Fund.

For Donation Form go to [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org) or contact the Association Office.

## Monthly E-newsletter 2012/13 - Editorial Calendar

Month	Main Feature	Secondary Feature
July	Amusement Parks	County Fairs
August	Water Trails	Fishing
Sept	Fall Foliage (covered bridges)	Zoos
Oct	Wine Trails & Brews	Unique Lodging
Nov	Holiday Shopping	Main Streets
Dec	Holiday Activities - City	Holiday Activities - Country
Jan	Skiing	Winter Activities
Feb	Cabin Fever (romantic getaways)	Chocolate
March	Golf	Maple Sugar (festivals)
April	Hiking	National (& state) Parks
May	Civil War 150	Historic Sites
June	Biking	Motorcycle Tours

### visitPA.com Monthly Report: May 2012

**Summary:** Each month they measure a number of Signals of Intent to Travel. These Signals of Intent to Travel include action(s) that a visitor takes on visitPA.com such as signing up to receive our monthly newsletter, signing up to receive Pursuits, downloading a Road Trip idea, etc.

Activity		%ch	LM	LY
Visits:	235,602	45%	162,106	108,475
Page Views:	692,759	38%	502,841	479,864
Unique Monthly Visitors:	211,713	45%	146,055	109,393

# VARIETY ATTRACTIONS, INC

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## PENNSYLVANIA STATE FAIR QUEEN

- Drew An Brubaker



Dear Fair Friends,  
As time once again ushers in the heat of summer, we are faced with the renown yearly question: "What are you doing this summer?" Between long lazy days spent at the beach, exciting camping trips to

the mountains, and excursions centered around family and friends, I urge you to include trips to county fairs in your summer plans. Fairs provide excellent summer entertainment with a side of educational value, a sprinkle of agricultural knowledge, a dash of support for the tourism industry, and an entire cup of fun for the whole family. I anxiously await my many trips exploring the wonders of Pennsylvania's county fairs, and I anticipate greeting many of you throughout this fair season.

Thus far in my reign, I have traveled to Harrisburg for Cornucopia Day, Tourism Day, and an introduction to Senate. During these events, I was given the opportunity to speak with Senators, Representatives, and civilians regarding the intrinsic importance of county fairs

to our agriculture industry, tourism industry, and the culture of Pennsylvania. I traveled to a Farm-to-Table event in Philadelphia where I was again blessed with the chance to speak and discuss the essential nature of our country fairs, as well as to indulge in a giant sundae constructed in a baby pool. I also attended the Zone 1 International Association of Fairs Expositions Conference in Gettysburg. I have learned and imparted fundamental relevance in regards to how important fairs are to the culture, agriculture, and general revenue in our beautiful state.

Throughout these next few months, I will continue to visit many fairs in Pennsylvania. I look forward to witnessing so many unique ways to achieve the unification of community, agriculture, and tourism in each and every county fair. It would be an honor to attend your county or local fair as well. Please contact Sarah Long with any fair invitations. I have enjoyed my reign immensely thus far, and I anticipate many more months of excellent learning and sharing at Pennsylvania's county fairs. I have only my sincerest thanks for this wonderful opportunity.

---

### Attention: Fair Associates!

New for this upcoming convention! Additional showcasing opportunities for stilt walkers, balloon artists, strolling acts, jugglers, magicians, clowns and other street performers! Plans are being drawn up have acts entertain and mingle with the crowds of people congregated outside the Chocolate Ballroom prior to (and perhaps after) different functions, such as the nightly banquets.

A special application will be mailed to all the associate members in the same packet of materials that is sent out for the showcase application process. The committee will review these applications and several acts will be featured each day. Having some short video clips of you "in action" on the fair or festival grounds would be most helpful in the selection process.

Stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions, contact Sam Zaffuto at [szaffuto@penn.com](mailto:szaffuto@penn.com) or Galla Higinbotham at [www.gallaanddan.com](http://www.gallaanddan.com).

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Singer/Songwriter Jamie Bruno attends college in Nashville. However, Jamie and all of the band members are proud Pennsylvanians who would love to perform at your event!

The Jamie Bruno Band has a promotion team that works with local radio stations in your area to promote our appearance and, in turn, promote your event – all at no cost to you! The Jamie Bruno Band is focused on you and your patrons so that we can help make your event a smashing success!

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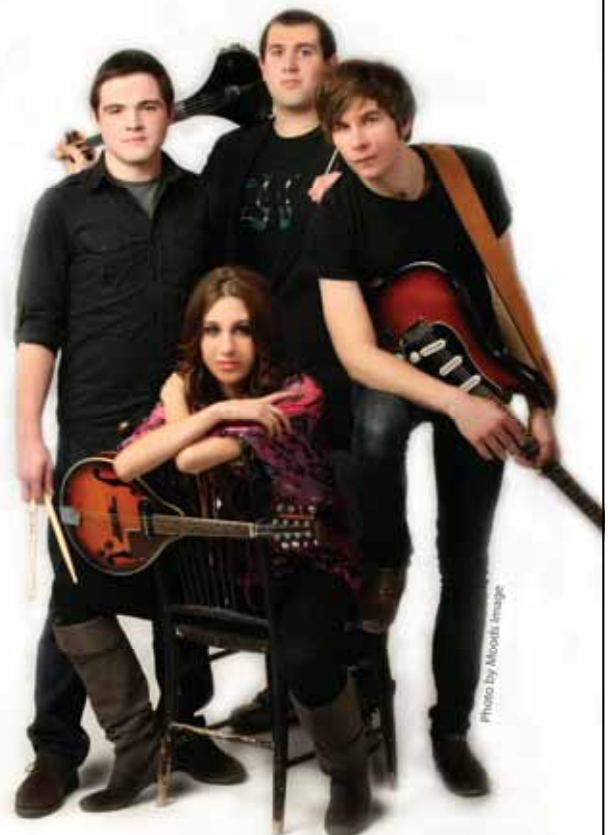
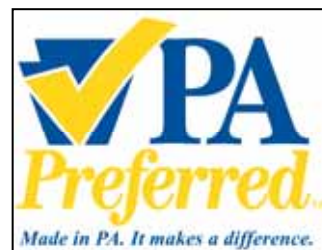


Photo by Moods Image



## 2012 SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

The local Special Baking Contests are already underway! Bakers across Pennsylvania are practicing and planning for their fair's competition. 104 PSACF fairs are conducting one or more of the special contests in 2012. We extend a big "Welcome!" to the Ox Hill Community Fair on being part of the program this year as they host a Blue Ribbon Apple Pie contest at their event.

We extend thanks to the PA Apple Marketing Program and Pennsylvania's Egg Farmers for once again sponsoring the Blue Ribbon Apple Pie and the Angel Food Cake contests, respectively. These two contests are continuing the same as last year, with no changes to the contest rules or procedures.

We are excited about the new opportunity with the Chocolate Baking contests! This is the first year PA Preferred™ program will be the contest sponsor, and they have already been so supportive! As a state-sponsored agricultural marketing program, PA Preferred™ identifies and promotes food and agricultural products grown, produced or processed in Pennsylvania. When residents buy local products, they not only directly support the state's economy, but also encourage Pennsylvania businesses to continue to grow and create great products that guarantee consumers fresh, quality food. Contestants are encouraged to use as many Pennsylvania-produced ingredients as possible in their chocolate baking recipes. For a list of member locations, visit [www.PAPreferred.com](http://www.PAPreferred.com).

The 2012 chocolate contest information was distributed at the Spring Zone meetings. Packets include a CD containing digital files for rules, pre-releases and contest summary forms; 2-part Farm Show Certification Forms; and new Chocolate Baking contest ribbons and sponsor banners. Fairs not in attendance received their packets by mail. Forms and rules are also

available on PSACF's website. It is very important that Fairs update all printed fair materials with the new Sponsor information and contest rules, and display the new banner.

Premium Money for all the special baking contests will be mailed to the qualifying Fairs this summer.

Some general reminders:

1. Prize ribbons only issued for the Chocolate contests; there are no sponsored ribbons for either Apple Pie or Angel Food Cake contests.
2. No Scrapbook materials required for any of the contests. Fairs only send in the Contest Summary forms in a standard envelope.
3. Fairs must provide the winner names and phone numbers for places 1st through 3rd for each contest. Any sponsored prize money not awarded must be returned to PSACF.

For questions or concerns, contact:

Angel Food Cake or Apple Pie..Kevin Bieber,

Cell: 484-256-8009, Email:

Kevin.Bieber@nationalpenn.com

Chocolate Cake & Cookies-Brownies-

Bars..Karen Dobson, Cell: 610-212-6180, Email:

kardob@msn.com





## IAFE ZONE 1 CONFERENCE GETTYSBURG

- Harry Reffner

The IAFE Zone meeting held in Gettysburg had 158 registered attendees, of which 64 were from Pennsylvania, 47 Fairs, 6 Associations, along with IAFE representation from Springfield, MO.

Speakers, table topics and seminars were very informative and well attended. Presenters were very knowledgeable and did an excellent job.

History of Gettysburg was presented by Abraham Lincoln (Jim Getty) and with a tour of the Gettysburg Museum. The Cyclorama was a highlight of the tour and was a topic of discussion among the group.

York Expo was a great host for our Friday dinner, a tour of the fairgrounds was followed by a reception and a terrific dinner, thanks to the York Expo.

Saturday a tour of the Apple Blossom

Festival was followed by a dinner served at the South Mountain Fairgrounds, again a big thanks to the Adams County Fruit Growers Association for another terrific dinner. The 2012 IAFE Zone 1 Conference Planning Committee deserves a big "Thank You" for the fine Conference.

See you in Portland on April 18 - 20, 2013.



Greg Chiecko and Gerard Kiernan  
with President Lincoln (Jim Getty)

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