

## DATES TO REMEMBER - 2013

### May 31

FAIRTALK material for June due

### June 24 (week of)

- 2nd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

### August 31

- Baking Contest checks (Hershey, Angel Food)

- FAIRTALK material for Sept issue due

### September 1

- Showcase apps. For 2014 Convention mailed

### September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

### October 15

- Showcase apps. Due

- 2014 Request for Fair info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/ PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed.

### October 17

- PSACF Board Meeting

### October 23

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - York Fair

### October 24

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - TBA

### October 25

- PSACG Zone 1 Mtg. - Scrubgrass Grange

### October 26

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Troy Fair

### November 1

- Fair Person of the Year apps. Due

- Communications Competition apps due

### November 15

- Reimbursement apps.—Fair Fund due

- Baking Contests due

- Queen Competition apps. Due

November 30

FAIRTALK material for December issue due

### December 8 –12

- IAFE Convention - Las Vegas

## 2014

### January 4-11

- PA Farm Show

### January 22 –25

- PSACF Convention - Hershey



# FAIRTALK



*"News From The PA State Association of County Fairs"*  
**"THE VOICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR INDUSTRY"**

**VOL. 27**

**June 2013**

**NO. 2**

## Milliron Associates<sup>LLC</sup>

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

200 N. Third Street • Suite 1500 • Harrisburg, PA 17101

The Pennsylvania legislature finished negotiations this weekend and passed the budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The budget, which was first introduced in January by Governor Corbett, has been passed at \$28.3 billion dollars. It includes a spending increase of \$578 million dollars, a 2.1 percent rise from last year. Budget priorities include: an increase of funding in education, health and human services as well as environment and agriculture. The budget will provide state fairs with \$3 million dollars, an increase from the original \$2.5 million proposed by the Governor back in January. \$3 million has also been allotted for the farm show fund.

Milliron Associates and the County Fairs are very pleased with the budget plan. The support of key legislators was critical in securing full funding for the County Fairs and Milliron Associates would like to thank both PSACF and the County Fairs Caucus for all their hard work. It is our hope that through the County Fairs Caucus we can continue to maintain a relationship between the County Fairs and state legislators for years to come. Please call your legislators with a "Thank You" for the help.



## PSACF OFFICERS - 2012-2013

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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 is hard to believe but the Fair Season is definitely here. I am sure you are all finalizing your plans, starting your advertising and rounding up the troops. As you do all of these things please remember to include invitations to your State Senators, State Representatives to be part of your fair. If the state budget has not been passed when you read this, contact your legislators and encourage them to keep the proposed \$2.5 million in the budget for our fairs. If the budget has passed, please contact them with a big "Thank You".

I am glad to announce that the Economic Impact study that your state organization has been working on for a year is finally completed! Your supplying information to Shepstone is greatly appreciated. This report is available online on the PSACF website.

Feel free to make copies. Then use the report to help your fair develop funding. Make sure that your Visitors Bureau and your Legislators receive copies. This report should be included and referred to in all of your application for private and public funding.

The 2013 PA Fair Queen, Rhonda Carl, would like to come visit your fair. To make this more affordable for your fair, PSACF has agreed to cover the cost of her mileage to come to your fair. So contact Martha Ebersole at 717-834-4435 to make a formal visitation request.

Also remember to nominate your special volunteer(s) for the Fair Ambassador Award and request Boots Hetherington to come to your fair.

I hope all of you have fair weather and huge crowds as you "Harvest Your Dreams" in 2013.



**NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS  
MSGR. JOHN W. MIGNOT  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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

## WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK !!!!!

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

After you have finished reading this short article, please take a moment to e-mail or call me regarding your interest in this program at convention. It is very important we hear from you so we know if we should schedule the workshop.

I have secured the availability of the IAFE to come out to convention on Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> to conduct a Consumer Protection Workshop that will help Fairs fully understand E-Coli and to provide information on controlling traffic flow in all animal areas, creating proper signage, installing hand washing areas, and establishing specific cleaning protocols. This seminar has been held in Hookstown Pa. as well as New York already.

The classroom instruction would take approximately six hours or so starting around 10 AM that day. The cost of the program

would be \$150.00 for one person from your Fair. That cost includes one book that is required. We need 25 Fairs to sign up to make this seminar happen. Any additional attendees from the Fair will receive a discount based on what materials you may or may not want.

Please remember that attending and receiving certification of your attendance could be a help if your Fair is ever involved in a dispute regarding E-Coli or other enteric pathogens.

Please respond to me of your interest in arriving at Hershey on Wednesday morning to take part in this class. You can reach me by phone at 484-256-8009 or by e-mail at [kevin.bieber@nationalpenn.com](mailto:kevin.bieber@nationalpenn.com). **Please respond no later than September 1st.**

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

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## CHIP EICHELBERGER TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 2014 CONVENTION

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

Chip Eichelberger, a well known corporate trainer and motivational speaker will deliver the opening ceremony keynote address at the 2014 convention in Hershey. Chip has an incredible track record of getting measurable results for various companies across the United States and prides himself in audiences saying "WOW" during his presentation.

Chip started his career as an award winning salesperson for Jantzen Sportswear. He pioneered new markets in the United Kingdom and Australia before launching his solo career.

Aside from the keynote address, the seminar committee has a full field of seminars lined up for you at convention. Although the schedule is not finalized at this time, I can tell

you that we have received a commitment from Barney Cosner from the Fremont County Fair and Rodeo in Riverton Wyoming to come to Hershey and give us two presentations. For those of you who remember Barney from last time, you know he has a great enthusiasm for Fairs and will be sure to offer some great seminars. Along with Barney, we will once again offer the Trucking Seminar to update all the changes that take place in regards to the DOT. Food Safety is always an issue at our Fairs and someone from the Dept. of Ag will once again update us on those changes. I am also very excited to announce that our own Beverly Gruber will run another version of Superintendent's School on Wednesday as we all arrive at Hershey.

Many more seminars are currently being scheduled for another exciting convention. More details on these seminars will be available in the next edition of Fairtalk as they become finalized. Please start making your plans now to join us in Hershey.

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26 members of Fairs from Pennsylvania traveled to Portland Maine for the IAFE Zone 1 meeting April 18-20. The largest delegation was from Connecticut followed by Pennsylvania. The roundtable discussions were well presented and attended. On Saturday Greg Chiecko conducted the Zone One business Session.



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## PA PREFERRED PRODUCTS DISPLAY CONTEST 2013

### Objective:

The objective of the PA Preferred Products Display Contest is to increase consumer awareness of the large and growing number of quality products that are produced in Pennsylvania.

### Guidelines:

1. Any fair that was eligible to receive funding through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act during the 2012 fair season can participate.
2. The display should consist of PA Preferred products with the exception of props that support the theme or design of the display. To determine which products are designated as PA Preferred, visit [www.papreferred.com](http://www.papreferred.com). Once there, enter a zip code which will give a listing of PA Preferred products in the designated area. Perishable products such as milk and eggs should be removed from the container prior to being displayed.
3. A numbered roster of all the PA Preferred items on display and a 4" x 6" photograph of the display should be mailed to:  
Fair Administrator  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

The deadline for submission is November 1, 2013. The roster of PA Preferred products and the 4" x 6" photograph need to be accompanied by a cover letter stating the name of the fair, contact person, daytime telephone number and email address if available.

4. The judging panel will consist of:  
PA Preferred Program Coordinator  
Representative from Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Marketing  
Representative from Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Press Office
5. In order to receive a monetary award, the participating winners must bring their display to the 2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Premium checks will be awarded at a scheduled ceremony during the 2014 Farm Show.
6. Three (3) displays will be chosen by the judges as first place, second place, and third place. A rosette ribbon will be given for each category. If any of the winning fairs is unable to display at the 2013 Pennsylvania Farm Show, the remaining contestants will re-ranked with ribbons and monetary awards assigned accordingly.
7. The displays will need to be set up by Thursday, January 2nd, 2014 and cannot be removed before 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 10th 2014. If displays are not picked up, they will become the property of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Photographs and product rosters will not be returned.

### Judging Criteria

Category	Points
Originality and creativity of display	20
Appearance and attractiveness (photo)	20
Number of PA Preferred items on display (One per item)	60 maximum
TOTAL	100

### Award

First Place	\$1,000
Second Place	\$500
Third Place	\$250

**"New"**

**PSACF Associates Welcome**

### Musical Attractions

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## From The Zones



**Zone One—Sam Zafutto**  
Our Spring Zone meeting was held on Friday April 26 at the Scrubgrass Grange. Twenty-five of our fairs were present for

the meeting. John Blaney, president and Dr David Reese, Vice-President were in attendance along with our Secretary, Harry Refner. They presented an update of our state association to all in attendance. Boots Hetherington joined us for an update from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. I would like to thank Dave Hallstrom for taking care of the meeting when I found I would not be able to attend.

A few of our Zone One fairs will be starting soon. We plan to have our zone directors visit all of our fairs this year.

Please mark your calendars for our fall zone meeting, which will be Friday October 25 where we will present the zone person of the year award as well as the Junior Zone Person Award. Please watch your mail for information on both of these awards. Hope you have a great fair season. See you at your fair.



**Zone Two -Rodman Ralston**  
Zone Two held its semi-annual Zone meeting at Port Royal and was hosted by the Juniata County Fair. There were 17 Fairs in attendance

Fair season is just around the corner. In fact, the Northeast Fair begins the week of June 17 and the our Fair season concludes with the Bloomsburg Fair which operates the last full week of September.

Lets all hope for a fair weather Fair season and hope to see all the Zone Two Fairs representatives at our fall meeting to be hosted by the Troy Fair on October 26, 2013.



**Zone Three — Debbie Stephenson**  
The Zone 3 meeting was held at the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds on April 25, 2013. 16 fairs were in attendance. Boots discussed fair reimbursement checks which were mailed and that the application has been revised. Zone 3 in the Fall will be electing someone from our zone to sit on the Queen board, please be thinking of someone to do this. Sarah is our representative now and is not seeking re-election. PSACF is covering the cost of the mileage for the Queen to your fair, fairs are only responsible for food and lodging if necessary. Other topics included 2014 Convention including E Coli seminars, harness racing at PA fairs. Boots had posters for hand washing; make sure you have all the posters and hand washing stations available. Email or call Debbie with suggestions for table topics. Boots stated that the phrase that needs to be placed on your fair entry blank is the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence from the animal health rules this will replace the vet check client relationship paper. Monsignor scholarship fund, we will be awarding again this year, fairs are urged to submit applications, and the application is online on our website. We want to thank all of our gracious donations for door prizes, they were greatly appreciated. To all fairs – have a great



**Zone Four — Dr. Sally Nolt**  
The Fair season is underway throughout Zone 4 and Pennsylvania. Best of luck to everyone for a successful 2013 Fair Season!

The Spring Zone 4 Meeting was hosted by Schnecksville Community Fair on Wednesday April 23rd. Zone 4 members enjoyed a night of great food, fellowship and information. We extend our thanks to Beverly Gruber and her committee for their hospitality.

The Zone 4 Fall Meeting will be Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in Blue Ball. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting.

The annual Fairperson of the Year for Zone 4 and Jr. Fairperson of the Year for Zone 4 will be presented at this meeting. Please honor two individuals from your fair by nominating them for these awards! Nominations are due to me by September 1, 2013.

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



# The MidLife Cowboys Band



"Range Rovin" Richard Rupert, "Bluesman" Chris Trasatti, "Trail Boss" Gary Stoner, "Too Dang Cool" Ed Scholl, and "Cactus" Drew Kanaskie

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## The Secretary's Notepad

— Harry Reffner

### Association Dues

There are still a few fairs which have not paid their dues for the year. Dues must be paid before your yearly packet is mailed. A second notice was sent in early June.

### Fair Season

During the fair season remember to continue your efforts in E. Coli prevention (signage, sanitation, backflow, etc.). Continue your efforts in all safety measures.

### Fair Person of the Year

Reminder all applications must be postmarked no later than November 1st. See "Fairs Only" on our website for the application.

### 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 2013 instructions through the association website. Refer to the instructions as necessary/needed.

All fairs using Martech Blue Ribbon software should be using the latest version or the reimbursement application.

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

### Msgr. John W. Mignot Scholarship

The program material was posted to the website in late April. Deadlines are: **June 30** applicant must submit application to sponsoring fair; **July 31** sponsoring fair must complete endorsement and submit to zone chairperson.

Funds are currently available to release 5 scholarships. The 6th scholarship needs to raise more monies prior to September. Please consider a donation to the Scholarship fund.

### Communications Competition

A note from the Communications chair, criteria, and application are available in the "Fairs Only" section of the association website. **November 1st** completed applications must be postmarked.

### Dream Big in 2013!



Download your Step-By-Step Guide to get started at [www.fairsandexpos.com/events/dreambig/](http://www.fairsandexpos.com/events/dreambig/).

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## PA FAIR CAUCUS RECEPTION

On May 13 a reception for House and Senate Members of the PA Fair Caucus was hosted by the PSACF at the offices of Milliron Associates. Milliron organized the event on behalf of County Fairs. The Reception was held in support of our request for the \$2.5 million budget for the upcoming year. The goal was to help promote awareness and educate members on the importance of the County Fairs and further the relationship between PSACF and state legislators for years to come. There were 18 fair officials and 38 legislators in attendance. Both Senator Mike Waugh and Representative David Millard encouraged attendance by the legislators. Milliron Associates reported "We have received a lot of positive feedback from legislators who attended, particularly David Millard. I was very pleased with the turn out and the effort all fair officials made to connect with the caucus members." Lt. Governor Cawley spent a half hour speaking with our fair members. The Lt. Governor is in support of the fairs budget, which is beneficial to our County Fairs.



(From left to right) Rodman Ralston, Senator John Wozniak, Rep. David Millard, Paul Reichart



(From left to right) Andy Goodman, Laura Baumann, Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley, Lydia Messner, John Milliron and Melanie Greene



(From left to right) Senator Mike Waugh, Roy Hoffman, Bev Gruber, Ron Miller, Dr. David Reese



Representative Sandy Major and John Blaney



## 2013 SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

102 PSACF fairs are gearing up for this year's Special Baking Contests while local contestants are planning their delicious recipes for the competitions. The first place winners from each Fair earn the opportunity to compete at the 2014 PA Farm Show for top prizes of \$500, so the stakes are high!

We extend thanks to the PA Apple Marketing Program, the Pennsylvania's Egg Farmers, and PA Preferred for once again sponsoring the Blue Ribbon Apple Pie, Angel Food Cake and Chocolate Baking contests, respectively.

Local contest rules, pre-releases, PSACF Contest summary forms, PA Farm Show Certification forms and Chocolate Baking ribbons were distributed at the 2013 Spring Zone meetings. Fairs not in attendance received their packets by mail. Forms and rules are also available on PSACF's website.

### Changes for 2013 include:

Apple Pie – no changes

Chocolate Baking – Rules have been updated: For either the Cake or the Cookies/Brownies/ Bars, at least two (2) ingredients must be PA Preferred® products. These ingredients are to be identified as "PA Preferred®" with its brand name in the recipes. A Bakery Ingredient List of milk/egg producers was included in the fairs' Baking Packets and also posted to PSACF's website. We encourage fairs to copy the list into their Premium Books and/or post on their website to assist contestants with finding PA Preferred ingredients. Contestants can also find participating members at

[www.PAPreferred.com](http://www.PAPreferred.com).

Angel Food Cake – fairs can participate in a new contest - "**Pennsylvania's incredible! Angel Food Cake Contest Promotional Eggs-travaganza**"! What **incredible!** things did your fair do to get people involved in the contest? Increase awareness of egg production and use of eggs? Promote the contest sponsor – Pennsylvania's Egg Farmers? Cash prizes of \$500, \$250, \$100 will be awarded to the top 3 Fairs

with the most **incredible!** Angel Food Cake Contest publicity effort (*flyers, websites, social media, posters, news coverage, etc*). Prizes will be awarded at the 2014 Convention. For details about rules, entry submission, judging and resources, see the contest flyer posted on PSACF's website under the "Special Baking Contest" page. Contest entries must be post-marked by November 30 to Kevin Bieber.

It is very important that Fairs update all printed fair materials with the current sponsor information and contest rules, and display their Angel Food Cake and Chocolate Baking banners.

Some general reminders:

1. Premium Money for all the special baking contests will be mailed to the qualifying Fairs this summer.
2. Prize ribbons only issued for the Chocolate contests; there are no sponsored ribbons for either Apple Pie or Angel Food Cake contests.
3. No Scrapbook materials are required for any of the contests. Fairs only send in the PSACF Contest Summary forms in a standard envelope. Exception: fairs participating in the Angel Food Cake Promotional contest must submit their portfolio by November 30.
4. 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 Harry Reffner at the PSACF office.

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



## *Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program*

The following officers were elected in February to serve on the 2013 PA Fair Queen Program Board of Directors: *Chairman*: John Berne; *Vice Chairman*: Sarah Irvin; *Secretary*: Karen Dobson and *Treasurer*: Gary Moore. Committee appointments were *Contest Correspondence*: Bitsey Kopfinger; *State Contest*: Karen Dobson and Shelly Shaffer; *Events/Publicity*: Martha Ebersole; and *Fundraising*: John Berne and Judy Kmetz.

Zones 1 and 3 will be holding elections at their 2013 Fall Zone meetings to appoint a member to serve a two-year term on the PA Fair Queen Board of Directors.

We encourage Fairs to invite the **2013 PA Fair Queen Rhonda Carl** to their event this summer. The only expense for the inviting Fairs would be her meal expenses while she is on the fairgrounds and any overnight hotel accommodations, if necessary. Many thanks to PSACF for budgeting funds this year to pay for the PA Fair Queen's mileage for fair visits! Inviting fairs only need to sign a Voucher verifying the correct mileage and the visitation date. If your fair is interested in inviting the State Queen or Alternate, simply submit the "*PA Fair Queen Appearance Request Form*".

More than 65 fairs submitted a request to receive the 2014 State Competition application. We are encouraged that so many fairs want to be part of this Program that positively affects many young ladies across the Commonwealth! Application Packets were distributed at the Spring Zone meetings, or mailed to any non-attending fairs. Completed applications must be returned, postmarked no later than November 15, to Bitsey Kopfinger.

One of the PA Fair Queen Program's biggest fundraising events is held at the annual PSACF convention. Flyers about the gift basket, auction and raffle fundraisers were distributed at the Zone meetings. The Fundraising committee is working hard to present some new and creative raffle items including an autographed guitar

signed by several well-known music artists (*promoted through Variety Attractions*) throughout the 2013 Fair Season, and a 5' LED tree covered with gift certificates valued at \$400-500. Any Fair or individual interested in donating a basket or raffle item, or in becoming a recognized program sponsor, can contact John Berne (McKean County Fair) or Judy Kmetz (Luzerne County Fair) for the information.

The 2014 contest will be held January 23-25. Events include an orientation, and judged events for interviews, speeches and stage introductions in evening gowns. There will also be activities scheduled for the queen contestants including assisting with fundraising, special seminars and the Queens' Pizza Party. We thank "Drum the Bucket" for already committing to sponsoring the Pizza party on Friday evening, January 24. And there will informational sessions planned for Fair Boards and Queen Coordinators interested in starting a queen program at their Fair or just learn new ideas that could benefit their existing program.

The PA Fair Queen Program's Rules and Guidelines for the 2013 local contests were distributed at Convention. But any of the information mentioned in this article can also be downloaded from the PSACF website: [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org) (Member Login "FAIRSPA", PA State Fair Queen Program link).

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 Events & Media – Martha Ebersole, 717-834-4435

State Contest - Karen Dobson, 610-212-6180

By Karen Dobson



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- Rhonda Carl



Hello residents of Pennsylvania, a place we call home sweet home. The days are becoming longer allowing more time to enjoy the scenic mountains and the beautiful sound of crickets. This time of year is so serene, as the summer months begin along with all the busy schedules filled with vacations and summer jobs for students. Sometimes one just needs a break from the fast life we seem to be living in now-a-days and what better of a place to do just that, but a local county fair.

Pennsylvania has over 100 fairs that showcase the finest of our state agriculturally and caring people can be found at the fairs. "What better of a place to be?!" A fair is a place where one can stroll and see children having a blast in a safe environment, local farmers showing their prized livestock, and even catch some musical entertainment. The attributes that a fair holds make it the perfect place to go to kick back and relax, while making you appreciate all the hard work dedicated farmers and volunteers do to impact the lives of your community. My job is to do just that. I have the honor and pleasure to visit the great fairs of Pennsylvania and be an ambassador for agriculture and its importance in our lives. My life as PA Fair Queen 2013 has just begun but has already been filled with vast memories.

From Schuylkill County, my home sweet home, to the far reaches of the state capital I speak on behalf of the farmers and volunteers of the fairs on the importance that a fair can hold in one's life. As I dive into the fair season I feel a new journey beginning, something that will open my mind to new things I had never known before. This is something anyone can take away from visiting a fair, a piece of knowledge may it be small it will be something that will impact one's life. I look forward to visiting as many fairs these coming months as possible so please contact Martha Ebersole to ensure I will be able to visit your wonderful fair. So, from my home sweet home to yours have a great summer and hope to see you soon at the fair!

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It's hard to believe this is my third fair season as fair fund administrator. Our June fairs helped get me back in the groove of crossing the state to visit you, listen to your concerns and assist you on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of

Agriculture. Secretary Greig and I enjoy coming to your fairs and witnessing the work you put into them. It is remarkable to see all the wonderful volunteers conduct 109 fairs each summer.

### **Fair Fund Payments**

All 2012 fair funds have been dispersed. To help facilitate and speed up the payment process, my assistant Michelle Worden and I will be conducting a table topic discussion at the 2014 PSACF Convention in Hershey next January. If the applications contain the correct information when they are submitted, the process is smooth and painless. The Treasury Department and the Office of the Budget must both approve the application prior to payment being issued. If there are discrepancies with your name, address, federal identification number, etc. on your application compared to what is on file with the Office of the Budget, your application is rejected. The problem must be corrected by the fair and then we restart the entire process, delaying payment. Bring your questions to our presentation, and we will do our best to help you understand how to properly submit your application.

### **Fair Regulations**

We're also reviewing the official fair regulations to see where we can simplify the language and bring our regulations into this century. Some of the changes reflect new ways the state processes information in the computer age. They are procedural, like eliminating the need for three hard copies of reimbursement documents.

Each fair will receive a copy of the PA Fair Fund Act and Chapter 102 Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Program Regulations. We encourage your input. The deadline to submit comments will be Oct. 15. The fair advisory board will present the proposed regulation changes to Secretary Greig, who has the final word. Many thanks in advance to all of you who are willing to comb through the regulations and help us make the necessary changes to keep the rules current and working for all of us.

### **Outstanding Fair Ambassador Awards**

The department is once again offering the Outstanding Fair Ambassador Award as an opportunity for each fair board to honor to individuals who ensure the annual success of their fair. I received a note from Karen Dobson, Kimberton Community Fair Secretary and PSACF Board Member, who shared with me the pride that her fair's 2012 award recipient felt after receiving it. It's gratifying that a small token of appreciation means so much.

I want to share another interesting fair ambassador story. The Northeast Fair outside Pittston, Luzerne County, nominated Jim Dillon. The name sounded very familiar. Sure enough, Jim received the award at the Kiwanis Wyoming County Fair in 2011. He is a native of the Pittston area, but for 17 years drove to Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, as editor and publisher of its newspaper. He became active in the Tunkhannock Kiwanis and was one of the charter fair board members when the Kiwanis resurrected the Wyoming County Fair in 1986. When some of Jim's neighboring township firemen wanted to grow the Pittston Township Fireman's Carnival into the Northeast Fair, Jim volunteered to help. As a result, he is a charter member of both fair boards and annually volunteers at each fair.

### **PA Preferred™ Products Display Competition**

The PA Preferred™ Products Display competition is back for the 2013 fair season. For a copy of the guidelines and rules, which are nearly the same as last year, contact Michelle at [mworden@pa.gov](mailto:mworden@pa.gov). Contact Michelle, me or PSACF Secretary Harry Reffner for a list of PA Preferred companies, and check out [www.papreferred.com](http://www.papreferred.com) for new members searchable by name and product.

### **Fairs Benefitting the Community**

I was glad to hear that the Manheim Community Farm Show recently broke ground on a new multipurpose building. It's great to see the fair, borough and school working together and investing their local dollars in a cause that will serve the entire community of Manheim well for years to come.

I'll see you at the fair!



Boots Hetherington



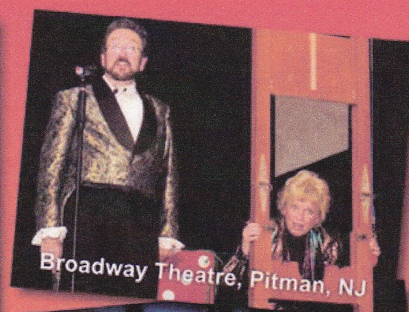
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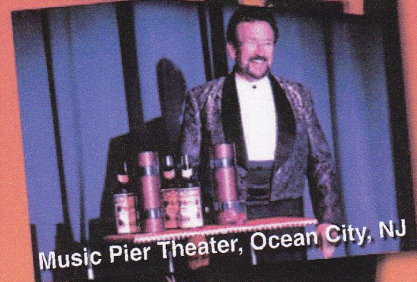
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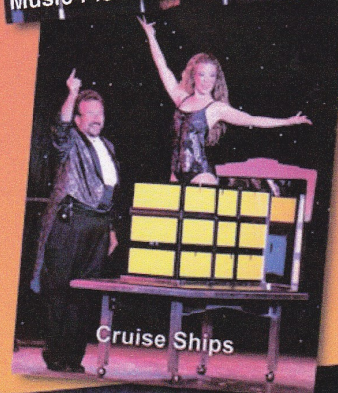
Fun for the Whole Family!



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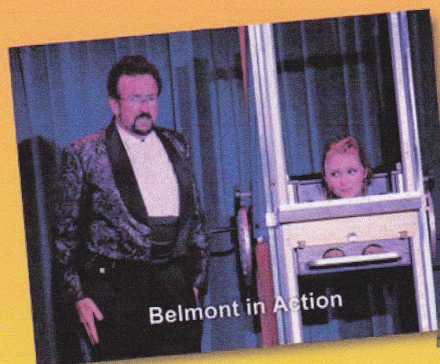
Music Pier Theater, Ocean City, NJ



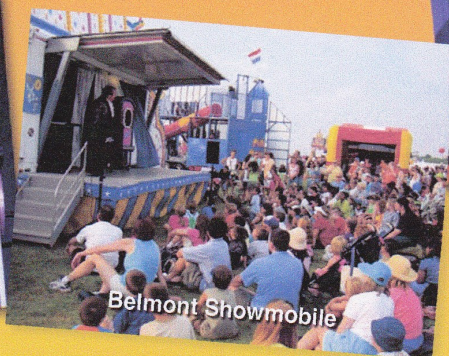
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