

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2014 by the Washington State Fairs Association (WSFA) Board of Directors to recognize an individual's accomplishments and contributions to the Fair Industry. Like so many other industries, WSFA depends on the dedication of staff and volunteers for our success. A key ingredient in that is leadership and commitment. It is our distinct honor and privilege to announce this year's recipient of the WSFA Lifetime Achievement Award to Greg Stewart.

Greg's history and achievements are well known to all of us. It is an impressive record and has resulted in the betterment of Fairs not only in Washington but across the entire Fair industry.

Greg was hired in 1972 by the Central Washington Fair Association to be the Assistant General Manager. The following year Greg was appointed General Manager of what was then a five-day Fair, overseeing a full-time staff of three people. While he is still the Fair's General Manager, a great deal has changed in the past 46 years.

The Central Washington State Fair and the 120-acre fairgrounds, now known as State Fair Park, have grown considerably under Greg's leadership. The Fair has grown into a ten-day event that is recognized as one of the premiere events in the Northwest. Full time employment has grown to 22 people who help oversee and accommodate some 222 annual event days.

In addition to his Fair duties, Greg oversees management of the Yakima Valley SunDome located at State Fair Park. The 8000 seat SunDome, is a \$13 million multi-purpose facility. The building is also the home to concerts, rodeos, and numerous other events throughout the year.

Greg also oversees the management of Yakima County Stadium which opened at State Fair Park in 1993. In 2014 Yakima County Stadium became the new home to the Yakima Valley Pippins, a West Coast League baseball team.

In 2000, the former Yakima Meadows horse racetrack located on the grounds was turned into a 3/8-mile racetrack, now called State Fair Raceway. The all-clay racetrack is utilized for Sprint car and dirt track car racing.

Active in community affairs, Greg is a 21-year member of the Yakima Rotary Club, the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, Yakima Valley Tourism, and the Central Washington Hispanic Chamber. In December 2017, Mr. Stewart received an award from the Yakima Latino Professional Association for his excellent leadership, vision and community support.

He has been active in several Fair industry organizations outside the WSFA where he is a Past Director and President. Among his many association contributions, Greg was Director and Vice President of Western Fairs Association 1979-1981 and a Hall of Fame recipient in 1995. He was the first recipient out of the State of California to be on the Western Fairs Association Board and to receive the Hall of Fame award.

In 1984 Greg received the designation of Certified Fair Executive from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE). He served as Zone Director for six years, treasurer for three years, in 2000 was Second Vice Chairman, in 2001 was First Vice Chairman, in 2002 was Chairman, and in 2003 was the Past Chairman. In 2010, Mr. Stewart received the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Hall of Fame award, the highest honor recognized by the fair industry.

Mr. Stewart was the Director of the Mid-West Fairs Association, where members are selected by invitation only. In 2006, Mr. Stewart served as President of the Mid-West Fairs Association.

Additionally, he has memberships with the Northwest Showman's League, International Association of Auditorium Managers, is a gold card member with the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and a board member of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association.

Born and raised in Olympia, Washington, Mr. Stewart attended Centralia College in 1963 and graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Agricultural Economics. He served in the U. S. Army from 1966-1969, including a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Stewart and his wife, Karen, live in Selah, Washington and in his spare time he enjoys traveling, boating, horses, and fishing.