

The Wisconsin Association of Fairs Monday night auction is a great fundraiser, every year the auction is bigger and better thanks to the awesome auctioneer standing at the front of the room for the past 35 years. We have been entertained by this guy standing at the podium leading the auction, the one and only Terry Schmaling.

With some help from Jane Grabarski, we were able to find out a little more about that the auction was like before Terry. WAF put out the word that we needed an auctioneer for a new event. Terry was a young board member on Walworth County Fair and volunteered. He was an instant success and brought an entire clerking team from their board, making the event work like clockwork. With his knowing other Fairs and Associates, he could pull out the bids! At the start we were happy to get \$20 per item. I remember the board was ecstatic the first year we made over \$1,000. Oh hose the event has grown.

Terry has the ability to be auctioning an item and while making comments on a long-standing comradery between Terry and his emcee or an individual in the audience. His ability to bring the room to laughter while auctioning off that HOME-MADE item that a fairest candidate has made (even if the item was not home-made Terry was always convincing the fairest to say it was) and at the same time get every last dollar out of a bidder is nothing short of phenomenal.

Everyone in the room is a friend to Terry and most times he will call you out by name during the auction. 35 years of dedication to the Wisconsin Association of Fairs, 35 years of volunteering to make the auction better than the year before. 35 years of a great legacy of the guy standing at the podium, Terry Schmaling.

Thank you, Terry, from the bottom of our hearts. You truly are a wonderful person and an icon to the Wisconsin Association of Fairs.