

FAIR

THE SHOW PLACE



VIEWS

OF AGRICULTURE

January 2015

Supplement Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 2014 Washington State Fairs Association (WSFA) convention is behind us and it was another superb opportunity for our member Fairs to come together for great presentations,

education, competition, entertainment, trade show and lots of fun. Year-to-year that does not change, and will remain our focus. But there are significant challenges in the immediate future for each of us, not only your Association Board of Directors, but for every member Fair in WSFA. The challenges we have been handed are serious and will require an effort on the part of each of you, individually, and corporately as Fairs and events. It will require the support of your participants, volunteers, staffs, community leaders and elected officials.

The number one priority I see right now is mounting a state-wide effort to restore the full Fair Fund. As you know, the fund was zeroed out in the budget proposal from the State Department of Agriculture that the Governor asked for in response to the funding mandates in the McCleary basic education decision from the Washington State Supreme Court. The Fund was in the standard budget prepared by the Department but cut from the budget proposal which reflected a 15% general fund cut to satisfy the McCleary mandates. When the Governor's budget was release last month it did contain an increment of funding for Youth Fairs. That is a positive from where we started. We faced a similar threat in 2010 when the Governor sought to eliminate Fair funding and we were successful in making the case

for Fairs, youth, education and economics. We can do it again .

What should we be doing now to increase our chances of getting the whole Fair Fund restored in the budget? Of primary importance, set aside January 29th 2015 on your calendar to join us in Olympia for WSFA Legislative Day. This is our opportunity to meet en masse and visit as many Representatives and Senators as we can and educate them on the purpose and value of the Fair Fund to the youth and constituents in their legislative district. Numbers count and voices are listened to. Your Board will be there but you are in the best position to tell your Fair's story. One very important question you should be prepared to address is "What would be the impact on your Fair without the Fair Fund?" That is the piece of the story that only each individual Fair can answer. Our lobbyist, Heather Hansen, has done an excellent job of putting together information for you to use in this effort. When you come to Olympia we will have handouts for you, and remember that bringing youth affected by this possible cut is a very powerful message. These young folks have helped in the past and they are articulate spokespersons for Fairs.

We have all been down this path before and know it well. This is not an annual "the sky is falling" though. This is as serious as it gets when we have to start from a position of not being in the budget at all and needing to get in the front door so we have something to defend. If you need more information, call or email your WSFA Board member. We are all here to serve you individually as well as corporately for the betterment of Fairs across the state. The Board has worked hard to ensure we are a strong voice in Olympia on every matter affecting Fairs.

John Morrison
WSFA President

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
from Heather Hansen



The Fair Fund is Empty – your help is needed to fill it up

When Governor Inslee released his budget proposal in preparation for the 2015 legislative session, it did not include funding for Fairs. If we are to be successful at getting the Fair Fund back, we need participation by volunteers,

4-H leaders, youth exhibitors, and community leaders.

Please reach out to everyone involved with your fair, from youth participants to community groups and ask them to contact their legislators. Legislators need to hear from constituents about how important the fair is to families and your community.

Each person has three state legislators, two representatives and one senator. You may contact them via email or US mail.

Find Your Legislator: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>
Legislative E-mail List: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/MemberEmail/Default.aspx>

Ideas to help you write your letter

The Fair Fund was created in 1961. It supports 33 county fairs, 4 area fairs, 12 youth shows and 17 community fairs across Washington. When the Fair Fund was moved into the general fund in 1998, it was cut in half. The remaining \$2 million per year has never been increased.

Youth shows and small county Fairs rely on the fund for up to 80% of their total budget. Of the 66 fairs supported, 25 derive over 30% of their annual budget from the Fair Fund. (All youth shows are operated under the auspices of either WSU or OSPI.) Without this support, many may not continue to operate.

Education comes in many forms. Through 4-H, FFA and other youth programs, fairs provide the opportunity for youth to learn responsibility, record keeping, public speaking, teamwork, social skills and much more. The Fair also provides recognition of year-long learning efforts. This real world recognition for work invested is a significant lesson in workforce preparation. In addition,

many fairs coordinate educational programs with local schools.

Studies show that youth who participate in Fairs are nearly twice as likely to do well in school, twice as likely to go to college, 40% less likely to engage in risky behaviors and 25% more likely to contribute positively to their families and communities.

Customize your letter with specifics about how participating in the fair benefits you.

Note: Payments to Fairs in the spring of 2015 will not be affected. This budget affects payments for 2016 – 2017.

Washington State Fairs day in Olympia

January 29 at 8:00 AM we will gather in the Washington Room in basement of the Pritchard Building.

See the lower left corner of this map: <http://www.des.wa.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/campus-map.pdf>

Click here for parking information: <http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Parking.aspx>

Please make appointments with your legislators. We will also have handouts to distribute to every legislative office.

Heather Hansen
WSFA Legislative Lobbyist

**Mark your Calendar for these
2015 WSFA Events**

Thursday, January 29
Legislative Day -- Olympia, WA

Friday, March 6
Management Team Meeting -- Moses Lake, WA

Saturday, March 7
State Wide Super School -- Moses Lake, WA

Thursday, October 22 – Saturday, October 24
WSFA Convention -- Pasco, WA

WSFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

PRESIDENT

John Morrison 2011 - 2018

Position #1

Clark County Fair

17402 NE Delfel Road, Ridgefield, WA 98642

Phone: 360-397-6149

Cell: 360-921-4346 Fax: 360-397-6185

JohnM@cceventcenter.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Atchison 2011 - 2018

Position #5

Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days

149 Thunder Ridge Drive, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Phone: 509-529-8386

Cell: 509-520-4276

terryatchison@msn.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rich Hartzell 2009 - 2015

Position #6

Spokane Interstate Fair

404 N. Havana, Suite 1, Spokane Valley, WA 99202

Work #: 509-477-2786 Cell#: 425-327-7283

rhartzell@spokanecounty.org

or skyhartfarms@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Tom Muchoney 2013 - 2017

Position #2

Evergreen State Fair

13225 S. Machias Rd., Snohomish, WA 98290

Phone: (425) 334-9501

Email: tmuchoney@comcast.net

Tom Gwin 2013 - 2017

Position #3

Washington State 4-H Fair

2606 W. Pioneer, Puyallup, WA 98371

Office Phone: 253-445-4630

Cell: 360-581-0177 Fax: 253-445-4587

tgwin@techline.com

Kathi Mattinen 2010 - 2017

Position #4

Cowlitz County Fair

1900 7th Avenue, Longview, WA 98632

Phone: 360-560-2109 Work: 360-577-3121

Fax: 360-577-6254

mattinenk@co.cowlitz.wa.us

or kathimattinen@hotmail.com

Haley Meredith 2012 - 2015

Position #7

Benton Franklin Fair

300 Douglass Avenue, Richland, WA 99352

MissHaleyDoll@live.com

Jerry Gingrich 2013 - 2017

Position #8

Grant County Fair

3953 Airway Drive NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837

Phone: 509-765-3581 ext. 4613 Fax: 509-766-7940

Cell: 509-237-2672

jgingrich@grantcountywa.gov

WSFA SERVICE MEMBER DIRECTOR

Penny Nelson 2011 - 2015

Hazel's Diner

3305 W. Birchfield, Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509-961-9107

corndoglad@netscape.com

WSFA Executive Secretary

Gale Sobolesky, CFE

Southwest Washington Fair

P.O. Box 914, 147 Kennicott Road, Chehalis, WA 98532

WSFA Office: 360-269-9971 Fax: 360-740-1478

wastfair@comcast.net

or gale.sobolesky@lewiscountywa.gov

WSFA Legislative Lobbyist

Heather Hansen

120 Union Ave., Suite 204, Olympia, WA 98501

Day: 360-705-2040

Fax: 360-705-2018

heather@wafriends.org



Washington State Fairs Association Directors

Back Row: Rich Hartzell, Immediate Past President, Tom Muchoney, Director,

Terry Atchison, Vice President, John Morrison, WSFA President,

Jerry Gingrich, Director, Tom Gwin, Director

Front Row: Haley Meredith, Director, Kathi Mattinen,

Director, Penny Nelson, WSFA Service Member Director

WSFA DIRECTORS ASSIGNMENTS 2015

WESTSIDE

John Morrison Position 1

Camas-Washougal Community Fair*
Clark County Fair
Lewis County Youth Fair
Mason County Fair
Southwest Washington Fair
Thurston County Fair
Washington Junior Poultry Expo
Washington State Fair
Skamania County Fair

Tom Muchoney Position 2

Enumclaw Jr. Dairy Show
Evergreen State Fair
Whidbey Island Area Fair
Northwest Washington Fair
Puget Sound Junior Livestock Show
San Juan County Fair
Silvana Community Fair
Skagit County Fair
Stanwood ~ Camano Community Fair
Whatcom County Youth Show

Tom Gwin Position 3

Castle Rock Fair
Clallam County Fair
Lacamas Community Fair
Northwest Junior Livestock Show
Pacific County Fair
Pierce County Fair
Puyallup Spring Fair
Washington State 4-H Fair
Washington State FFA Exhibition
Washington State FFA Spring Fair

Kathi Mattinen Position 4

Cowlitz County Fair
Grays Harbor County Fair
Jefferson County Fair
Kalama Community Fair
King County Fair
Kitsap County Fair
Skamania County Fair
Wahkiakum County Fair

EASTSIDE

Terry Atchison Position 5

Asotin County Fair
Chelan County Fair
North Central Washington Junior Livestock Show
Northwest Junior Sheep Exposition
Northeast Washington Fair
Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days
Waitsburg Junior Livestock Show

Rich Hartzell Position 6

Clayton Community Fair
Ferry County Fair
Garfield County Fair
Hunters Community & 4-H Fair
Palouse Empire Fair
Pend Oreille County Fair
Southeast Spokane County Fair
St. John Community Fair
Spokane Interstate Fair
Spokane Junior Livestock Show
Valley Community Fair

Haley Meredith Position 7

Adams County Fair
Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo
Central Washington State Fair
Colton Uniontown Fair
Columbia County Fair
Klickitat County Fair
Lincoln County Fair
Wheat Land Communities Fair

Jerry Gingrich Position 8

Central Washington Junior Livestock Show
Columbia Basin Junior Livestock Show
Grant County Fair
Kittitas County Fair
North Central Washington District Fair
Okanogan County Fair
West Valley Community Fair
Yakima Valley Fair & Rodeo

*currently not holding a fair event