

# FAIR



# VIEWS

THE SHOW PLACE

OF AGRICULTURE

March 2017

Issue 40, Number 1

Inside  
this issue . . .

## 2017 WSFA

### Bylaws

page 2

### Legislative

### Update

page 3

### Management

### Team

page 4

### Super School

### Program

page 5

### Registration

### forms

pages 6, 7 & 8

### Service Members

### Message

page 9

### WSFA Director

### Assignments

page 10



## Washington State Fairs Association

Post Office Box 914 • Chehalis, WA 98532-0914 • 1-360-269-9971 • Email: [wastfair@comcast.net](mailto:wastfair@comcast.net) • Web: [www.wastatefairs.com](http://www.wastatefairs.com)

### President's Message

March 2017



#### *From The President*

We are almost through winter and spring is around the corner! In March and April we begin with Livestock shows, Youth shows, Spring Fairs, Poultry Expo, Junior Dairy shows, Community Fairs, and much more. I want to take a moment to introduce this year's Convention Theme. What's a convention without a theme? Some slogans might sound goofy, off the wall or cute and descriptive, but they all aim to define the party and provide something specific to rally around. The theme of this year's Washington State Fairs Association annual Convention which begins Thursday, October 19 - 21, 2017 in Vancouver, WA, is "Spirit & Pride County Wide" With that said, I would like to see every member fair attend the 2017 WSFA Annual Convention!

Combined Convention – This has been a subject for some time with the WSFA Board of Directors in considering the possibility of a combined Convention with another state or regional group. We looked at that possibility with the Rocky Mountain Fairs Association about two years ago. More recently, some of the board members visited the Oregon Fairs Association. At last year's board meeting, the WSFA Board voted to begin discussions on how we could join forces with the Oregon Fairs Association. We are exploring the possibility of a combined convention in 2019. We each have contract commitments that make a combined convention prior to that date not feasible. There is a lot of coordination and planning to do but we still have time. Our Executive Secretary, Gale Sobolesky, and Directors, Mickey Webb, from Grant County Fair, and Sue McIntire, from Jefferson County Fair, will be the team working with the Oregon Fairs Association in developing a plan of action. In closing, we would like to hear from you on the subject of a combined convention.

Terry Atchison

WSFA President and Walla Walla Frontier Days Board Member



## WSFA Bylaws

Organizations that meet infrequently, or from scattered locations, rely on good Bylaws to help keep the conduct of business predictable and orderly. WSFA is no exception. We have a very good set of Bylaws which are regularly reviewed, updated and sent to all our members. Our last two business meetings took great care to ensure that process continues and changes were made that will benefit the Association in the future.

Times and circumstances change and to keep up with that, we ask all of you to review our Bylaws before each Convention where we have our annual business meeting. At that time we discuss the recommended changes and approve amendments to our Bylaws. Sometimes it seems like an administrative exercise but the reality is that is what helps the Association govern itself and better serve the membership.

I would ask each of you to please help with this. As we approach the 2017 Convention you will get a lot of information. One thing will be a request for recommended Bylaw changes. There will be instruction on how to do this and the timeline to follow to ensure your recommendations are addressed. Please do your part and help us make sure we are up to date and conducting business of the Association in a responsible manner.

Thank You,

*John Morrison*

*WSFA Immediate Past President*

*Clark County Fair Manager/CEO*

## IAFE MANGEMENT CONFERENCE COMING TO WASHINGTON STATE

Fellow WSFA Members:

The 2017 IAFE SPRING Management Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington, April 25-28. The Conference will be held at the Davenport Grand Hotel, a newly constructed 720 room hotel, immediately across the street from the Spokane Convention Center.

The Spokane County Fair and Expo Center will be the host fair and will provide a tour of the facility, dinner, and transportation to the Expo Center and back to the hotel on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Management Conference Committee has been working hard to provide pertinent topics, discussion items, and speakers that will address many of the challenges that we face as management staff of today's fairs.

For a preview of the entire agenda and to register, please go to the IAFE website and follow their directions.

This is only the fourth time in the last twenty years that

## WSFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

### **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](mailto:terryatchison@msn.com)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

#### **Tom Muchoney 2013 - 2017**

Position #2

Evergreen State Fair

13225 S. Machias Rd.

Snohomish, WA 98290

Phone: (425) 334-3657

Email: [tmuchoney@comcast.net](mailto:tmuchoney@comcast.net)

### **IMMEDIATE PAST 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](mailto:JohnM@cceventcenter.org)

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **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

[tgwin@techline.com](mailto:tgwin@techline.com)

#### **Sue McIntire 2016 - 2020**

Position # 4

Jefferson County Fair

PO Box 242

Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phone: 360-385-5718

Work: 360-385-1013

Cell: 360-301-0747

[jeffcofairgrounds@olypen.com](mailto:jeffcofairgrounds@olypen.com)

#### **Erin Gurtel 2015 - 2019**

Position #6

Spokane Interstate Fair

404 N. Havana, Suite 1

Spokane Valley, WA 99202

Work #: 509-477-2785

Cell:

[egurtel@spokanecounty.org](mailto:egurtel@spokanecounty.org)

#### **Mickey Webb 2015 - 2019**

Position #7

Grant County Fair

3953 Airway Drive NE

Moses Lake, WA 98837

Phone: 509-765-3581 ext 4613

Fax: 509-766-7940

[mwebb@grantcountywa.gov](mailto:mwebb@grantcountywa.gov)

#### **Roylene Crawford 2017**

Position #8

Kittitas County Fair

4290 Kittitas Highway

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: 509-929-1782

[croylene@gmail.com](mailto:croylene@gmail.com)

### **WSFA SERVICE MEMBER**

#### **DIRECTOR**

#### **Penny Nelson 2011 - 2017**

Hazel's Diner

3305 W. Birchfield

Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509-961-9107

[corndoglad@netscape.com](mailto:corndoglad@netscape.com)

### **WSFA Executive Secretary**

#### **Gale Sobolesky, CFE**

P.O. Box 914, 147 Kennicott

Road, Chehalis, WA 98532

WSFA Office: 360-269-9971

[wastfair@comcast.net](mailto:wastfair@comcast.net)

### **WSFA Government Affairs**

#### **Heather Hansen**

120 Union Ave., Suite 204,

Olympia, WA 98501

Day: 360-705-2040

[heather@wafriends.org](mailto:heather@wafriends.org)

this conference has been on the West Coast. What a great opportunity to network with fellow fair management staff from all over the U.S., Canada, and other parts of the world! We hope to see all of you there!

*Rich Hartzell, CFE Co-Chair, IAFE Management  
Conference Committee 2017  
Director, Spokane County Fair and Expo Center*



## ***Legislative Update***

### **History of Fair Funding, Looking to the future**

#### **History of the Fair Fund**

At one time, most fairs across the country were supported by the pari-mutuel tax on betting on horse racing. Most horse racing occurred on racetracks at county fairgrounds. As horse racing declined across the country, that source of revenue dried up.

In Washington, the Fair Fund lost the pari-mutuel tax as a source of revenue in 1998. Since then, money for the Fair Fund has come from the general fund along with nearly everything else government pays for. In 2002, the Fair Fund was written into state law at \$2 million per year. Having the Fair Fund written into law makes it more stable. However, it is much more difficult to increase the amount of funding. Even though the amount of the Fund is set in law, many years, the Governor has written it out of the budget. Washington State Fairs Association then must lobby to have funding written back in.

The Fair Fund is divided among "Agricultural fairs" which are defined as a fair or exhibition intended to promote agriculture by including a variety of exhibits of livestock and agricultural products, as well as educational contests, displays, and demonstrations. The amount of the Fund each fair receives is based on a formula administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). The formula includes such factors as area and population served, open and/or youth participation, attendance, gate receipts, number and type of exhibits, premiums paid, community support, evidence of successful achievement of the aims and purposes of the fair, extent of improvements made to grounds and facilities from year to year, and overall condition and appearance of grounds and facilities.

WSDA is authorized to use up to 5% of the state Fair Fund to cover administrative expenses. Many years, this amount has not been used in full. We have been made aware that beginning in 2017, WSDA does plan to use the full five percent leaving less to be divided among fairs.

#### ***Health and Safety Grants***

Under state law, up to 15% of the Fair Fund may be used for special assistance grants to fairs. Since 1998, special assistance grants have not been awarded from the Fair Fund. Such grants have been replaced with a separate capital budget appropriation dedicated to health and safety grants for improving infrastructure on fair grounds. This money must be added to the capital budget each biennium. WSDA does not request this funding, Washington State Fairs Association does. Many legislators have helped secure this funding over the years, but special recognition must go to former Senator Marilyn Rasmussen who began the fund and Senator Jim Honeyford who has ensured its place in the budget in recent years.

The amount has varied over the years. In 2002, the legislature allocated \$100,000 for grants. During the 2015-2017 biennium, the

grant program received \$2 million. WSDA manages the grant program with the guidance of the Fairs Commission. Under state law, WSDA may provide capital funding to local governments and nonprofit organizations, on a competitive basis, to support capital projects that make health or safety improvements to agricultural fairgrounds or fair facilities to benefit participants and the fair-going public.

#### ***Washington State Budget***

Washington state has a biennial budget. That means in odd numbered years, the legislature crafts a budget to cover state expenses from July 1 of that year until June 30 of the next odd numbered year. The budget being crafted during the current legislative session will cover July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. This budget cycle is focused primarily on school funding. Hopefully, that issue will be dealt with this year, freeing up future budget cycles to deal with other issues.

The legislature writes three separate budgets. The operating budget covers operating expenses including the Fair Fund. The capital budget covers capital projects such as building maintenance and construction and land purchases for everything from parks to prisons. Health and safety grants are in the capital budget. The third budget is for transportation.

The money for the capital budget comes from the sales of bonds. The state constitution limits the amount of debt the state can take on. The capital budget must also cover the state's portion of local school levies.

#### ***Looking ahead***

The amount of the Fair Fund has been static for nearly twenty years. As we look forward to the 2019-2021 biennium, is it time to try to grow the fund?

In July of 2018, state agencies will develop their budget requests for the 2019-2021 biennium. WSDA has never requested an increase in the Fair Fund nor have they requested funding for Health and Safety grants. These requests have always come from the Washington State Fairs Association. If we want an increase in either fund, January of 2018 is the time to begin making the case.

Washington State Fairs Association spends a day on the hill visiting legislators every January. This year, the group was limited to association directors. Some years, the group has been large and diverse including 4-Hers, 4-H leaders, FFA students, entertainers and other associate members as well as many fair volunteers and managers.

Half of the legislative districts in Washington State include rural areas. Legislators from urban areas are less likely to be familiar with fairs. Fairs enjoy strong bi-partisan support from many areas around the state but with the many competing priorities for state funding, any increase is an uphill battle. Increasing funding for fairs may mean decreasing funding for something else.

If we are to be successful in securing additional funding, every fair must reach out to your legislators and ensure that they understand how your fair serves your community and the value it delivers.

*Heather Hansen*  
WSFA Government Affairs  
Olympia, WA

#### **Washington State Fairs Association Mission**

"Washington State Fairs Association is dedicated to the success of Washington's Fairs through coordination, education, information, legislation and public support."



## Management Team Meeting and State Wide Super School to be held in Ellensburg at the Kittitas Valley Event Center

Located in the center of Washington State at the intersections of I90, I82 and HWY 97, the Kittitas Valley Event Center, Home of the Kittitas County Fair and Ellensburg Rodeo, welcomes this year's Management Team Meeting and State-Wide Super School. The Fair Board of Directors and Event Center Staff are pleased to host this annual meeting and training on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Ellensburg. Those attending the Management Team Meeting will discuss sponsorship and promotion as well as interim events and daily challenges and concerns of the Fair industry. Those choosing to attend the State-Wide Super School will get to chat with the Washington State Fair Commissioners and discuss your roles in marketing and volunteer recruitment and what your board expects from you. Besides these two great programs full of useful information, you will get a guided tour of the compact yet dynamic Kittitas Valley Event Center and Fairgrounds.

We hope to see you in Ellensburg.

Thanks

*Mickey Webb*

WSFA Super School Co-Chair

WSFA Director and Manager Grant County Fair

**Road Trip** to the Kittitas Valley Event Center and Fair on Friday, March 24, 2017 for the WSFA Management Team Meeting. Enjoy an afternoon of important updates from WSFA and the Department of Ag. Be ready to share your favorite sponsorships and gate promotions. There will also be plenty of time to talk about interim events, rates, and challenges that face your facility. We hope you will take away new ideas and information.

Looking forward to seeing you in Ellensburg,

*Erin Gurtel*

WSFA Management Team Meeting Chair,

WSFA Director and Market & Sales Manager,

Spokane County Fair and Expo Center



## Washington State Fairs Association Management Team Meeting

**1:00 pm, Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Kittitas County Event Center**

**901 E 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ellensburg, WA**

- 1:00 pm **Welcome - Erin Gurtel, WSFA Director and Meeting Chair Terry Atchison, WSFA President**
- 1:15 **News from the Department of Agriculture**
- 2:00 pm **Discussion 1**  
1<sup>st</sup> Topic **Share Your Best/Favorite Fair Sponsorship and why it works for your fair!**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Topic **Awesome advance ticket sale promotions and/or gate promotions. Come prepared to Share Yours.**
- 3:30 pm **Break – Tour of Fairgrounds**
- 4:30 pm **Discussion Session 2**  
1<sup>st</sup> Topic **Interim Facility Rentals – What works for your facility? How do you set your Facilities rental rates?**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Topic **Challenges with Day to Day operations, security, risk management, etc.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Topic **Concerns your Fair or Fairgrounds is facing.**  
*Time to share or ask for ideas or suggestions*
- 5:30 pm **Wrap-up, Thank you and Door Prize Drawing**
- 6:00 pm **Dinner & Mingle – Kittitas County Fairgrounds – Western Village BBQ Style Dinner with Dessert and Beverages**

### Washington State Fairs Association Vision

“Leading Washington Fairs in successfully meeting the changes and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



**Saturday,  
March 25, 2017  
Washington State Fairs  
Association State-Wide  
Super School Program**

**Armory Hall, Kittitas Valley Event Center,  
Ellensburg, WA**

8:30 AM Registration

9:00 AM Opening meeting

- National Anthem
- Welcome
- Kittitas County Commissioner Welcome
- Kittitas County Fair President Welcome

10:00 AM Panel

1. What do the Fair Commissioners Look For and how to receive the Black and White. – Fair Commissioners Panel

11:00 AM Tour of the Kittitas Valley Event Center and Fairgrounds

12:00 PM Lunch Kittitas Valley Event Center – Armory Hall

1:15 PM Breakouts

- Everyone is a marketer...your role in publicizing the Fair(community outreach)
- In a rut in your department...how to remotivate yourself
- Emergency Operations Planning

2:30 PM Breakouts

- Decorating to Fit your Fair Theme:
- What does y our Fair Board expect from you and vice versa?
- Volunteer Recruitment

4:00 PM Silent Auction Wrap-up and Closing

For those staying close, we are offering an optional 5:00 PM social time location TBD located in Ellensburg, Washington. Please let us know if you plan on attending.

Your Donation of Silent Auction Items is welcome. If you have questions, call the Washington State Fairs Association at 360-269-9971.

***See you March 25<sup>th</sup> at the***

***Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Ellensburg, WA 98926***



*Additional Information for  
the Management Team and  
Super School Meetings*

**Ellensburg Hotels**

These three are all I-90 Exit 109

- **Best Western**  
211 West Umptanum, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
509-925-4244  
No Special Rate
- **Comfort Inn**  
1722 Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
509-925-7037  
No Special Rate
- **Holiday Inn Express**  
1620 Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
509-962-9400  
Rate of \$91.00 per night plus tax. \$100.28 tax included  
Limited number of rooms reserved at the this rate – reserve early  
Mention Fair Board Super School and the date to receive this rate.  
We have a block of rooms for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

**RV Spaces**

Available at the Kittitas County Event Center  
(Fairgrounds)

\$25.00 per night Electrical Only, Water not turned on yet  
901 E 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926

**Friday Night Dinner at Western Village**

NEW THIS YEAR: Kittitas County Fair will be hosting a BBQ dinner with dessert and beverages on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> this activity goes along with the Management Team Meeting the day before. If you are in town early for Super School and want to join us for dinner, please feel free to join us the cost will be \$25.00 per person. Please let us know you will be attending by filling out the Friday Night dinner sheet included in this packet. If you are going to the Management Team Meeting and have paid your registration fee this meal is included in that registration. Dinner will start at about 6:00 PM.



# STATEWIDE FAIR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Friday, March 24, 2017 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Kittitas County Event Center - 901 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Questions: WSFA Office: 360-269-9971

*Don't Forget State - Wide Super School is Saturday, March 25 also at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds information on Super School and Lodging is included with this mailing.*

## REGISTRATION

Fair Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attendees

1. \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Cost: \$50.00 per person. Dinner included in the cost of registration.**

Mail registration to:	Management Team Meeting Washington State Fairs Association PO Box 914 Chehalis, WA 98532 Questions? - WSFA Office 360-269-9971 or Gale Sobolesky <a href="mailto:wastfair@comcast.net">wastfair@comcast.net</a>	Checks payable to: WSFA (Washington State Fairs Association)
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Remember to bring Silent Auction Items and/or Door Prizes  
Please return registration form by **Friday, March 17, 2017** .....Thank you!

**STATE-WIDE SUPER SCHOOL  
REGISTRATION FORM  
Saturday, March 25, 2017  
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM  
Kittitas County Fairgrounds, Ellensburg, WA  
901 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
WSFA Office 360-269-9971**

Fair Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Attendees:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

List additional attendees on additional sheets (please make copies or additional sheets can be found on WSFA website)

**Cost: \$15.00 per attendee**

Lunch and Beverages included in the cost of registration.

**~ Remember to bring silent auction item and/or door prizes ~**

**Please return registration form by *Friday, March 17, 2017* Thank you!**

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Kittitas County Fair will be hosting a BBQ dinner with dessert and beverages on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> this activity goes along with the Management Team Meeting the day before. If you are in town early for Super School and want to join us for dinner, please feel free to join us the cost will be \$25.00 per person. Please let us know you will be attending by filling out the Friday Night dinner sheet included in this packet. If you are going to the Management Team Meeting and have paid your registration fee this meal is included in that registration. Dinner will start at about 6:00 PM.

**Mail registration and payment to:**

**Washington State Fairs Association  
Attn: State Wide - Super School Registration  
PO Box 914  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
360-269-9971**



**Website: [www.wastatefairs.com](http://www.wastatefairs.com)**

**Make checks payable to Washington State Fairs Association (WSFA)**



## Reservations for Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> Dinner 6:00 PM For Super School Attendees

Yes, we want to attend the Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> dinner at the Kittitas County Event Center  
Western Village 901 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926

1. \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

**The cost is \$25.00 per person for the meal.**

*If you are registering for the Management Team Meeting this meal is already included with that registration.*

Total Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ Included: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or email back to the **WSFA Office by Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Return to:

**WSFA**

**PO Box 914**

**Chehalis, WA 98532**

**360-269-9971**

**[wastfair@comcast.net](mailto:wastfair@comcast.net)**





## ***Service Member Message . . .***

Hello Guys and Gals,

With Spring fast approaching, well someday! The board has been busy already trying to make this a great year.

Last year convention was one of the best we've had in a long time and it was from a lot of hard work from the board and Gale keeping us running right. At our meeting during convention we made Liz Gregory our second in command! Welcome aboard! I look forward to talking more with you about changes we could make to help all the Service Members.

This year we've already been talking about the trade show and ways to get them to come see us. We had a discussion of putting small carnival games in back and maybe spinning a wheel to get the door prizes. Games would of course give out small prizes as well. We're also thinking some kind of raffle or game where they have to come to your booths to get whatever they need for the games. Maybe a few of us could go together and host cookies and coffee service for the trade show as well. It would be great to get some input from the Service Members.

Fair Boards and Managers I hope to see more of you turn out for Speed Dating. It's the Service Members way of introducing themselves and telling you about themselves, so make a note to drop by and talk to us.

I hope to see many of you this summer. My prayers are with all of you and may the season be bright.

Always,

*Penny Nelson*

WSFA Service Member Director and Hazel's Diner

## **WSFA Convention Auctions October 19 – 21, 2017 at the Hilton Vancouver, Vancouver, WA**

As we go down the road to our 2017 WSFA convention of "Spirit & Pride, Country Wide" I would like some suggestions on our silent auction and our live auction. What would you like to see as auction items in each auction to make them even better??

I'd like to thank you all in advance for donation items for this year's auctions. Also, I would like to thank you all for the support you provide, and have provided in the past years!!

We have put together wine baskets as one of our staples each year. What else would you like to see?

Some ideas that I have received are:

- Any type of individual or Fair donation
- Bed and Breakfast stay
- Fair entry and parking tickets
- Fair baskets
- Entertainment/Event tickets
- Dinners out
- Trips
- Future convention registration

How many items would you like to see in the live auction? I have been told 30 is a good number. What do you think? I would appreciate any and all feedback you wish to give.

*Tom Muchoney, WSFA Auction Chair, WSFA Vice President and Evergreen State Fair Board*  
email [tmuchoney@comcast.net](mailto:tmuchoney@comcast.net)

Phone or text 425-344-3657, Facebook

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**2017 Washington State Fairs Association Convention**

Hilton Vancouver, Vancouver, WA

**October 19–21, 2017**

For room reservations: Mention WSFA to Get  
the Convention Rate 360-993-4500 or  
1-800-HILTONS Use WSFA Block Code S17

### **2018 WSFA Convention Dates**

**October 18–20, 2018**

**Management Team Meeting**

**Friday, March 24, 2017**

Kittitas Valley Event Center Ellensburg, WA

**State Wide Super School Meeting**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

Kittitas Valley Event Center Ellensburg, WA

Website: [www.wastatefairs.com](http://www.wastatefairs.com)

# 2017 Directors Assignments

## 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

### **Sue McIntire 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

### **Erin Gurtel 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

### **Mickey Webb Position 7**

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

### **Roylene Crawford Position 8**

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

\*currently not holding a fair event

# ERIC HAINES



**COMEDIAN  
ONE MAN BAND  
STILT WALKER  
COMEDY JUGGLER**

**COMEDYROCKET.COM**  
eric@comedyrocket.com

Pat & Geraldine Davis



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## ***Legislative Update ( March 8, 2017)***

The Washington State Legislature is busy preparing the next state budget. It will be in effect from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019.

The Fair Fund is in the operating budget. The Governor's proposal included \$4 million for the next 2 years. That is the same amount the Fund has received since 2002.

Health and safety grants would be in the capital budget. The Governor's proposal did not include any funding for fair grants. There will not be a fair grant program for the next two years unless legislators add it into the capital budget.

Please ask your legislators to support the Fair Fund as it is in the Governor's operating budget.

Also, ask them to add funding for Health and Safety grants to the capital budget.

Legislators hear requests for many, many different projects. If you want a grant program, it is important that they hear from Fair supporters. Please reach out to volunteers, service groups, youth groups and others who support your fair. Ask them to contact all your legislators. (Each legislative district has two Representatives and one Senator. Some fairs cover several legislative districts.) You may reach them via email, letter, telephone, or the toll-free hotline.

To find your legislators, click here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

To find their email addresses, click here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/MemberEmail/Default.aspx>

You may also leave a message via telephone at: 1.800.562.6000.

The capital budget is very tight this year. An unprecedented number of school levies passed. The state must match a portion of what local voters approved. There is a limit on how much money the state can spend. Grants for fairs compete for funding with numerous types of construction projects the state supports. At \$1 million, the fair grant program is tiny compared to most state spending projects.

Many fairgrounds have aging facilities. Grant funds are typically used for restroom improvements, ADA access, hand washing facilities, improved lighting in parking areas, roof repairs, etc. There is at least one Fairground in nearly every county in Washington State. If your fair has applied for or received a grant in the past, describe your project. Include photos if possible.

When communicating with legislators, please remember they have an incredibly difficult job to do. It is important to be polite, recognize the difficulty of developing a state budget, then point out that fairs help build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

Please do not forward this message. Write your own message describing your fair. If you have any questions, please contact me:

*Heather Hansen*

Washington State Fairs Association

Cell: 360-480-5567

E-mail: [heather@wafriends.org](mailto:heather@wafriends.org)

## **FAIR VIEWS**

Washington State Fairs Newsletter  
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