97th Annual Convention Update

The Wisconsin Association of Fairs annual convention will be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, January 5-8, 2020. The Fairest of the Fairs program will again kick-off on Sunday afternoon followed by Carnival Night from 6-8 PM and will include games, food and drinks sponsored by our Associate friends in the Carnival and Concessions business.

Our convention will officially kick-off at 10:00 AM Monday, with our keynote speaker, Jen Puente, presenting Anchor’s Away. No we are not talking boat anchors….we’re talking people anchors. Do you struggle with negativity? Let’s figure out a way to get rid of it! Fun tips and tricks you can do every day to help keep you forging ahead in your everyday life. Daily affirmations, disconnecting from devices, and doing good—we’ve got you covered. Let that anchor go!

Winners of the fifth and final “Everyone Has a Fair Story” will be announced as well as our Associate of The Year Winner. The Trade Show will be open Monday and Tuesday afternoon. If you can’t find the Associate Member you are looking for, don’t forget to visit the “Associate Vendor Rows” located on the second and third floor of the condos. Don’t be shy, our Associate Members look forward to visiting with you so please stop in to visit them.

The Showcase of Entertainment will take place both Monday and Tuesday evenings. We are excited about the caliber of entertainment and hope you will find one or two acts to book for your fair.

Bring along your checkbook/credit card for our auctions. Monday evening’s auction, featuring the Fairest of the Fairs contestants, will offer a wonderful array of items. On Tuesday evening, our silent auction will feature items from our Fair and Associate Members. Proceeds from both auctions go to offset the Fairest of the Fairs program expenses as well as our convention expenses. This allows us to keep your convention registration fees to a minimum. Thank you for supporting the auctions!

There are workshops offered for both Fair and Associate Members Monday through Wednesday. Workshops do not repeat. Take these opportunities to network with other members and ask the experts.

Our convention will conclude with the crowning of our 54th Fairest of the Fairs at our evening banquet on Wednesday.

All convention attendees are required to wear their registration name badge to all convention events, which include: Opening Session, Trade Show, Auctions, Cheese Party Reception, President’s Reception, Showcases of Entertainment, Workshops, and Hospitality Room. If attending the Wednesday Evening Award Banquet only, convention registration is not required.

If you have not yet registered for convention, please visit our website at www.wifairs.com for on-line registration on the convention page. You have the option to pay via check or credit card. On-line registration is very easy and you receive an e-mailed copy of your registration and payment immediately following your order.
November 16 through December 31 the cost is $50.00 per person and banquet ticket cost is $50.00 per ticket. After December 31, register on site — registration cost is $75 and banquet ticket is $50.00. For children: ages 5 and under are free; ages 6-12 are $20.

All banquet tickets reserved on the form will be given to the person listed as the primary contact on the form. If that person is not going to be attending the convention, please list a convention contact. It will be their responsibility to distribute the banquet tickets. Tickets will not be mailed out before the convention. They should be picked up at our convention registration desk on Sunday from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM or Monday beginning at 8:00 AM. Registration hours will be posted at the convention.

We are looking forward to seeing you in January. Please contact the office at info@wifairs.com or 715-536-0246 with any questions.

Updated Convention Schedule

A link for the convention schedule as of 11/7/19 is on the website using the following link:
https://www.wifairs.com/p/convention

Deb Gegare will be having one-on-one sessions for Fairs to get hands on help with SharePoint and other items related to WI DATCP on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at the WI Association of Fairs Convention. She will be presenting to all members from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. followed by one-on-one sessions from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

To pre-register for the one-on-one session, please click on the following web link (or copy it into your web browser if clicking doesn’t work) to go to the signup sheet:
www.volunteersignup.org/AREEH

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to staff some of our doors to the Trade Show, Evening Receptions and Hospitality Room. If you have an hour or two to spare, please sign up by using the following link below. The Credentials Committee will be there to guide you, but we could use some additional help.

Please click on the following web link (or copy it into your web browser if clicking doesn’t work) to go to the signup sheet: www.volunteersignup.org/WDHLA. To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do. Thanks in advance for any help you can provide!

Fair Dates

If you have not already submitted your 2020 Fair Dates, please use the link below to update your fair information. https://www.wifairs.com/f/30

Address Update

Please update your records as the Wisconsin Association of Fairs has an address change. No we didn’t move, the county just made a name change to our county road. Our new address, effective immediately is:
Wisconsin Association of Fairs
5320 County Road L
Merrill, WI 54452-7765
WI Fairs, For the Kid in All of Us

The convention theme for 2020 is “For the Kid in All of Us”. All convention attendees are asked to dress to promote their fair on Monday. At the convention kick-off on Monday, at 10:00 a.m., we will be asking each district to come up with a five person team, with each person representing a different fair for a fun convention themed activity. We are asking all fairs to decorate a centerpiece and bring it to convention. They will be on display for the opening session and also used as centerpieces for the banquet. Bring your centerpiece to promote your fair and the convention theme by using a kids toy as part of it. Centerpieces cannot exceed two feet in any direction, as we do still use it as a centerpiece at the banquet.

We will have two ways of judging. First we will have a panel judge them on following format: 40 points, use of theme; 35 points, originality; and 25 points incorporating your fair name. We will also have a ballot judging by the convention attendees with the winners being announce at the business meeting on Wednesday.

Please bring your centerpieces with you to the opening session in the Grand Ballroom, by 9:45 a.m. We will have them on display for the duration of the convention and then use them for the banquet. If you would like to take your centerpiece back home, you are welcome to do that at the conclusion of the banquet. Thanks for your participation!

Please use the following link for more details and to register your centerpiece.

https://www.wifairs.com/p/convention/convention-theme

Evening Receptions Set

Monday evening’s reception will consist of our annual cheese party at 4:00 PM in the Riverview Ballrooms. It is a long-standing event at each of Wisconsin’s annual fair conventions. Assorted cheeses are provided each year by Wisconsin’s world renowned cheese makers. Our Fairest of the Fairs contestants will have their auction items on display and the auction will begin at 5:00 PM. Take time to visit with each of the 39 Fairest of the Fairs contestants. Bid high, and bid often. Tuesday night will include our President’s Reception with hors d’oeuvres and beverages beginning at 6:00 PM in the Riverview Ballrooms.

Each evening’s reception will conclude with our Showcase of entertainment. Our showcase committee is excited about our entertainment at this year’s convention. I’d like to thank our Associates for their excellent submissions. Please be sure to visit our Associates following the showcases to see how their entertainment may help your fair.

Door Volunteers Needed at Convention

We are looking for some volunteers to help staff some doors during our upcoming convention, January 5-8, 2020. If you have an hour or two to share, please click on the following web link (or copy it into your web browser if clicking doesn’t work) to go to the signup sheet:

www.volunteersignup.org/WDHLA

To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.

Thank you for volunteering!
**Education Raffle**

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to win some great prizes at the upcoming convention. This year’s items include: an IPAD, LED TV, Cold Hard Cash, and handmade wood carved items.

Tickets can be purchased at the Registration Desk during convention. Winners will be drawn at the conclusion of our banquet and you don’t need to be present to win.

Proceeds from the raffle go towards our Education Fund. This year these funds are being used for our Consumer Protection Program class that is being held on Sunday.

**Fair Trade Table**

Again this year, we will be having a “Fair Trade” table. The purpose of this table is to allow you to share your information with other fairs. We are asking that every fair bring along extra premium books, flyers, and promotional material that can be given away. This table is meant to be a trading table, you bring some information, and you take some with you. Please bring along your materials.

**Banquet**

Doors will open at 4:30 PM and at 4:45 PM the Fairest of the Fairs contestants will begin their self-introductions. We will have our banquet meal following their introductions, allowing time for our judges to determine the top ten finalists. At approximately 5:45 PM we will continue our program hoping to conclude by 8:30 PM crowning our 2020 Fairest of the Fairs.

**Breakfast Buffet**

The times for breakfast in the Main Buffet and the Upper Dells Ballroom, may be served at different times. We will begin each morning serving breakfast in the Main Buffet and opening the Upper Dells Ballroom later. The Chef has worked with us to change the menu a little each day. We hope this change in serving times will keep all food as hot and fresh as possible.

Please remember our breakfast is complimentary with your hotel room reservation. Gratuity is not included so we ask that you please tip your wait staff each morning as you see fit.

**Photo/Media Awards**

These awards will be presented at the end of the Business Meeting on Wednesday morning. The entries will remain on display through the banquet in the Grand Ballroom lobby. Please be sure to vote for your favorites!

**Election Results**

This fall three positions were up for election. In District 1, Rhonda Klement, Langlade County Fair; District 4, Matt Immel, Fond du Lac County Fair; and Associate Director Tim Stevens, GL Berg Entertainment all completed their max terms. We’d like to thank them for sharing their time and talents with us! Chris Engebretsen, Oconto County Fair, District 1 and Mary Check, Rock County Fair, District 4 and Rick Frenette, Fair Advantage, Associate Director were all elected to a three-year terms. They will begin their term following Wednesday’s annual business meeting at convention.

**Silent Auction Items Needed**

We are excited to again offer a silent auction at convention. In addition to the live auction on Monday night, the silent auction will take place on Tuesday. We are asking all fairs and Associate members to donate an item or two to the silent auction. Consider a bottle of wine, box of chocolates or an item from a local business to add to the silent auction.

Donated items are asked to be delivered to the Riverview South room on Tuesday from 12:15 PM to 1:00 PM. Items will then be on display for bidding from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM and again from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The winning bids will be announced at 7:00 PM before the showcase begins. We will accept credit card, cash or check payment for the live and silent auctions. Proceeds from the auction help keep our convention registrations fees at a minimum.

**WI DATCP Reports**

Just a reminder, your year-end reports are due by January 31, 2020 if you haven’t already sent them in. Please contact Debbie Gegare if you have any questions about these reports as well. Thanks for your promptness in getting these reports submitted.
Carnival Night
Carnival night will once again be hosted by our Associate members in the Carnival Industry and take place from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, January 5 and will include games, food and drinks sponsored by our Associate friends in the Carnival and Concessions business. All convention attendees are encouraged to attend. We’d like to thank Vince Heiman and Kathi Mead from Badgerland Midways, LLC, for taking the lead on this year’s event. If you’d like to find out how to donate, please contact Vince Heiman, 715-347-2232 or saphygirl6@gmail.com.

Associates Members
Again this year all of the membership renewal information and convention registration details were e-mailed instead of hard copies being mailed. If you have not received the information, please e-mail the office at info@wifairs.com or visit the following link for all of the convention materials for our Associate Members.

http://www.wifairs.com/p/other/registration

Associate Signage
Associates are only allowed to display posters outside of their hotel room door or in their trade show booth. Posters are not allowed on the walls throughout the hotel like in the past. Please keep in mind when displaying your posters that trinkets and easels can become trip hazards. We know you want to encourage our fair members to visit, but we also want to be safe.

WAF will provide signboards in the registration area and throughout the convention facility listing your trade show booths and hotel rooms so fairs can find your business. We will provide more signboards throughout the convention facility than we have in the past simply because there isn’t the same amount of wall space for banners and signs that you’re used to.

Trade Show
The trade show will be open on Monday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and on Tuesday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. It will be located in Ballrooms A-I and is sold out. Our trade show schedule conflicts with only a few other events so our fair board members have open time to visit with our Associates. Fairs, please take advantage of the trade show hours and be sure to visit our Associates. They have put a lot of effort into making our trade show a success.

Don’t forget to visit the Associates working from their hotel rooms as well. A full list of our attendees’ rooms is available throughout the hotel during convention. Please be sure to see how their products or services can benefit your fair.

Booths can be set up on Monday, from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Booths must be cleared between 4:00-6:00 PM on Tuesday.
54th Fairest of the Fairs To Be Crowned

We are proud to announce we will be crowning our 54th Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs and at our 2020 annual convention. Vying for the title of 2020 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs are 39 contestants who seek to be named ambassador for our county and district fairs and become the official summer host for the Wisconsin State Fair. They include:

Adams County Fair, Mikaila Falash; Barron County Fair, Casi Stager; Brown County Fair, Olivia Kamps; Calumet County Fair, Rachael Wagner; Central WI State Fair, Jenna Snortheim; Clark County Fair, Janalee Kapusta; Columbia County Fair, Emily McReath; Crawfords County Fair, Brooklyn McGar; Dane County Fair, Heidi Droster; Door County Fair, Claire Olson; Dunn County Fair, Samantha Vold; Fond Du Lac County Fair, Cayley Vande Berg; Grant County Fair, Kaitlyn Reed; Green County Fair, Liz Mcguire; Green Lake County Fair, Cole Chapman; Iowa County Fair, Tommie Loken; Jefferson County Fair, Libby Knoebel; Juneau County Fair, Gracelyn Footit; Kewaunee County Fair, Paige Bellin; Lacrosse Interstate Fair, Kaitlyn Opland; Lafayette County Fair, Emma Buss; Lodi Ag Fair, Hannah Taylor; Manitowoc County Fair, Maralee Meulemans; Northern WI State Fair, Alissa Maier; Ozaukee County Fair, Jessie Schoessow; Polk County Fair, Bailee Hallen; Racine County Fair, Jessica Noble; Richland County Fair, Kristina Durst; Rock County Fair, Lauren Flynn; Sauk County Fair, Brandi Zick; Shawano County Fair, Tarah Malotky; Sheboygan County Fair, Sarah Deheck; St. Croix County Fair, Jessica Moor; Trempealeau County Fair, Mara Quarne; Vernon County Fair, Brianna Hall; Walworth County Fair, Hannah Earle; Waushesa County Fair, Michaela King; Waupaca County Fair, Katie Loehrke; and Wisconsin Valley Fair, Jenna Breitenfeldt.

For four days these highly motivated young people will be interviewed, interact with you at the convention and participate in several workshops. Good luck to all of the participants!
### 2020 Calendar of Events

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<td>WI Association of Fairs Convention, Chula Vista Resort, WI Dells</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22-25</td>
<td>Zone 4 Meeting, La Crosse, WI</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>District 2 Spring Meeting, Dunn County Fair</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>District 1 Spring Meeting, Langlade County Fair</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
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<td>District 4 Spring Meeting, WI State Fair</td>
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<td>October 6</td>
<td>District 3 Fall Meeting, Columbia County Fair</td>
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<td>October 7</td>
<td>District 4 Fall Meeting, Brown County Fair</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>District 1 Fall Meeting, Clark County Fair</td>
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<td>Nov 29-Dec 2</td>
<td>IAFE Convention, San Antonio, TX</td>
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### 2021 Calendar of Events

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<td>January 10-13</td>
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