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
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
jingrich@grantcountywa.gov

WSFA SERVICE MEMBER DIRECTOR
Penny Nelson 2011 - 2015
Hazel’s Diner
3305 W. Birchfield, Yakima, WA 98901
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corndoglady@netscape.com

WSFA Executive Secretary
Gale Sobolesky, CFE
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WSFA Legislative Lobbyist
Heather Hansen
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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
### 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*