

Welcome to New England



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**EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION'S GREG CHIECKO NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
OUTDOOR AMUSEMENT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Greg Chiecko, of Chicopee, Mass., Eastern States Exposition (ESE) director of Sales, has been named President and CEO of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA), the mobile amusement industry's trade association.

The announcement was made by the OABA board of directors following a comprehensive executive search. Chiecko succeeds longtime OABA President, Robert Johnson, and will embark on his new career February 1, 2019.

The OABA is the largest trade association representing carnivals, circuses, concessionaires, independent ride owners and others who serve fairs, festivals and community events.

"Greg's diverse professional industry experience, proven leadership and business acumen gained at Eastern States Exposition, coupled with his affable leadership style, make him the ideal president," Jay Strates, of James E. Strates Shows and chairman of the OABA, said.

Chiecko's 24-year career at ESE included the oversight of midway operations at The Big E. He worked closely with the OABA and other industry associations and is past board member of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), past president of the Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs Association (MAFA) and the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA). He also sits on the board of the Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors' Bureau and served as its chair for five years.

Greg's duties also included vendor space sales and sponsorships for The Big E as well as overseeing all year-round show and events.

"I am honored to be named president and CEO by the OABA board of directors. My priorities will be to strengthen the communications and relationships between carnivals and fairs in order to forge long lasting

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and mutually beneficial relationships and continue to improve regulatory advocacy, member services, fundraising and networking opportunities,” Chiecko said.

Eugene J. Cassidy, president and CEO of Eastern States Exposition, said, “While this is a loss to Eastern States Exposition, it is a plus for one of our collateral trade associations and is good for our industry. I am proud that ESE hatched the new leader of the OABA, and I’m proud of Greg. Eastern States Exposition stands in strong support of the OABA and Greg.”

Eastern States Exposition, a year-round trade and consumer show facility, is the home of The Big E, the sixth largest fair in North America, which takes place Sept. 13-29, 2019, in West Springfield, Mass.