



Wednesday, September 6, 2017

As President of the Glenn County Fair Board of Directors, I would like to make a public statement to the community members of Glenn County. The fair management and board are trying to recover from very serious financial hardship that began a few years ago when fairgrounds all over California lost State funding. Ryann Newman, the new Fair Manager, was hired in April 2015 and literally rode out the first fair. She made no unnecessary purchases that year and when the fair concluded and all the bills were paid, the fair had a balance of \$10,800 in the operating account. That is barely enough to cover an average month of expenses. At that time, the board, management and staff realized the fair had to be run like a business if it was going to continue for years to come.

With extreme scrutiny and perseverance, the fair is slowly recovering but the board would not be doing our job if we did not examine every area of the fair and fairgrounds; is it safe? is it an asset? is it profitable? That is our job.

With that being said, the train discussion at the August Board Meeting is the first exploratory conversation on this matter. Mrs. Newman shared at the meeting that the Johnson Family, who is the primary volunteer staff, is planning to move out of state and that the train needed repairs. She asked if she could begin to look at what options were out there for the future of the train.

The board approved this request unanimously and asked the CEO to bring all the information, including repair estimates and profit sheets back to them. The board also requested that the public be informed and included in the decision. Mrs. Newman met with the train staff the following day and a post regarding the train was posted on the fair's social media accounts in the days after.

I, Dane Nissen, stand behind Ryann Newman as her job is more difficult because of the fair's financial situation. In my experience working with her, she has been thoughtful about all decisions made for the fair. There have been comments about her being anti-community but I can say I am unaware of her having a lack of respect for the history or communities of Glenn County. Over the past two and half years, she and her staff have created or brought back many community oriented events.

As I have mentioned, Mrs. Newman and her staff were tasked with a difficult job of making our fair profitable again. She moved forward immediately considering areas where money could be made and areas where money could be saved. It is these decisions that have started to turn the fair's finances around. While these decisions needed to be made they were not easy to make nor face in our community. I can only once again state my continued support and respect for the position she holds.

The fair is and always will be community centered and will also do what is in the best interest of the fair and its patrons now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Dane Nissen
President, Glenn County Fair Board of Directors