

DATES TO REMEMBER - 2016

August 31

- Baking Contest checks (PA Preferred, Angel Food)

- FAIRTALK material for Sept issue due

September 1

- Showcase apps. For 2017 Convention mailed

September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

September 30

- Zone Junior Fair Person nominations due to Zones

October 15

- Showcase apps. Due

- 2017 Request for Fair info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed.

October 13

- PSACF Board Meeting

October 19

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Shady Maple

October 20

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Berlin Brothersvalley

October 21

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - Scrubgrass Grange

October 22

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Bloomsburg Fair

November 1

- Fair Person Of the Year apps. Due

- Communications Competition apps due

- Queen Competition Applications due

November 15

- Reimbursement apps.—Fair Fund due

- Baking Contests Summaries due

November 20

FAIRTALK material for December issue due

2017

January 18-21

- 105th Annual Convention

March 30—April 1

- IAFE Zone 1 Meeting—Wyomissing Pa



FAIRTALK



"News From The PA State Association of County Fairs"
"THE VOICE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR INDUSTRY"

VOL. 30

June 2016

NO. 2

DAN WALDSCHMIDT TO OPEN THE CONVENTION AS OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEVIN D. BIEBER

The 2017 convention in Hershey will be opened with yet another great keynote speaker. Dan Waldschmidt is an inspirational speaker who has also been a consultant to some of the top CEO's in the world and has sat on many Boards of these top companies. Dan will bring to us a message of growth and change to the fair industry, he will speak about our challenges and just how to overcome them. As we all know, our industry is changing and posing more and more challenges daily, please plan to come out and listen to recommendations on how to keep our heads held up high and continuing to succeed in our great industry.

Although many of these seminars are still in the planning stages, allow me to share some insight on just exactly what we are looking to bring you in Hershey.

Thanks to Bev Gruber, we will once again host Judges School on Wednesday of convention week. Stay tuned as Bev will have more information as we get to our Fall Zone Meetings. I am also continuing to work with Jen Puate of the Wisconsin State Fair in bringing her back for a full schedule of Sponsorship Reviews. If you would like to

be considered for her schedule on Wednesday, please call me at 484-256-8009. Of course we will update our Showmen friends with another seminar on Trucking Regulations.

Thursday will bring us some seminars from a yet to be named IAFE Speaker as well as a seminar on Security and Handguns on the Fairgrounds.

Friday we will bring in Kirby Dygert from the Erie County Fair of New York to speak on Ag Media Communication. I heard Kirby at the most recent IAFE Zone Meeting in New Hampshire, and she provided some great insight on this subject. Karen and Kevin will bring some very important changes to the Special Baking Contest during this Friday afternoon seminar and I am also still working on another to be named seminar for Friday morning.

To close out the convention on Saturday, Kirby will be back again to speak on Two Organizations with a Common Goal, Same Mission, Working with Livestock Associations. We will also hear from Food Safety and any updates they have to offer as well as Jean Lonie will be back (hopefully without snow this time) to present "Why Think Ag"?

So, as you can see, we have another great agenda, with still some work to do. Please make plans to join us as well as these great speakers in Hershey.

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Seems like only a short time ago that we were in Hershey for the convention (and lots of snow) and fair season is already upon us. As you go about your fair business, take time to remember those individuals who deserve recognition for the efforts.

All fairs have someone who should be nominated for Fair Ambassador, Zone Person of the Year, Junior Fair Person and even State Fair Person of the Year. Also, be sure to contact Martha Ebersole and ask for the State Fair Queen to attend your fair.

It was a great convention with excellent speakers, lots of entertainment, the largest trade show ever and as always, plenty of fellowship with other fair people. As always, special thanks should go to the committee people that make it all happen. Kevin Bieber for arranging great speakers and seminars, Debbie Stephenson for overseeing the table topics, the Queen Committee for a great Queen Coronation, the Spouses Committee for their very successful year, and Dick Horstman for such a successful trade show. It is never possible to thank Harry Reffner enough for all the efforts he puts forth to see that everything keeps running smoothly.

We have just finished the first convention planning meeting and the 2017 convention is shaping up to be just as good. Plan to have as many from your fair attend as possible. The convention always offers lots of information and fellowship.

The budget was finally passed and I trust that everyone has received their checks by now. Work has now started on next year's budget. Watch for notices from the association. Milliron Associates may ask for our help in contacting legislators and asking them for their support as the budget moves forward.

As always see you at the Fair!

Doc

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FAIRTALK published four times per year by the Association. Send information for the publication to:
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DAN WALDSCHMIDT 2017 KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Legislative Update

The Pennsylvania Capitol building now features an educational display about the Commonwealth's County Fairs! The display was created by our faithful supporter, Rep. Dave Millard (R - Columbia), who is continuing to fight for \$4 million (or more) in fair funding during the current 2016 budget negotiations. The display highlights the popularity of fairs, their benefits to the community, the economic advantages to the state, a map showing the location of each fair, and a poster advertising the dates and duration of each fair. Likewise, Rep. Millard had special brochures made so viewers could take the information home, further discovering the advantages county fairs offer to the state when they are adequately funded.



Thank you, Rep. Millard! Your dedication to PSACF means so much!

May and June have been hectic months for the General Assembly. Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle are dedicated to sending a budget to Governor Wolf, on time (June 30th). However, with a \$1.9 billion structural deficit looming, creating a reasonable and balanced spending plan for the state has proved to be a challenge. Legislators are exploring alternative revenue options including variations of the Governor's tax proposal, to which could impact PSACF, and the expansion of gaming.

At this point, nothing is solidified and the budget is still very much in a state of discussion. The team at Milliron & Goodman is continuing our efforts to ensure that fairs avoid additional taxation and receive reimbursements without any delay in 2016. We understand that the state's 2015 budget impasse had a significant impact on PSACF members, and it is our goal to prevent the past from repeating. As the budget progresses, M&G will be sending out updates daily, so stay tuned and buckle your safety belts until the "ride" comes to a complete stop. It is bound to be an eventful few weeks.

If you are interested in being a PSACF political advocate, there are several things you can do:

- Reach out to your legislators and tell them how state dollars impact your fair. If you are unsure who your legislators are, you can find out by going to www.legis.state.pa.us and clicking on the section on the left-hand side entitled "find my legislator."
- Sending a note or e-mail, making a phone call, or meeting with your legislator in person is a great way to share information and to begin building a relationship.
- Invite your legislators to take a tour of your local fair to witness the excitement, fun, and agriculture education that transpires at the county fair. Prove to them that fair funding does not go to waste and is a solid investment for the future of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Ask your legislators to participate with the fair in some manner. Whether they judge a pie contest, attend a planning meeting, help set up booths, milk a cow, or pull rope in a tug a war competition, legislators enjoy being with their constituents and learning personally about great community investments like the local county fair.

First-hand experience provides the best insight. Reach out, make a connection, and educate! That is all it takes.

Contact

Please contact us at 717.232.5322 if you have any specific questions regarding this article. You can also read legislative news updates regularly on our website, www.MillironGoodman.com - Legislative News.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT
-Galla Higinbotham

It is with a heavy heart that I have to share the sad news that Master Balloon Artist,

Magician and friend to all, Dennie Huber has passed away. He wasn't feeling well, his wife Donna said, then developed sharp pains in his stomach. He was life flighted from Altoona to Pittsburgh where he passed away 4 days later on Sunday, June 12th (National Children's Day) at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh. Even as I type those words it doesn't seem possible that we will not see that colorful booth in the trade show, with balloon creations everywhere and Dennie's smile and special greeting for everyone.

I first met Dennie when he was a drummer and showman in a band called "Fire and Rain". After he left the band his balloon twisting (started at age 12) and magic created his new career. He rapidly became the most sought-after children's entertainer in the Altoona area. Running into him and Donna somewhere I said he should come check out the PSACF convention that was coming up in a few weeks. He came for the day, was delighted with what he saw, had a booth in the trade show every year thereafter and was a bright spot at many fairs and events across the state.

Danny of "M & M Magic" has this to say: "Dennie was one of my best friends and mentor. He showed me so much about the business we are in. I am so lucky to have witnessed him bringing smiles to many faces including mine. He will be forever missed." Adds Danny's brother Bobby (also of "M & M Magic"): "Dennie was not just a

mentor to me, he was family. He taught me many lessons dealing with the entertainment industry along with countless life lessons. I've never met someone so giving in all my life. He will forever be loved and missed."

Dennie was amazing. He befriended all the kids and knew their names. He always encouraged young people, founded a talent show called "Crazy Fest". He was so grateful for the successes in his life that he "paid it forward" whenever he could.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 16 and Friday, June 17 at The Stevens Mortuary Inc., 1421 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 18, at Sacred heart Catholic Church, 511 20th Street, Altoona, PA 16602. A full obituary will be in June 16th edition of The Altoona Mirror.

Fellow drummer and concessionaire Ric Hilton says, "He had a love for entertaining like a lot of us. It's what he lived for and loved to do. He gave much of his time to charitable organizations. I like to call him 'The Big Man with the Big Hat and the Big Heart.'"

If all of us carry a piece of Dennie in our hearts and pass on that quintessential kindness, he will live forever and the world will be a better place. Dennie Huber: a life well-lived. Pass it forward.



Welcome New Associates

Attractions, Miscellaneous Country Conjuring the back porch MAGIC of Erick Hershey 160 Stanley Ave Landisville PA 17538 Phone: (717) 618-8195 Phone 2: (484) 213-1728 Fax: WebSite: www.hersheyarts.com E-Mail: magic@hersheyarts.com Info: Country themed magic for all ages! Stage and strolling acts filled with mystery and laughter!

Musical Attractions Kenton Sitch 1124 Mifflin Street Saxton PA 16678 Phone: (814) 635-7256 Phone 2: (814) 330-2961 Fax: WebSite: www.kentonsitch.com E-Mail: guitarotguy@yahoo.com Info: Contemporary Country solo performer. Currently solo will form band in the future.

Smith Compound Band 1607 Washington Ave Northampton PA 18067 Phone: (610) 739-5192 Phone 2: (484) 221-2285 Fax: WebSite: www.smithcompoundband.com E-Mail: wmeixell2@verizon.net Info: Professional musical entertainment for dancing and listening

Special Services UMS Banking 750 Fairmont Ave, 2nd Floor Glendale CA 91203 Phone: (818) 207-0316 Phone 2: Fax: (818) 245-1076 Web-Site: www.umsbanking.com E-Mail: suzanne.haas@myfpp.com Info: We offer credit card processing that is customized to the Fair industry since 2001.

FAMILY FUED IS BACK AT CONVENTION SIGN UP NOW !!!!

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

What would the PSACF and PSSA convention be without a little fun amongst our fair families? Well, to satisfy that "fun" part, we are bringing back Family Fued on Saturday afternoon. Last year presented lots of laughing, stiff competition and yes, silly answers. However it was all in fun. The Elizabethtown Fair took the championship last year, who is going to try to be the champion this year?

It was great to see that a few fairs wanted to participate again last year, so this year I am once again asking for you to sign up ahead of time.

Unfortunately due to time on Saturday afternoon, we have to limit the game to 4 teams of 5 people. If more than 4 teams sign up, we will hold a drawing to see which 4 fairs will be on stage this year.

Sign your fair up now, the deadline is December 1st. How do you sign up? It is easy, please call my cell at 484-256-8009 and I will put you on the list. Make sure you have 5 willing players from your fair who will participate. If I have more than 4 fairs that would like to participate, the PSACF Board will hold a drawing to see who will be on the Fued !!!!! If your fair has already participated, please allow a new fair to have a turn at all the fun.

SURVEY SAYS See you at Hershey !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2017 IAFE ZONE 1 MEETING TO BE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Kevin Bieber

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs Board is pleased to announce that it will be the host for the 2017 IAFE Zone 1 meeting. The meeting will be held in Wyomissing Pennsylvania (near Reading, Pa) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The conference will run March 30, 31 and April 1st. I promise this conference will be filled with lots of educational seminars, plenty of great food and FUN for all.

Although the final agenda for the conference is still being worked on, I can share with you some of the highlights that you will be able to look forward to. On Friday evening we will board busses and head to the Allentown Fairgrounds for a tour of the Farmers Market in operation and then prepare ourselves for a great dinner and entertainment. Saturday after a day of seminars and table topics, we will once again board the busses and head to the Oley Valley Community Fairgrounds for a delicious Pennsylvania Dutch Meal along with entertainment. We are also currently working on two tour sites to stop at before arriving at the Oley Fairgrounds.

The Crowne Plaza is currently taking room reservations. You can call them at 1-877-814-2538 or check out our PA Fairs Website for the link to the room reservations. Be sure to tell them you are with the IAFE 2017 Zone Conference. Remember, our block of rooms are limited, please secure these reservations now. The room rates are \$119.00 a night for a standard double room.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee that will be working hard on this event. They include, Kevin Bieber, Chairman, Jim Davis, Karen Dobson, Bev Gruber, Gala Higinbotham, Ron Miller, John Blaney, Harry Reffner, Dr. Davis Reese and Dave Hallstrom.



Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

Submitted by: Karen Dobson

The Annual Meeting of the PA Fair Queen Program was held on Feb 28, 2016. Officers were appointed as follows: Chairman: John Berne; Vice Chairman: Bitsey Kopfinger; Secretary: Karen Dobson; Treasurer: Gary Moore. Committee appointments were Contest Correspondence: Bitsey Kopfinger; State Contest: Karen Dobson and Shelly Shaffer; Events/Publicity: Martha Ebersole; and Fundraising: John Berne, Judy Kmetz, Ruth Trumbetta and Charlotte Williams.

Zones 2 and 4 will be holding elections at their 2016 Fall Zone meetings to appoint a member to serve a two-year term on the PA Fair Queen Board of Directors, beginning March 1, 2017. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the respective Zone Chairperson by that zone's designated deadline.

The **2016 PA Fair Queen Darby Kasper** or **2016 Alternate Molly Arnold** are available to attend your fair this summer to help promote specific events. Examples would be participating in special ceremonies, contests, parades and ag-related events. Thanks to PSACF's continued sponsorship of the PA Fair Queen's mileage expenses, the inviting Fairs are only responsible for her meal expenses while she is on the fairgrounds and any overnight hotel accommodations (if necessary). All requests for appearances must be submitted in writing to Martha Ebersole and will be scheduled based on the date the request is received, and the Queen and Alternate's availability. Download the Appearance Request Form from the www.pafairs.org website under "*Members-Queen Program*". Please note that if your fair chooses to invite both the State Queen and the Alternate, only the State Queen's travel expenses will be reimbursed by the Program; the Alternate's travel expenses would be the responsibility of the inviting fair.

The 2017 State Competition applications were distributed to fairs at the Spring Zone meetings or mailed to any non-attending fairs. Applications

can also be downloaded from the PA Fairs website under "Members/Queen Program". The State Competition fee has been raised to \$120 to cover rising costs from Hershey Lodge.

There are 3 dates to remember...

November 1 – postmark date for submitting completed State Contest applications to Bitsey Kopfinger

December 15 – deadline for registering for the 2017 convention

December 28 – reserving a hotel room at The Hershey Lodge. **NEW THIS YEAR!** Queen Rooms must be done using the special Hotel Room Reservation Form and submitted directly the Hershey Lodge with a credit card authorization form.

The Saturday Coronation banquet and ceremony almost sold out last time (and then the blizzard came!) so do not delay in sending in your registrations and payments. Groups larger than 10 should give Bitsey Kopfinger advanced notice for seating assignment planning purposes.

Our Convention fundraisers at the 2016 convention were very successful thanks to the individuals and fairs who donated baskets, gave monetary contributions and bid generously at the silent and live auctions. These fundraisers are very important to continue to grow the Queen Program to new heights and maintain the high standards of excellence. Therefore the goal is to get more fairs to participate. Download the Fundraising Flyer from the www.pafairs.org website under "*Members/Queen Program*" to learn how to get involved. Contact Judy Kmetz (Luzerne County Fair) for more information on fundraising ideas or potential sponsorships. Stay tuned for more details on how the Queen Contestants will be getting involved in creating an awesome Live Auction item in 2017!

see "Queen Program" next page

From Queen Program" previous page

The 2017 contest will be held January 19-21. Judged events include interviews, speeches and stage introductions in evening gowns. There will also be activities scheduled for the queen contestants including assisting with fundraising, special seminars, a Queens' Party. and enjoying the brand new "Water Works" indoor water park at the Hershey Lodge!

The PA Fair Queen Program continues to be a leader in commodity scholarship programs across the Northeast. Recently delegates from the Maine Association of Fairs Agricultural Fairs shared how last year's IAFE presentation by the PA Fair Queen Program inspired them. The Pittston Fair was invited to have their Queen attend Maine's annual convention to give a presentation to over

700 attendees on how to start a queen pageant. And the Topsham Fair asked 2014 Miss Maine Audrey Thames to start a queen contest at their fair. The PA Program is honored to be such a positive influence.

Questions or requests for additional information on any other aspect of the PA Fair Queen Program should be directed to the appropriate committee person:

Applications/Banquet Seating - Bitsey Kopfinger, 570-296-8790

Fundraising - Judy Kmetz, 570-675-2952

PA Fair Queen's Events and Fair Visitations – Martha Ebersole, 717-834-4435

State Contest - Karen Dobson, 610-212-6180.

SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

— Karen Dobson

Bakers all across Pennsylvania are stirring, sifting and measuring in preparation for the 2016 Special Baking contests being held at 103 fairs this year!

All 4 baking contest sponsors have renewed their commitment for 2016. Contest information can be downloaded from PSACF's website: www.pafairs.org, Members/Baking Contest menu (no login required). A reminder that 2016 will be the last year that PA Preferred will sponsor a "chocolate baking contest". Baking contest coordinators will be asked to participate in a survey to get their opinions on a special baking contest idea for 2017.

Notes for the 2016 contest season:

1. Once a contestant wins 1st place at a 2016 Fair in a particular PSACF Special Baking contest, they are no longer eligible to compete in that same baking contest at any other Fair in 2016.
2. Communicate all the special baking contest rules and requirements to your Fair's contest volunteers and judges so that winners are properly certified and are legitimately eligible to compete at the next PA Farm Show competition.
3. Display the Angel Food Cake and PA Preferred sponsor banners at the contest area.
4. Fair contest ribbons were only provided for the Chocolate contests. Ribbons for Apple

Pie and Angel Food Cake are at the discretion of the Fair.

5. Submit your Fair's Summary for each contest by November 15. **NEW THIS YEAR!** An **online submission option** is now available for submitting all your contest winner information at one time. Just type in the web address in your Internet browser to access the **2016 Baking Contest Summary Form** – <http://goo.gl/forms/jBozU2QJpr> . Answer all the questions and click Submit. No stamps! No running to the post office! Uh oh...not computer saavy? No worries; we will still accept the standard paper forms by mail or email.
6. The sponsored prize monies will be sent to participating fairs in the summer. Any of this sponsored prize money that is not awarded must be returned to PSACF, Attn: Harry Reffner.

We look forward to seeing the baking contests this summer! If there are any questions, contact the appropriate committee chairpersons:

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests - **Kevin Bieber** (484-256-8009, email kevin.bieber@nationalpenn.com)

Chocolate Contests - **Karen Dobson** (610-212-6180, email kardob@msn.com)

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IAFE 2016 Spring Zone Meeting Concord, New Hampshire

By Karen Dobson



A delegation of PSACF directors attended the IAFE 2016 Spring Zone Meeting from May 5 - 7 in Concord, New Hampshire. The meeting welcomed fairs from all over the Northeast including Nova Scotia! Participants got the opportunity to attend workshops and round tables, listen to keynote speakers, and network with other fairs - large and small - to share ideas, reunite with friends and make new connections.

The Planning Committee created a Program that covered trending topics as well as the basics. Matt Booth from Iowa, energized the group with his presentations on practical ways to improve attitudes and his catch line, "Tell me something good!" Elisa Hays from the state of Washington inspired with her message about how optimism, faith, perseverance and the power of the Fair community is helping her deal with a life-changing disability after a traumatic motor vehicle accident in 2014. Other workshops and round tables included Security Issues, How to Encourage New Exhibitors, Tickets/Passes for Exhibitors and Concessionaires, Having a Plan for Your Fair's Administrative Controls, Service Animals, and the Future of Fairs. Attendees were also treated to a tour of the Hopkinton State Fairgrounds and an old-fashioned picnic cookout and ice cream social.

Our own PSACF directors Kevin Bieber and Karen Dobson gave a creative presentation to invite IAFE members to the 2017 Spring Zone Meeting to be held March 30, 31 and April 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wyomissing, PA (Berks County, near Reading). Program highlights include workshops, seminars and offsite dinners and entertainment on the grounds of The Allentown Fair and the Oley Valley Community Fair. Any fair interested in becoming a sponsor can contact Bev Gruber. The conference hotel room block is now open for reservations. Guests can book online or by phone. Rates are \$119 per night. More information is available of the www.pafairs.org home page. Let's show the fairs from IAFE Zone 1 what PA Fairs are all about! Make your plans to attend the 2017 conference! Who knows...will Justin Bieber be there??



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Sue Hill - West End Fair, Gilbert, PA

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It is that time again; I can smell the sawdust and hear the clippers already. There is no better time of year than fair week, and luckily here in Pennsylvania every week of our summer is a fair week! It's been a busy spring at the Department of Agriculture. In case you haven't heard, I'll

help you get caught up.

Governor Wolf Invests in Fairs

The 2015-16 budget season has been unprecedented, to be sure, but out of the tension, the dialogue, and the give and take, Governor Wolf and the legislature agreed to increase the appropriation for the fair fund from \$3 million to \$4 million – its highest total in nearly 10 years.

Governor Wolf recognizes the value of our fairs: 5.5 million visitors annually, a \$126 million impact on our economy, 1,700 full-time jobs and 6,600 part-time jobs, and a high-profile venue for our 4-H and FFA programs.

To ensure that we are the best stewards of this ample budgeted allotment, Secretary Redding brought together as many stakeholders as possible for the meeting of the Fair Fund Advisory Board when we created our annual action plan to use the funding.

We elected to restore matching grant funding to fair for capital improvement projects, citing the economic impact these projects have in their communities and the vital upgrades they provide to our fairgrounds. As well, we increased the funding to 4-H and FFA programs so that they may better able to reinvest in their members.

This is a huge victory for the programs that benefit from our investment in agriculture education, exposition, and improvement through the fair fund. In five years we've gone from an allocation of less than \$1 million, back to full funding, and beyond. My thanks to all those who helped make this happen.

High-Path Avian Influenza and Lifting the Suspension

Poultry competitions and exhibitions are able to resume at the state-sponsored fairs as well as the 2017 Farm Show. Given that neither the commonwealth nor any of its neighboring states have had any incidences of the High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus, we feel comfortable in allowing poultry to return to these events.

With that in mind, we have strengthened the health protocols for poultry at fairs. We've cut the six-month testing window for poultry down to 30 days prior to the fair's opening day.

That said, if a positive case of HPAI were to be found in Pennsylvania or a neighboring state, the suspension would be re-instituted immediately.

Fair Poster Contest Theme is "Know Your Farmer"

This year's fair poster contest takes a twist – the theme is "Know Your Farmer." If you haven't yet developed your premium guide, make sure that you update it to reflect this year's new theme. Any posters that don't adhere to that theme will be disqualified at the state level competition.

PA Preferred™ Products Display Contest Returns

In my time with PA Preferred and the fair office, I've witnessed the creativity that our fairs showcase year in and year out through the PA Preferred Products Display Contest. I encourage you to continue to promote local, PA-grown and made products at your fair through this contest.

Recognition Program Revamp: Friend of the Fair

The Outstanding Fair Ambassador Program was a great opportunity to honor deserving individuals, but we found that its scope of recognition was limited. So we've expanded upon the idea of honoring service by creating the Friend of the Fair award in its place. Look into your communities to find key members who have been staunch friends of your fair by supporting it year in and year out. These can be a variety of roles: agriculture teachers, extension educators, long-time sponsors, volunteers and any other community members. Please send me your nominations by July 1.

2016 Pennsylvania Fair Guides are Available

This year's Pennsylvania Fair Guide, with a complete list of fair dates and a corresponding map, is at legislative offices and out on display at rest stops and Turnpike plazas across the state. We'll be getting your fair copies for distribution as well. Please help us continue this outreach to bring more visitors to our fairs and learn about agriculture in a fun and festive atmosphere.

Invite Us to Your Fair

We're planning to attend each of this season's 108 fairs and we could use your assistance. It means a lot when you send invitations to us as it lets me plan for the best time to stop at your fair. Please think outside of the box – we love visiting opening ceremonies, but we also enjoy coming at other times or on other days, because it seems like there's always something special happening at our fairs. Looking forward to seeing you there!

The MidLife Cowboys Band



"Range Rovin" Richard Rupert

"Bluesman" Chris Trasatti

"Too Dang Cool" Ed Scholl

"Miss Alison" Alison Rupert

"Trail Boss" Gary Stoner

"Saddle Sore" Mike Celline

GOT A HANKERIN' FOR THE SINGING COWBOYS OF YESTERYEAR?

The MidLife Cowboys pack a saddlebag-full of Cowboy harmony and western swing not heard since Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. Ride the Happy Trails of the old west!

The MidLife Cowboys Band

www.MidLifeCowboys.com

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The Secretary's Notepad

— Harry Reffner

Fair Season

High-Path Avian Influenza suspension has been lifted allowing the return of poultry and eggs to our fairs. The Department of Agriculture will continue to monitor and if a HPAI was to be found the suspension could be issued.

Msgr. John W. Mignot/PSACF Scholarship Program

This year's scholarship program material was posted to the association website in late April. Deadlines to remember: applicant must submit completed application to sponsoring fair by June 30; sponsoring fair must complete endorsement section and submit application to zone chairperson by July 31. Funds are currently available to release all 6 scholarships.

Fair Person of the Year

A Fair Person of the Year application is available in the "Member Fairs Only" section of the association website. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than November 1st.

Association Dues

Fairs were mailed dues notices in late April and those unpaid were notified in late June. Dues must be paid before your yearly packet is mailed.

Communications Competition

Applications must be postmarked no later than November 1st; the applications can be found in the "Member Fairs Only" section of our website.

Junior Fair Person

Nomination deadline Sept 15.. Jr Fair Person informational flyers were distributed at the Zone meetings. The information is on the association's website.

Election at Fall Zone Meetings

State Directors from all zones and the Queen Program Directors (zone 2 & 4) will be elected at the Fall zone meetings.

2016 Fair Guides

Fair guides which were not available at our zone meetings are in the office and I will be mailing them out within the next few days.

Department of Agriculture Programs

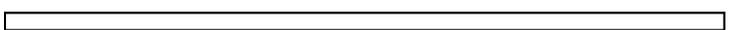
Please refer to Zach's article with regards to the Fair Poster Contest, PA Preferred display, and new Friend of the Fair.

2016-2017 Fair Funding

SB 1073 (the budget vehicle), as amended, includes \$4 million for county fairs. Milliron & Goodman will continue to keep us updated.

2017 Convention

The planning committee met with Hershey in June. Room reservations were opened June 1st, at our meeting Hershey reported over 400 room reservations has been made. If you have not made yours, please consider doing so soon. Remodeling of the indoor pool has been completed and has added a new opportunity for us.



Galen Helsel passed away June 16th, he was president of Hollidaysburg Farm Show, past president of Fort Fetter Riding Club, as well as a member of Hollidaysburg Young Farmer's Association.

Dennie Huber please see Galla's Associate Member Report in this issue.

Update from The Zones



Zone One –Sam Zaffuto

Our spring zone meeting was attended by 24 fairs and held at Scrubgrass Grange on April 22.

Our state officers were present and gave us an update on the state association. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Fred Strathmeyer attended our meeting and addressed all present about the Department of Agriculture. Zach Gihorski, our fair coordinator was also in attendance to discuss the status of the budget and funding for fairs as well as talk about what to expect for this years fairs.

Fairs in Zone One will be opening soon. Our zone directors plan to visit all thirty fairs. If you have any concerns or questions or any suggestions for the state association, zone meetings, or convention, please let your zone visitor know.

Please mark your calendars for our fall zone meeting, which will be held on Friday October 21 at Scrubgrass Grange. This is an election year. So in addition to presenting a Zone Person of the Year Award and a Jr. Fair Person Award we will be electing six directors to represent zone one during 2017 and 2018. Last year we received no nominations for the Fair Person of the Year Award. I'm sure every fair has people who are worthy of this award. Please take the time to nominate someone from your fair to be honored.

Each fair may nominate one candidate for the Executive Committee of PSACF. Information about the Fair Person Award, the Jr. Fair Person Award, and Executive Committee nomination information will be mailed to all fairs in zone one before the end of August. Please watch your mail for this important information.



Zone Two — Rod Ralston

Zone II's 2016 Fair season has begun with the Northeast Fair that is held in Pittston from June 21 through June 26. Lets

hope the weatherman co-operates the entire Fair season. Hopefully all Fairs have received their financial allotment from the Commonwealth. Many small Fairs need this money now. Will see many of you this summer as we do our visitations to all the Fairs in Zone II plus numerous other Fair throughout Pennsylvania.



Zone Three—Debbie Stephenson

Hopefully by this time the "rainy" "season is under control!! Zone 3 held its Spring meeting on April 21,

2016, at Bedford Church of the Brethren. The meal was prepared by the Church of the Brethren Ladies Auxiliary. We had many fairs attend 18 of 25 were present with 83 attendees. We also had the Bedford Fair Queen Megan Anderson and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Fred Strathmeyer, Sharon Turkovich from Senator Wozniak's office and Zach Gihorski our Fair Fund Administrator as well as our President Dr. Doc Reese and Vice President Dave Hallstrom. We discussed a lot of topics one being the Monsignor Minot Scholarships – we need all fairs to please submit at least one entry. Dues notices should have gotten to you by now if not please call Harry, Fair Guides will be sent out shortly please distribute them, and our State Poster Program which the theme is "Know Your Farmer" Zach discussed that regarding the not rolling of them for Harrisburg. You should have picked up your Queen Packets, Baking Contest Packets and if didn't attend the meeting it should have gotten to you by now. If you don't have those please notify Harry asap. Some fairs may also get a call that the Secretary of Ag wants to visit your fair- please call them back. We also need to be sent to Zach by the 1st of July the "Friend of the Fair Award" from your fair this is someone from your fair that helps with the fair as it can also be a long term sponsor (these are just some examples they gave) We also would like you to consider when you purchase entertainment for your fair to really support those who support our organization and are members of it. We have one of the best trade show's on the east coast so why not support them. Convention registration will be starting June 1 for January 2017 book early!! Don't get left with no room! Sally Nolt does everything she can to make sure everyone is accommodated but sometimes it's too late. Baking and Queen Contests please don't forget that when your fair it over to send in the results as soon as they are in – it makes it a lot easier for Karen Dobson to see who is coming to Harrisburg Farm Show. With all this for you to think about – Have a GREAT fair season –

Update from The Zones



Zone Four - Sally Nolt

The Fair season is underway throughout Zone 4 and Pennsylvania. Best of luck to everyone for a successful 2016 Fair Season!

Hopefully the weather will cooperate!

The Spring Zone 4 Meeting was held at Shady Maple Smorgasbord, East Earl, on Wednesday, April 20th. Zone 4 members enjoyed a night of great food, fellowship and information.

How exciting to see our funding restored! Remember to submit Capital Improvement applications by June 30th. Please thank your legislators, officers and Milliron & Goodman for their work to make this happen. We also owe David Millard a very big thank you!

Zone 4 will have a major part in the IAFE Zone

Conference in 2017. The Conference will be in Wyomissing March 30, 31, and April 1, 2017. Please plan to have your Fair represented.

The Zone 4 Fall Meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in East Earl. Six PSACF Zone 4 Directors will be elected at this meeting. Nominations are due to Karen Dobson by September 15th. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting.

The annual Fair Person of the Year for Zone 4 and Jr. Fair Person of the Year for Zone 4 will be presented at this meeting. Please honor two individuals from your fair by nominating them for these awards! Nominations are due to me by September 15, 2016.

Please support PA Fairs - visit as many fairs as possible this fair season!

2016 PENNSYLVANIA STATE FAIR QUEEN

— Darby Kasper



The Pennsylvania fair season is under way and I am ecstatic to be able to connect with fairs this summer as I have already received several fair appearance requests. In the last few months I have had amazing opportunities to promote agriculture. I was able to attend the 50th anniversary party for the Tioga County Fair. It was exciting to celebrate fifty years of agricultural promotion. At a tea party in April I connected with a Brownie Troop and gave a presentation about fairs and the fair queen program. The girls created paper pinwheels and were encouraged to enter them in their local fair. It was clear that many businesses appreciate the role of agriculture in their local economy when I attended Agricultural Appreciation day at the First Citizens Community Bank. Many community members gathered to

thank producers for their dedication to agriculture. On a state level, I visited the Capital in Harrisburg for the Cornucopia event where agricultural companies and agricultural representatives gathered to promote the importance of agriculture to the legislators. On behalf of the PSACF I presented Hershey chocolate bars to the legislators thanking them for their governmental support of the fair. Summer has finally arrived with parade and fair season underway. At the Laurel Festival, I represented the PSACF in the annual parade in Wellsboro. I am looking forward to a fair-filled summer and would love to attend your fairs. If your fair is interested, have an official representative submit the PA Fair Queen Appearance Request Form to the PA Fair Queen Events and Publicity Coordinator Martha Ebersole. Forms are available on PSACF's webpage or Fairs can contact Martha directly. Best wishes this season for growing great things at your fair!

We Have Good Things Growing

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