

## DATES TO REMEMBER

— 2020 —

### April 16

- PSACF Board Meeting

### April 22 **CANCELED**

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Blue Valley Farm Show

### April 23 **CANCELED**

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Westmoreland Fair

### April 24 **CANCELED**

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - Jefferson County Fair

### April 25 **CANCELED**

- PSACF Zone 2 Mtg. - Sullivan County Fair

### May 7 - 9

- Zone 1 IAFE Conference **CANCELED**

### May 31

- FAIRTALK material for June due

### June 24 (week of)

- 2nd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

### September 15

- Baking Contest checks (Angel Food)

### August 31

- FAIRTALK material for September due

### September 1

- Showcase apps. For 2020 Convention mailed

### September 24 (week of)

- 3rd Quarter FAIRTALK emailed

### September 30

- Zone Junior Fair Person nominations due to Zone

### October 15

- Showcase apps. Due

- 2021 Request for Fair info material, PSACF Associate Dues Invoices, PSACF/PSSA Convention material, Trade Show apps. mailed.

### October 15

- PSACF Board Meeting

### October 21

- PSACF Zone 4 Mtg. - Kutztown Fair

### October 22

- PSACF Zone 3 Mtg. - Berlin Brothersvalley Community Fair

### October 23

- PSACF Zone 1 Mtg. - TBA

### October 24

- 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 30

FAIRTALK material for December issue due



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

**VOL. 34**

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**NO. 1**

### **CORONAVIRUS COVID-19**

As I prepare this issue there is one item on all of our minds. The virus continues its spread and daily restrictions are being issued by the Governor and CDC. Two of our Fairs the PA Maple Festival and the Delaware Valley University A Day have canceled for this year a hard decision for both. With our Zone meetings quickly approaching we will probably see a new method of conducting them, discussions are taking place and we will get the information out to you as soon as they are finalized. All IAFE meetings through May have been cancelled, including the Zone 1 Conference in York.

### **KENNY ARONOFF & CONVENTION SEMINARS WERE AGAIN "SPOT ON"**

BY: KEVIN D. BIEBER

Well, another year and another convention and now it is time to focus on warmer weather and fair season. It is the hope of the seminar committee that you were able to learn from the many diverse seminars and keynote speaker that we had. It is also our hope that you are able to take whatever it is that you learned back to your fair and incorporate the ideas and concepts that you heard during the seminars or keynote speech. One thing is for sure, if you were not awake by the time you walked into the ballroom for the keynote speech, it certainly did not take long for Kenny Aronoff to wake you up as he not only delivered his speech but showed us just how talented he is behind a set of drums.

As we all listened to the keynote speech, I certainly hope everyone had picked up on the two takeaways that Kenny presented. That being that you should NEVER give up as sometimes you have to try and try again before you become successful (just like Kenny) and of course it takes TEAMWORK to become successful. Just like Kenny needs a team of musicians, we need a different team of hard workers, dedicated individuals and people who are willing to work together. The combination of these items creates a strong team that allows you to accomplish more than you would ever imagine. Just stop and think, what if Kenny would have given up,

See "Spot On" next page .....

From "Spot On" previous page .....  
what if he was not a team player? I know one thing, I bet he would not be travelling around giving keynote speeches and he certainly would not have become the Kenny Aronoff that we now know. So, whatever you do this fair season, even if it rains during your fair, do not give up and work together as a team to do the best you can despite and setbacks you may encounter.

As for 2021 Convention, I assure you that our team is working together to again bring you the best seminar and table topics that we can bring to Hershey. Our team is also working on a potential Youth Day to be held on Saturday afternoon at

convention.

In order to help us, I certainly hope you took the time to fill out our short survey that we put together. Most likely by the time you read this article, the survey will have been closed. If you missed it, we still want your feedback as soon as possible. We will discuss this more at the zone meetings.

So as you can see, lots going on already in preparation for next year. As always, I love to hear what you have to say. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or comments and I will be sure to pass them onto our committee. Have a great fair season !!!!!



## From our President

It is hard to believe that another convention is history and the next fair season is rapidly approaching! I was so disappointed to miss my first convention in over thirty-five years. Thank you for all the get-well wishes, cards and phone calls. I am on the road to recovery! Also, thank you to all who helped to make the convention a success. A very special thank you to Sam and Harry for carrying on for me in my absence and to my Fair Committee for preparing and hosting the President's Hospitality Room when I couldn't be there.

Congratulations to Bonnie Oren for achieving Fair Person of the Year. Thank you for all you have done for the Perry County Community Fair. Congratulations also to Jamie Supancik from the Harford Fair in Zone 2 for achieving Junior Fair Person of the Year. May you remain active with the Harford Fair for many years to come! Youth are our future!

Last, but not least, congratulations to the 2020 PA State Fair Queen Grace VanSciver representing the Mifflin County Youth Fair. I look forward meeting you and seeing you at fairs across the state in 2020. The Queen Program is a very meaningful part of the convention and you, along with all of our fair queens across the state, play an important role in promoting fairs and agriculture throughout the year. Thank you Mikara Anderson, 2019 Queen, for your service!

Once again, I really appreciated the hospitality extended to me in 2019 during my many fair visits across the state. I plan to visit the fairs in Zones 1, 2 and 3 in 2020 that I did not visit in the past two years. It has been exciting to tour the state and see Fairs I have never visited.

I would like to challenge all fairs to nominate individuals for both the Zone Person of the Year and Junior Fair Person of the Year for 2020. Please note that the room block at Hershey Lodge will open in April. Book your rooms early to avoid disappointment!

Finally, please plan to attend the Zone Meetings this Fall. Election of Directors will take place at this meeting. Fairs are invited to nominate a Director on their board for these positions. I hope to see you there!!

*Sally*

## PSACF OFFICERS - 2019-2020

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## ZONE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Receiving the Zone I award Harmony Grange Fair from David Hallstrom; Janet Whited, Shae Harkleroad, Dottie Brink, & Carol Fox



Receiving the Zone II award Troy Fair from Roger Dirlam; Brian Canfield, Tamara Heess, Steve Pelton, Pat Brackfill, Jon Jenkins & Cathy Jenkins.



Receiving the Zone III Williamsburg Community Farm Show award from Debbie Stephenson; Arianne Waddington and Riley Haylee.



Receiving the Zone IV Middletown Grange Fair award from Kevin Bieber; Debbie Gregory and Lynne Bowen

*Congratulations!*

## 2019 FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR



Active in the fair for over 35 years, our Fair Person of the Year began as a volunteer in the Product building of her fair, taking in and arranging entries and maintaining the displays. From here she graduated to the role of Fair Board secretary and Premium Book and Competitive Exhibits Coordinator. It is her job to see that everything is in place and scrubbed before that first entry arrives. She can be seen weeks before the start of the fair at the grounds, cleaning out the building, being sure everything is in place and ordering supplies.

She has participated in the PSACF Judges School since its inception and usually judges baked goods, crafts and canned goods at three or four other fairs a year.

In case you haven't guessed by now, our 2019 Fair Person of the Year is Bonnie Oren from the Perry County Fair in Newport, PA.

Bonnie hasn't missed a convention since it moved to Hershey in 1993. She is the spark plug at the fair that is responsible to see that a beautiful basket arrives at convention for the Spouse and Queen Raffles. Her hobbies include quilting and crocheting. Bonnie is a kind and wonderful person, always going the extra mile. Active in her community, she is the treasurer of her Methodist Church and active in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Company. She and her husband David have been married for 50 years. They have two sons, Mark and Brian.

We are so glad that her uncle, Paul Britcher, got her involved in our fair industry. Welcome Bonnie Oren, your 2019 Fair Person of the Year.

## QUEEN BOARD AND COMMITTEES WITH QUEEN MAKARA





Robert H. Heydenreich 89, of Bloomsburg, went to be with the Lord, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020, at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, surrounded by his family. A member of the Lycoming County Fair where he was still on the board and was past President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. He also was a member of the Bloomsburg Fair, and served as past Grandstand Superintendent for over 20 years. He was a member of the PSACF, where he was a past President and received Fair Person of the Year, and Pa. State Showman Association.



Eugene "Pap" Albert Mackes, 80, of Effort PA, passed away peacefully on his terms surrounded by family on Tuesday, January 28th, 2020. The famously known Red #5 race car was owned and built under Gene's mechanic hands. He served 42 terrific years as a West End Fair Director.



Bryan Douglas Utegg, 47 of Honesdale, passed away January 28, 2020. He served as treasurer of the Greene Dreher Sterling Fair. Bryan also served as a director on the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs.



## SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

— Karen Dobson

Congratulations to **Manheim Community Farm** (PA Preferred Junior Baking), **Clearfield County Fair** (Homemade Chocolate Cake), **Plainfield Farmers Fair** (Apple Pie), and **Bedford County Fair** (Angel Food Cake) on having a first-place winner at the 2020 PA Farm Show! Overall entry numbers included 67 angel food cakes, 79 apple pies, 66 junior baking and 77 chocolate cakes.

The Homemade Chocolate Cake, Blue Ribbon Apple Pie and Incredible Angel Food Cake contests will continue in 2020. Rules have been updated for two items: 1) clarifications about how to submit the entry (ex: disposable setting), and a new rule that all ingredients and decorations must be edible. Fairs must update their premium books, websites and other publicity with the new 2020 rules. Not using the correct rules will affect a fair winner's chance of winning at the PA Farm Show state competition.

Some other reminders to pass on to your Baking Contest committees:

Participating Fairs will receive sponsored premium money for the Angel Food Cake and the Junior Baking contests only. Premiums for the Chocolate Cake and Apple Pie contests are at the discretion of the individual Fairs.

Each fair is responsible for any ribbons for all four special contest ribbons

Use the sponsor-provided banners for the Angel Food Cake and the PA Preferred Junior Baking contests. PLEASE destroy or repurpose any old PA Preferred banners that reference a "chocolate" baking contest as these banners are no longer acceptable.

Contest rules were distributed and reviewed at the Convention. Unclaimed packets were mailed to the Fairs. The 2020 information can also be downloaded from PSACF's website: [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org), Members/Baking Contest menu (no login required). The full 2020 Special Baking Contest Fair Packets will be distributed at the upcoming Spring Zone meetings.

If there are any questions, contact the appropriate committee chairpersons:

Angel Food Cake and Apple Pie Contests - **Kevin Bieber** (484-256-8009, email [KBieber@BBandT.com](mailto:KBieber@BBandT.com)) Junior Baking and Chocolate Cake Contests - **Karen Dobson** (610-212-6180, email [kar-dob@msn.com](mailto:kar-dob@msn.com))



The image shows a promotional card for the 2020 Special Baking Contests. At the top, it says "2020 CONTEST PACKET" and features the PSACF logo. Below that, it lists the contests: Angel Food Cake & Apple Pie (contact: Kevin Bieber, 484-256-8009, KBieber@BBandT.com) and Chocolate Cake & Junior Baking (contact: Karen Dobson, 610-212-6180, kardob@msn.com). It also includes the text "INTENT TO PARTICIPATE RESPOND BY: FEB 15". To the right is the Pennsylvania Farm Show logo with the tagline "IMAGINE THE OPPORTUNITIES". Below the text are three photos of winners holding their respective cakes and blue ribbons.



**New Holland Farmers Fair has been selected for the 2020 Best of New Holland Awards** Each year, in and around the New Holland area, the New Holland Award Program chooses only the best local businesses. We focus on companies that have demonstrated their ability to use various marketing methods to grow their business in spite of difficult economic times. The companies chosen exemplify the best of small business; often leading through customer service and community involvement.

***HARRISBURG OVERVIEW:***

The General Assembly has been in recess for the past several weeks while the House and Senate Appropriations Committees held budget hearings with the state agencies.

At the Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with the Department of Agriculture, there were some comments about the PA Race Horse Development Restricted Receipts Accounts (details below). One other comment of interest came from Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill regarding the incident at the York Fair last year. She noted concerns that the response and report from the Department were significantly delayed. So in the future she would like to see that there is no delay and people can feel safe on rides at state and county fairs. Secretary Redding noted that all the concerns from the incident were identified and addressed.

Both the House and Senate were originally scheduled to be back in session for the weeks of March 16<sup>th</sup>-March 18<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, but due to concerns about Coronavirus, many session activities have been restricted or cancelled. This of course will delay progress on most legislation. As of last week (3/13/20), the Capitol has been closed to the public and lobbyists, so we are doing all of our work from the office via phone calls/emails. As you know, schedules are very volatile right now, so we will continue to keep you updated as things progress.

***BUDGET:***

The Governor's 2020-2021 budget proposal fully-funded Pennsylvania's fairs at \$4million. Throughout the entire budget negotiation process, Milliron Goodman will continue to advocate to maintain this funding. Keep in mind, the line item is funded as an appropriation from the PA Race Horse Development Restricted Receipts Account to the Department of Agriculture. So while the Governor's budget proposal calls for using a portion of the money from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund to pay for tuition assistance, this is not our battle as long as there is \$4 million in funding appropriated to Pennsylvania's fairs (which he is proposing).

***LEGISLATION:***

Representative Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) re-introduced the mobile food truck licensing bill ([HB 671](#)) for the PA State Showmen's Association. Again, this language would establish the concept of an 'operating base location.' Mobile units would be required to pay food licensing fees based on the operating base location instead of fees in multiple jurisdictions. In addition, while conducting business in jurisdictions other than their base location, mobile units can still be inspected by that jurisdiction, but they are not responsible for inspection fees.

This past May, we were able to successfully get the bill passed out of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee with a unanimous vote. Then several county health departments came forward with their opposition and the full House vote was postponed. They voiced concerns about the elimination of inspections fees in jurisdictions outside the operating base location. So we organized a stakeholder meeting and negotiated with the House Democratic leaders and members on an amendment. It would essentially allow inspection fees on street trucks that aren't participating as part of an event, regardless of whether or not they are operating in their base location. This agreed-to amendment is ready and will be voted on when the bill is placed on the House agenda. We are advocating for a floor vote as soon as possible.

See Milliron from previous page .....

In the meantime, we continue to emphasize the importance of local legislator outreach. If legislators hear that their constituents support the bill, then there is a greater better chance for this bill to successfully move through the legislative process and across the finish line. Please visit this website for your local legislator's contact information: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>.

Attached please find a full listing of bills we are tracking for the association. We'll continue to monitor all new proposals and keep you apprised.

### **REGULATIONS**

We are continuing to monitor for any potential movement with the Department of Agriculture's (Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards) draft update to the amusement regulations.

As you recall, the Amusement Ride Safety Board held one stakeholder meeting last year regarding the draft regulations. PSSA not only participated in the meeting but also proactively sent a letter to the Bureau outlining concerns with the draft and met face-to-face with the Bureau Director. Since then, the board has remained quiet on this issue. At the last board meeting in February 2020, there was no discussion on the regulations and we have not heard of any plans to move forward with them. We'll update you if there are any changes.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to work with you.



## **PSACF Association Update**

### **COVID-19**

To Date:

- 1) IAFE meetings have been canceled through May including the IAFE Conference in York.
- 2) State Directors meeting in Center Hall will be held via web meeting.
- 3) Zone meetings have been canceled and will be held via a web meeting, an email to all Fairs will be sent as how to join the meeting. There will be only one web meeting for all 4 zones, you can connect to it at your convenience, and there will be no time limit set to view. Queen and Baking packets will be mailed.
- 4) Two of our Fairs the Pa Maple Festival and the Delaware Valley University A day have canceled for this year a hard decision for both.
- 5) I have been ask about future Fairs and if they will be able to conduct their Fair, until the Governor removes the mandate of no gather-

ing of 10+ the answer would be no. No one can give us a date that this may change.

### **108<sup>th</sup> PSACF/PSSA Convention**

The theme "Making Memories One Fair at a Time" opened the 108<sup>th</sup> PSACF/PSSA Convention held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

Registration for this year's event was 1550, slightly down from last year. The trade show had 160 booths, 59 participants in the Queen Contest, the spouse's program which aids the Scholarship fund saw a slight decrease in their fund raising, the PSACF banquet Thursday night had 882 in attendance, the Queen banquet Saturday night had over 851 in attendance.

Workshops, seminars, and table topics were held all 4 days.

Spouse's programs had the "Bag & Basket bingo, Finger Crochet, and a Cake Decorating demonstration.

Wednesday night the Talent Showcase had 18 acts performing.

See Update next page .....

From Update previous page .....

Thursday prior to the opening American Pride a Statler Brother tribute entertainment followed by Kenny Aronoff our keynote speaker sponsored by Powers Great American Midways, delivered a message. Prior to the PSACF banquet Magic Masters and Chris Yerlig strolled in the lobby before the banquet. The Hobbs Sisters entertained during dessert, and A Night of the Nelsons provided by Variety Attractions entertained with her hits. Awards from the Farm Show, and the 2019 Fair Person, Bonnie Oren, were announced.

Friday had the Communication breakfast and the winners for the various categories were announced. The Memorial Service had Fr. Ross Miceli conducting the service, where over 125 were remembered. Dan & Galla providing back ground music during the service. The Annual Meeting followed with 73 fairs in attendance. The PSSA banquet held in the evening had Twitty and Lynn performed for the banquet.

Saturday drawings took place for the trade show, PSACF, and PSSA. In the evening the Coronation Banquet took place, 59 young ladies vied for the title of 2020 Pennsylvania Fair Queen. Grace VanSciver from the Mifflin County Youth Fair was crowned with the title.

Preparations are under way for the 109<sup>th</sup> annual convention January 20 - 23, 2021 at Hershey, be sure to mark your calendars.

### Recent Mailing

All associate members were mailed membership packets in February. If any associate member had not received their packet, please contact the association office.

Fairs were mailed dues notices early March, after verification of fair classes from the reimbursement office. Packets will be mailed as dues are received. **If your fair did not receive your notice, please contact the association office.**

### Msgr. John W. Mignot PSACF Scholarship Program

The 2020 scholarship material has been posted to the association's website. Funds are available for releasing all 6 scholarships. Thanks to the number of individuals and Fairs that have donated, also to the Spouse Program at Convention.

### Department of Agricultural Poster Contest

The theme of "Imagine the Opportunities". The Contest rules and entry form are posted on our website. By going to [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org), highlight the "MEMBERS" banner, a drop down will appear with the Contest toward the bottom.

### Friend of the Fair

The Friend of the Fair nomination form is also posted on our website. By going to [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org), highlight the "MEMBERS" banner, a drop down will appear with the Contest toward the bottom.

*Harvy*





Dear Fair Folks and Friends,  
I was asked by several Zone 1 members to put together a bus tour to visit some fairs in our neighboring Zone 2. Typical me.....I have jumped "full throttle" into this project !!! I have put together almost a week in sunny Florida visiting 4 different fairs. We are always anxious to escape a Northeastern Winter for a few days, and what better way than to explore some of the Zone 2 fairs together !!!

You have a full year to think about this because our journey won't begin until March of 2021. However, I DO NEED TO KNOW YOUR POSSIBLE/POTENTIAL INTEREST. Here is an idea of our adventure and schedule.

Day 1. Monday, March 1, 2021. Arrive at your leisure in the Fort Pierce area on the East Coast of Florida. (West Palm Beach is the closest airport). Not knowing the area at all, I have decided to stay loyal to one hotel which is part of Ocean Properties. Their sister hotel is the Samoset Resort in Rockport Maine where we held our Zone 1 meeting in the Spring of 2019. We will be staying at the gorgeous Hutchinson Shores Resort Hotel on Jensen Beach 40 miles north of the PBI airport. We will have a gathering and a reception that evening to go over our next few days together.

Day 2. Tuesday, March 2, 2021. We will be picked up by a deluxe motorcoach and taken to visit the St. Lucie County Fair, in Fort Pierce, just north of our hotel, and enjoy our day at the fair, returning to the Hutchinson Shores in the early evening.

Day 3. Wednesday, March 3, 2021. We will travel by motorcoach approximately 2 1/2 hours to the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair in North Fort Myers and spend the rest of the day at the fair. We will check in that evening at a hotel recommended by the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair, the Best Western, smack dab on the Okeechobee Intracoastal Waterway, on the Caloosahatchee River. They have a wonderful restaurant called the #3 Fisherman Seafood Restaurant and an I-HOP on the premises as well.

Day 4. Thursday, March 4, 2021. We will travel by motorcoach approximately 2 hours north to the Tampa area and

spend a 1/2 day visiting the Strawberry Festival in Plant City, Florida. We will check in to the gorgeous Trade Winds Resort, on the pristine St. Petersburg beach on the Gulf of Mexico and relax for the evening.

Day 5. Friday, March 5, 2021. We will head back for a full day of visiting at the Strawberry Festival because there is so much to see and do, and then return back to the Trade Winds Resort.

Day 6. Saturday, March 6, 2021. We will travel a couple of hours East to the Orlando area and visit the Central Florida Fair, and return back to the Trade Winds that evening.

Day 7. Sunday, March 7, 2021. We will be driven early morning to the Tampa airport, TPA, for your return home.

It is still too early to give you an exact cost, but you should plan on an average of approximately \$285, per couple, per day, for the hotels. This is absolute PEAK season in Florida and these beautiful hotels have given us a little bit of a discount during this very popular time to visit Florida. I am planning on spending the next year respectfully requesting some sponsorships to help with the cost of the motorcoach and any other extras during our visit. So, who is ready to join me on this exciting IAFE Zone 1 adventure ???

If you could give me some idea of your interest it would help a lot in reserving the hotel rooms. If I hold too many, there is a very steep penalty if we don't use them all, and if I don't hold enough, there is a chance the hotel will sell out and we will have to disappoint some folks that may want to join us. One hotel has removed the "resort fee", and has given a week to respond back to hold the rooms. So, PLEASE, write me back ASAP, and/or call if you have any questions !!!

I am excited to be able to visit some fairs in a different location and take back some ideas/suggestions/photo's/literature/etc. to our Zone 1 fairs back home. Our friends in Zone 2 are anxious to welcome us !!! Please help spread the word.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn R. Hunter, IAFE Zone 1 Director  
398 Foreside Road Topsham, ME 04086

## PSSA BOARD, OFFICERS, AND DIRECTORS



# COMMUNICATION AWARDS

## Tracy Barone Presenting the Awards



(Left)  
**PREMIUM BOOK-**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabethtown  
 Alyssa Neff,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Oley Valley  
 Shirley Moyer  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Harford Fair  
 David Tyler



(Right)  
**PREMIUM TABLOID**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Huntingdon  
 Emma Watkins,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford County  
 Barbara Mearkle  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Elizabethtown  
 Alyssa Neff



(Left)  
**NON - PREMIUM**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Washington  
 Marissa  
 Gottschalk,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Clearfield  
 D. L. Hallstrom  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Luzerne  
 Kyleigh O'Hara



(Right)  
**BROCHURE**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Allentown  
 Doris Koenig,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Schuylkill  
 Madeline Schuettler  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Centre Co.  
 Grange  
 Ben Haagen



(Left)  
**BILLBOARD**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mason Dixon  
 Kaylee Frey,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Luzerne  
 Kyleigh O'Hara  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Oley Valley  
 Terry Lash



(Right)  
**POWERPOINT**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Harford Fair  
 David Tyler,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Centre Co.  
 Grange  
 George Witherite  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Allentown  
 Cheryl Urmey



(Left)  
**PLACEMATE**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Harford  
 Heidi Cross  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabethtown  
 Alyssa Neff  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Warren  
 Chelsey Toplavich



(Right)  
**VIDEO TAPE**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Centre Co.  
 Grange  
 Ben Haagen  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabethtown  
 Alyssa Neff  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Crawford  
 Susan Tau

# COMMUNICATION AWARDS

## Tracy Barone Presenting the Awards



(Left)  
 SCRAPBOOK  
 COVER  
 TRADITIONAL  
 1<sup>st</sup> Center Co.  
 Grange  
 Krystal Wasson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Warren  
 Chelsey Toplovich  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Potter

(Right)  
 PROMOTIONAL  
 MATERIALS  
 1<sup>st</sup> Center Co.  
 Grange  
 MaryAnn Haagen  
 2<sup>nd</sup> McKean  
 Gretchen Henneman  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Warren  
 Chelsey Toplovich



(Left)  
 SCRAPBOOK TRA-  
 DITIONAL  
 1<sup>st</sup> Warren  
 Chelsey Toplovich  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Huntingdon  
 Emma Watkins  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Erie-Wattsburg  
 Tina Curtis

(Right)  
 SCRAPBOOK DIGI-  
 TAL  
 1<sup>st</sup> Bedford  
 Barbara Mearkle  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Warren  
 Chelsey Toplovich  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Clearfield  
 D L Hallstrom



(Left)  
 SCRAPBOOK  
 COVER DIGITAL  
 1<sup>st</sup> Bedford  
 Barbara Mearkle  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Allentown  
 Cheryl Army  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Cameron  
 Ariel Farren

(Right)  
 FAIR DISPLAY  
 TABLE  
 1<sup>st</sup> Harford Fair  
 Heidi Cross  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Warren  
 Chelsey Toplovich  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Luzerne  
 Kyleigh O'Hara



(Left)  
 CREATIVE FAIR  
 IDEA  
 1<sup>st</sup> Ephrata  
 Sue Pfautz  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Washington  
 Marissa  
 Gottschalk  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Allentown  
 Cheryl Army

(Right)  
 FACEBOOK  
 1<sup>st</sup> Centre Co.  
 Grange  
 MaryAnn Haagen  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Schuylkill  
 Madeline  
 Schuettler  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Oley  
 Linda Shirey



# COMMUNICATION AWARDS

Tracy Barone Presenting the Awards



## FAIR DISPLAY FLOOR

1st Warren Chelsey Toplavich, 2nd Elizabethtown Alyssa Neff, 3rd Erie-Wattsburg Tina Curtis



## WEBSITE

1st Harford Heidi Cross, 2nd Bedford Barb Mearkle, 3rd Waterford Kim Gates

## BEST OF SHOW COMMUNICATION



Warren County – Chelsey Toplavich, Tracy Barone

## JUNIOR FAIR PERSON AWARD



Jamie Supancik from the Harford Fair receiving the award from C. Sherman Allen.

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**ADVOCACY ON CAPITAL HILL**  
OABA Debbie Powers 2nd Vice Chair

**Telling Your Story**

The mobile entertainment industry – which is comprised of carnivals, circuses, food/game concessionaires, independent ride owners, manufacturers/suppliers and others - serve America's Fairs, Festivals and Community events, including charitable, philanthropic organizations, on a seasonal basis. The industry provides wholesome family entertainment and fun for 500 million Americans for up to 10 months each year by providing portable amusement rides, food, and games to local carnivals, festivals, charity events and state and local agricultural fairs.

Since Elkanah Watson's first small county fair in the early 1800s, fairs have shown few signs of decline. Today, there are approximately 2,000 county and state fairs nationwide. Some of these fairs, such as the State Fair of Texas and the Erie County Fair in New York, continually draw in more than 1,000,000 attendees each year, making them some of the most greatly-attended events in the country.

Fairs not only promote agriculture, but also supply jobs; support rural economic development and local commerce; and provide opportunities for youth and adult education. The success of a fair is dependent on its volunteers and youth through programs. Groups like 4-H and the Future Farmers of America encourage young people to participate in agriculture, and offer both educational demonstrations and competitions at a number of yearly events.

The mobile entertainment industry is a major economic engine with an estimated 25,000 employees involved seasonally, and some 5,000 full-time, year-round employees. The economic impact of this industry and its impact on America's fairs, festivals and community events is in the range of several billion dollars, annually.

**Framing the Issue - Fairs and the Mobile Entertainment Industry Rely Upon Temporary Seasonal Labor**

Due to the seasonal nature of this industry, combined with the challenges of securing, reliable seasonal labor and the mobility of those engaged in the business, the industry has relied on some 6,500 to 7,000 H-2B visa employees. This industry has a very high percentage of returning labor, each season, with its seasonal guest workers in the H-2B visa program. The H-2B visa program has been plagued with constantly changing H-2B regulations and severe processing delays. Seasonal employers in the mobile amusement industry cannot plan for future business growth, purchase new rides/equipment and execute contracts with America's fairs, etc., when there is continued uncertainty with the H-2B visa program from one year to the next.

**Clarifying the Official Ask of a Congressional Office**

Seasonal employers such as carnivals cannot recruit enough U.S. workers under any circumstances to maintain an adequate legal workforce to meet their contractual obligations during the season of operation. The existing statutory cap of 66,000 is outdated and inadequate especially during a strong economy with low unemployment. **Congress needs to provide a permanent and substantial increase in the number of**

***H-2B visas available every year. We need your commitment to help pass authorizing language this year to accomplish that goal.***

**How to Advocate on Capitol Hill**

Before scheduling and finalizing any meetings on the Hill, it is important for you to know your member. If you have developed a relationship with him/her, presumably, you already know something about them.

However, understanding the district, committee assignments, legislative priorities of the Member is really important. You can do your research by google, the Member's website, or by signing up for the Member's newsletter or other electronic communication tool. Once the meeting is scheduled, here are a few pointers to follow:

1. **Be clear on the "ask"** – know the issues and some background on the topic before the meeting - lay out our objectives clearly and succinctly during the first few minutes of your meeting and ensure that you make the official ask (see page 1) early in your presentation. It is important to note that these congressional appointments can be as short as a few minutes and usually no more than 12-15 minutes (especially if meeting with a Member).
2. **Know to whom you're talking** – understanding the Congressional office hierarchy is important. Not visiting with the Member is not the end of the world - meeting with the Chief of Staff or Legislative Director is a huge win as these individuals influence policy and strategy in the office. A meeting with the Legislative Assistant who handles the portfolio that includes our issues is extremely helpful. However, meeting with the Staff Assistant or Legislative Correspondent (unless they handle these issues) is generally not a valuable use of time.
3. **Know your issue** – understand the issues, understand the pros and cons of the "ask" and always remember to say you do not have the answer to a question if you cannot answer it – but be prepared to follow-up with the information requested.

See Fairs & Expos next page.....

From Fairs & Expos previous page.....

4. **Connect your issue to the Member's district or state** – it is always more impactful and meaningful to a Member or the office if you can make a personal connection to the District. For instance, how many constituents do you employ in the district, how many people attend your Fair or Expo, what is the impact to the district if the ask is not met, etc.
5. **The Three Don'ts**
  - Do not be long-winded** in your meeting. This issue is important to us, but there are 15 other top priorities that the staffer you are meeting with is dealing with. Keeping it short and concise is what will set you apart from others.
  - Do not bury the ask** (deliver our ask/request in first 5 minutes of the meeting)
  - Do not go off message**
6. **Leave Prepared Materials Behind** – Materials should be short, concise and reiterate the ask with some additional background information. Make sure your contact information is provided in the material.
7. **Follow-up ASAP** - Thank the Member of Congress and/or Hill Staffer for their time with a reminder of the topic of the meeting in the note for reference. Send along information from a reliable source to keep the Member's office aware of your issue. Enhance and develop the relationship further by attending public events or town halls in your district to increase your visibility and build your relationships with the office to serve as a trustworthy resource on your issue.

## **FARM SHOW AWARDS**

Heidi Svonavec Presenting the Awards



Jim Edwards Bedford County Fair accepting the Angel Food Cake award, baked by Pam Foor.



Susan Hahn Plainfield Farmers Fair accepting the Apple Pie award, baked by Sharon Kurtz.



Glenn Stoltzfus Manheim Community Farm Show accepting the PA Preferred Jr Baking award, baked by Faith Landis.



D L Hallstrom Clearfield Fair accepting the Chocolate Cake award, baked by Joshua Baughman.

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

### American Legion County Fair:

President William Harker

### Crawford County Fair:

President George Deshner

Secretary Diana Perry

### Unionville Community Fair:

Secretary Don May

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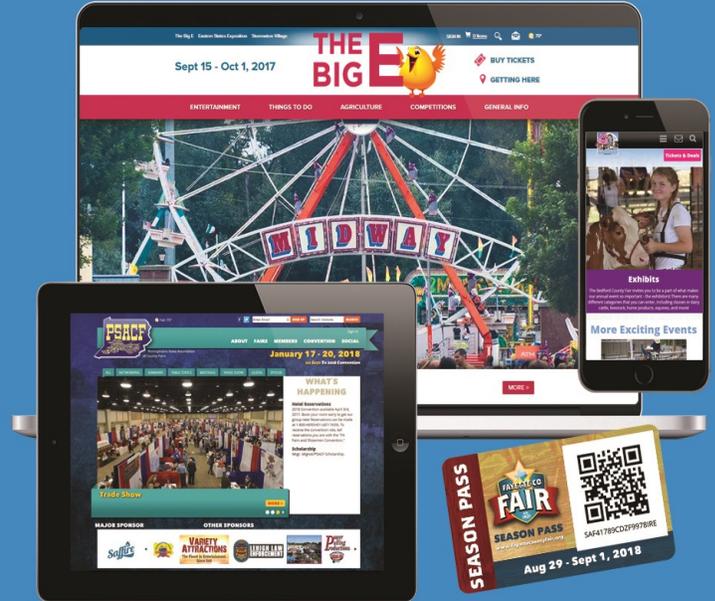
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*The Big E, Eastern States Exposition*

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## FROM CONVENTION



Spouse's Bingo



At the PSSA Banquet Twitty and Lynn



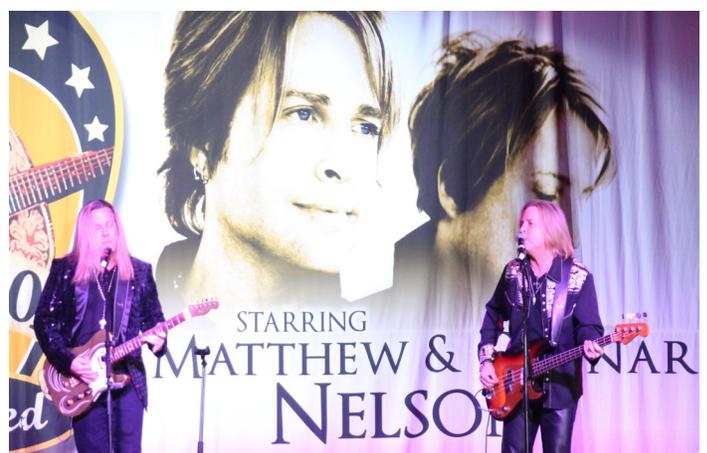
Entertainment Prior to Opening Celebration



Keynote Speaker Kenny Aronoff and Corky and Debbie Powers



At the PSACF Banquet The Hobbs Sisters



At the PSACF Banquet A Night of Nelsons, Matthew and Gunnar Nelson



It was so nice to see everyone at the Fair Convention in January. Once again, I heard lots of enthusiasm from the fairs about new and exciting exhibits and attractions, which I look forward to experiencing this year.

It was great to hear the fairs exchange ideas, share their success stories, and at times their struggles as well. Secretary Redding has described the fairs as "...individual quilt blocks that together form a tapestry that tells the story of our commonwealth."

A large part of the fair experience focuses on agriculture and its story: past, present and future. At the Lawrence County Fair, I had a chance to chat with the quilting ladies who provided fairgoers with a live demonstration and spoke about the history of the fair and how they've shared their time and talents to keep this exhibit alive. At the PA Maple Festival, I learned (along with 25 third-graders) how spotza is made and the story of the Native Americans who shared this recipe with the early settlers. And last year, I was one of the judges in the PA Preferred® Youth Baking Contest, yum! These are just a few examples of how the fairs use various aspects of the agricultural experience to tell their stories and engage different generations in preserving traditions and passing the torch to future ag enthusiasts.



I believe every fair has a story to tell – what's yours? Like the quilt pictured above, Pennsylvania's fairs share a common thread and together tell the story of the land, people, and industry that feeds the world. I look forward to hearing your story this fair season.

**UPDATE: Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Project Matching Fund Grant Applications**

We've processed all but a few of the Capital Improvement Grant payments for FY 2018-2019. If you haven't received payment, please let us know.

**IMPORTANT! Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Project Matching Funds Grant Contracts**

The Priority 1 applications submitted last June have been approved. Ninety percent of the contract documents will be sent to the fairs via email for E-Signature. If you need help e-signing, please contact DCED's Customer Service Center at 1-800-379-7448. If you did not submit your original Capital Improvement Project Matching Fund Grant application electronically, you will receive a traditional paper copy.

**2020 Fair Season Poster Contest**

The theme for this year's poster contest is "Imagine the Opportunities," based on the 2020 PA Farm Show theme. Contestants are asked to submit artwork that highlights careers and new trends in agriculture. In addition to traditional farming activities, participants are encouraged to explore specialized areas of the agriculture industry, as well as the new and improved methods, tools and technologies that help in all aspects of the farm industry.



**Deadline: November 1, 2020**

**Animal Health Rules for PA Fairs**

If you didn't attend the Bureau of Animal Health's seminar and training at the PSACF Convention, information related to the rules as they pertain to PA's fairs can be found on the Fair Fund webpage on the PA Department of Agriculture's website. If you'd like a copy mailed to you, please let us know.

**Forms & Information**

Forms and information related to the 2020 Fair Poster Contest, Friend of the Fair Awards, Animal Health Rules for PA Fairs, etc., can be found on PDA's website: [www.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov). You can always call or email me at: [tbarone@pa.gov](mailto:tbarone@pa.gov), office:717-772-3094.



Please help to keep us on track by meeting these deadlines!

June 1	Friend of the Fair Requests Due
June 30	2020/2021 Capital Improvement Applications Due
August 31	2019/2020 Capital Improvements Complete
August 30	2019/2020 Completion Reports Due
November 1	2020 Fair Season Poster Contest Entries Due

## Msgr. John W. Mignot PSACF Scholarship

It is time for fairs to communicate with agricultural organizations and school counselors about the Mignot Scholarship which is for those who are seeking higher education and have a relationship with the local fair.

Suggestions to help the applicant submit a better application:

1. Keep in mind; fairs are supervised by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Therefore, the mission is to promote Agriculture.
2. Essays should be written with correct grammar, no spelling errors, and a fluency which captivates the reader.
3. Categorize activities as related to school, community, and the local fair.
4. Letters of reference need to express who the candidate is in relation to the outlined activities and, in particular, in relation to helping the local fair.

Suggestions for fairs to be more proactive in reaching out to potential candidates and in helping to sustain the scholarship:

1. Local fairs should establish a committee assigned to encourage those pursuing higher education to apply.
2. Letters of reference and support should give the PSACF scholarship committee enough information to become acquainted with the candidate.
3. A maximum of six strong applicants from each zone can be submitted to the PSACF scholarship committee. The committee should have a maximum of 24 candidates to evaluate.
4. Use technology, if at all possible, when submitting applications to the next level.
5. PSACF has committed to six one-thousand dollar scholarships. In order to help maintain the fund, each fair should consider a line item in its budget or sponsor a fundraiser.

Deadlines for all levels to follow to adhere to the application process:

1. June 30-applications due to the local fair
2. July 31- applications due to the Zone chairperson
3. August 31-maximum of six applications from each zone due to the chairperson of the PSACF scholarship committee
4. September 30-application rankings by each PSACF committee member due to the state Chairperson
5. October 1-state committee chairperson identifies the top six candidates to the state secretary, local fairs of selected recipients, and each individual recipient

## E-TOWN CLAIMS THE CONVENTION FAMILY FUED TITLE

BY: Kevin D. Bieber

There is nothing like winding down a busy convention with a little bit of fun. On Saturday afternoon, four of our PA State Fairs took to battle in the 2020 version of Family Fued. It was fierce, it was exciting, but most of all it was fun !!!

Game 1 had the teams of our State President's Fair Elizabethtown, square off against our State Vice President Sam Zaffuto's Fair, the Sykesville Ag and Youth Fair. After an early lead by Sykesville, the Elizabethtown Fair team came roaring back for the win. That win put them into the final round for the championship. The chal-

lenger for Elizabethtown was yet to be known as now the Hookstown Fair took on Harmony Grange Fair. Once again it was tight, but the Hookstown Fair came out the winner and right to advance to the championship round.

In the championship round, Elizabethtown eventually took home the coveted Giant Hershey Bars as a memory of their winning afternoon while Hookstown had to settle with the mini Hershey Bar. Overall, it was lots of fun had by all and we look forward to more fun next year. If your fair wishes to participate next year, please watch future FairTalk issues on how to sign up. I would like to thank both Bruce Koppenhaver for manning the electronics of the game while our emcee Scott Schmittel handled the fierce competitors.

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## Message from Our Associates

— Galla Higinbotham  
The 2020 PSACF/  
PSSA convention was a  
big success and it was  
great to see everyone  
who attended.

Wednesday evening's Talent Showcase had something for every fair: 18 acts of magic, acrobats, tribute bands featuring music of the Cars and Creedence Clearwater Revival, hot fiddle playing, people disappearing into balloons, a Grammy nominated singer and numerous styles of music. The Lebanon Area Fair, who were sitting at a front row table said, when it was over, "Bravo!! Best showcase ever!"

Larry Starcher and Sound Rental Service kept everything moving as they provided sound and lighting for the evening and the rest of the week's events. More entertainment was presented before the Opening Celebration (American Pride - A Statler Brothers Tribute), strolling acts prior to the PSACF banquet (Magic Masters and mime artist Chris Yerlig) and during the banquet (The Hobbs Sisters and A Night of the Nelsons) and during the PSSA banquet (Twitty and Lynn).

The Trade Show looked great and was bus-

ting with fairs and associates doing business, saying hi to one another and making new contacts, especially during the open time of 11:00 - 1:00 between the morning and afternoon seminars on Thursday and Friday. It was a fine place to do business as it exhibited 160 booths of vendors, some of whom have been coming to the convention for years - decades even - and quite a few newcomers.

Thank you to Dick Horstman and his committee for working so hard to accommodate the demand for many booths. Wholesale distributor W. A. DeHart offered complimentary coffee daily to all exhibitors and everyone who came through the Trade Show and everyone enjoyed the "Sticker Game".

For those who didn't get a chance to speak to everyone all the way around the room, or didn't get to come to the convention, your associate members are listed in your 2020 directory, a valuable resource.

All associate members were mailed membership packets in February. If any associate member has not received his/her packet, please contact Harry at [hreffner@centurylink.net](mailto:hreffner@centurylink.net).

Until we meet again on the road, everyone please stay safe!

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# Update from The Zones

1

## Zone One – Sam Zaffuto

It seems like we just finished with our convention and now most fairs are finalizing their plans for their upcoming fairs.

I'd like to congratulate the Harmony Grange Fair. They were the unanimous choice of our zone one directors to receive the Zone One Fair of the Year award. Congratulations for all you do to make your fair an event that your community looks forward to each year.

Our spring zone meeting will be held Friday April 24 at 6:30 pm at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. We thank the Jefferson County Fair board for inviting us to use their facilities for our meeting. Their fairgrounds is easily accessible and located just off Interstate 80 near Brookville. Please plan to have your fair represented at this meeting. You can look forward to hearing an update from the Department of Agriculture as well as a report from the officers of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs. Shannon Shaffer's Catering again will be providing a delicious meal for us. Please watch your mail at the end of March for registration information.

Jefferson Township Fair has volunteered to conduct the raffle to support the Msgr. John Mignot Memorial Scholarship program. Our zone has raised over \$4,000 to support the scholarship program through these raffles. Please come prepared to continue your generous support of this worthwhile program. If your fair has high school and college aged students that are involved in your fair, please be sure to let them know that they can apply for our scholarship. PSACF awards six \$1,000 scholarships annually. Details about the scholarship program are available on the PSACF website: [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org).

Please mark your calendars for our fall zone meeting which is planned for Friday October 23. We will be electing six Executive Committee members at that meeting to represent our zone during 2021 and 2022.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the zone meeting and we're all looking forward to a successful fair season.

2

## Zone Two— Roger Dirlam

It is hard to believe that nearly two months have passed since the Convention and we are all working diligently getting ready for the 2020 Fair season. Hopefully the weather will be a little more cooperative this year.

The Convention seems to have been a great success. The Trade Show has only become better each year. It allows Fairs to see first-hand what the vendors have to offer and enable them to make informed decisions. Overall, everyone seemed to enjoy the Convention.

Congratulations are in order to the Troy Fair for receiving the 2019 Zone Two Fair Award. Their Board has worked very hard to overcome some unbelievable obstacles provided by Mother Nature.

We are pleased to announce that Grace VanSeiver, Mifflin County Youth Fair, was named 2020 Fair Queen.

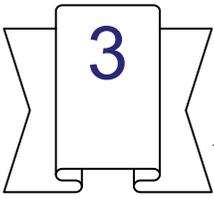
We lost two members of our Zone 2 family in the last couple of months. Robert Heydenreich, Lycoming and Bloomsburg Board member and past President of the PSACF, passed away on January 1, 2020. Bryan Utegg, President Green-Dreher-Sterling Fair and PSACF Board members passed away on January 28, 2020. They will be greatly missed.

We would like to welcome Lyn Klingerman, President of the Green-Dreher-Sterling Fair, to the PSACF Board.

On a less than happy note – two things that may affect the Fairs in 2020 are the Coronavirus and as Debbie Powers noted at the Convention, H2B Visas for carnival workers.

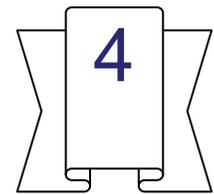
Sullivan County Fair will host the Spring Zone 2 meeting on April 25, 2020. It will be held at the Endless Winds Volunteer Fire Company in Shunk. If you have not already received your invitation, you should receive it shortly. Mark your calendars – hope to see you there!

See Zones nest page .....



**Zone Three** — Debbie Stephenson

Spring is just around the corner...so they say -as every day is different just like our fairs. Hopefully we all have made it through Winter and the start of Spring. The zone 3 spring meeting will be held at Westmoreland County Fairgrounds. Directions to follow from John Blaney with the reservation requests. Please send at least one representative from your fair for information retrieval. It will be held on April 23, 2020, with registration at 630 PM. Congratulations to our Zone 3 Fair of the Year Award Williamsburg Community Farm Show and our new PA State Fair Queen Miss Grace VanSciver from the Mifflin County Youth Fair. At this meeting we will have updates from PSACF and for the Department of Agriculture. Hopefully by this time we all have received the notifications of our proposed Department of Agriculture Grants if you put in for those and all have received their reimbursement checks from 2019. See you all at Westmoreland County Fairgrounds!!



**Zone Four** - Kevin Bieber

It was great to see many of you at convention. Now it's onto fair season and the prayers for the good weather during our fairs. The Directors from Zone 4 are once again looking forward to attending your fairs. Your generosity and kindness is always so warming when we arrive.

I would like to congratulate the Middletown Grange Fair for being awarded the Zone 4 Fair of the Year at convention. This fair has formed many partnerships that help present a wonderful fair experience to the many attendees. They continue to look for ways to improve their fair and their leadership thinks outside the box to adapt or change for the betterment of the fair. Congratulations once again to the Middletown Grange Fair.

I would like to remind you, as I always do, to please remember to invite your local legislators to your fair. Remember, these are the men and wom-

en who stand behind us when it becomes voting time for budgets etc. Show them how hard you work; show them how you are showcasing Pennsylvania's number one industry. I assure you, your efforts will go a long way.

The Spring Zone meeting will be hosted by the Blue Valley Farm Show on Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Watch your e-mail for the invite. Again, best of luck to all the fairs for a successful 2020 fair season.

**Saturday Seminar \$100.00 Gift Card Winners Announced**

By: Kevin D. Bieber

Did you get up and attend a Saturday morning seminar? If you did, you had the chance to win a \$100.00 VISA Gift Card. Here are the lucky winners who walked away with a \$100.00 Gift card.

Food Safety Seminar - Patrick Haversack – Clearfield Co. Fair

Technology Seminar - Kathy Kline – Crawford Co. Fair

Show Me the \$\$\$ Seminar - Kelly Erhard – Potter Co. Fair

Congratulations to all the winners

To view and order pictures taken at the PSACF and PA Showmen's Convention go online to;

[www.PSACF20.photoherald.com](http://www.PSACF20.photoherald.com)

the password is: 2020

For the Entertainment Showcase; [www.Showcase.photoherald.com](http://www.Showcase.photoherald.com)  
password: 2020

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# PA Fair Queen Program

By Karen Dobson



The 2020 convention concluded with the glitz and glamour of the Pennsylvania Fair Queen coronation. Congratulations to Mifflin County Youth Fair Queen Grace VanSciver of Belleville, Mifflin County on being chosen as the 34rd PA Fair Queen.

Grace, the 16-year-old daughter of Holly VanSciver, is a senior at Mifflin County High School and is also pursuing an engineering degree at Penn State University.

Grace is a member of the National Honor Society, is the Vice-President of the Mifflin County 4-H Teen Council, and shows rabbits statewide as a member of the American Rabbit Breeders Association. She is also an author and has recently published her first

book of poetry entitled Dance of the Heart.

Grace will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs at the end of her reign in January 2021. She was crowned by outgoing Pennsylvania Fair Queen Mikara Anderson of Three Springs, Huntingdon County.

Each of the 59 contestants was evaluated on their written communication, interview and public speaking skills, as well as their knowledge of the fair and agriculture industries,

Five finalists were chosen and gave impromptu answers about the two key people they believe could help them successfully promote agriculture.

York County Fair Queen Abigail Wurzbach, 18, of Brogue, PA, was selected as Alternate 2020 Pennsylvania Fair Queen. The daughter of Rich and Missy Wurzbach, Abby is studying secondary social studies education at York College of Pennsylvania. She attended York Catholic High School where she was an honor student and participated in student council, band and the ALPHA Peers Helpers Club.

Other top five finalists were Centre County Grange Fair Queen Morgan Bair of Centre Hall, Centre County; McKean County Fair Queen Gretchen Henneman of Bradford, McKean County; and West Lampeter Community Fair Queen Jessica Herr of Lancaster, Lancaster County. Clearfield County Fair Queen Rebecca Liddle of Dubois, Clearfield County, was named Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.

Judges were Ashley Boteler of Virginia; Lynn Talbert of Maryland; and Renee Wilson, also from Maryland. Several past PA fair queens also participated in the coronation crowning ceremony including Denise Sustrik Leigh (1990); Kristi Rooker Kassimer (2005); Nicole Clemson Mirra (2009), Lia Schmittel (2014); Elizabeth Voight (2018) and Madison Sickler (2019 Alternate).

Special Queen activities during convention included a seminar on "Young Women's Leadership" presented by former PA Fair Queen Denise Sustrik Leigh (1990) and sponsored by **Washington County Ag Fair**. Contestant wore their commemorative t-shirts sponsored by **SwikaS Amusements** and **Mike and Judy Kmetz** at their Pizza Party sponsored by the **Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association**. Each contestant received a commemorative photo with 2019 PA Fair Queen Mikara Anderson sponsored by **Tons of Fun Shows**. Contestants mingled with judges, state directors and other special guests on Friday night during the Judges' Reception sponsored by **Houghton Enterprises**. Former PA Fair Queen Nicole Clemson Mirra presented a mini seminar on "Queen of First Impressions" to the fair queen contestants and coordinators.

Special fundraising efforts included a Raffle Table with themed baskets, the popular nightly 50/50 money drawings and a live auction at the Coronation Banquet. Popular auction items included three “Dine Out” boards with chain restaurant gift cards donated by the contestants; a fair scene painted by William Czarnecki along with an autographed book - [A Fair Recollection](#) - by Tina Curtis; autographed drum sticks by convention keynote speaker & renowned drummer Kenny Arnoff; apparel from celebrity music artists donated by **Variety Attractions**; a toy horse and cart jointly donated by the **PA Fair Harness Horsemen Association and George Dishner and Ken Hyde from the Crawford County Fair**; the second in a series of handmade wooden bowls donated by **Jeff Romesberg** from the Somerset County Fair; and a handmade PA fair quilt designed by the 2019 PA Fair Queen **Mikara Anderson**. The PA Fair Queen Program thanks everyone who gave volunteer hours, gift and basket donations and monetary contributions to make this a great fundraising year. All proceeds will allow us to continue to grow the Program to new heights and maintain our high standards of excellence.

The Coronation Banquet, sponsored in part by **AMP Global Strategies** and **Skelly Amusements** was attended by 850 guests. Special presentations included the PSACF Junior Fair Person award given to Jamie Supancik of the Harford Fair and the scholarship awarded to outgoing PA Fair Queen Mikara Anderson by **PSACF**. Musical performance was provided by “Mockingbird”, sponsored by **Tim McGowan Studio**. Special thanks to **Dan and Galla** for coordinating with the stage/lighting/sound logistics and assisting with the rehearsals; and to the following patron sponsors: **Dawn and Carroll Krautter** (crowns); **Cheryl Urmy** (sashes); **Stineman Ribbon** (contestant numbers); and **Huntingdon County Fair** (Queen Mikara Anderson’s event brochures).

The 2020 PA Fair Queen Program’s Rules and Guidelines for the local contests were distributed at Convention. The information can also be downloaded from the PSACF website: [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org) (*under the “Members-Queen” menu; no login required*). The official 2020 State Competition Application Packets will be distributed at the Spring Zone meetings. A pick-up signature will be required.

VanSciver and Wurzbach will now spend the remainder of the year touring PA promoting fairs and agriculture. They can be wonderful assets for your Fair or agricultural event! They can be requested to participate at special ceremonies, contests, parades and ag-related events. All appearances must be submitted to PA Fair Queen Events Coordinator Martha Ebersole in writing using the official Scheduling Request Form (available at [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org) under the “Members-Queen” menu). All requests will be scheduled based on the date the request is received, and the Queen and Alternate’s availability. Contact Martha at [mebasket@embarqmail.com](mailto:mebasket@embarqmail.com) or 717-834-4435 with any questions.

## Trade Show Sticker Game Winners Announced:

Austin Norton – Manheim Community Farm Show – Hershey Weekend Getaway

Bonnie Musser - Unionville Community Fair - \$100.00

Suann Johnson - Hookstown Fair - \$100.00

Alvin Vogel – Butler Farm Show - Fire & Grain Restaurant, Dinner for 2

Roger Altman - Westmoreland Fair - \$100.00

Kayleigh Cornell – Lackawanna County Heritage Fair - \$100.00

Jennie Rogers – Centre County Grange Fair - \$100.00

## From the PA State Fair Queen



Greetings!

My name is Grace Van-Sciver and it is my honor to represent Pennsylvania fairs and the agricultural industry as the 2020 Pennsylvania Fair Queen! I am the 16-year-old daughter of Holly Van-Sciver, and we reside in the beautiful farming community of Belleville, in Mifflin County. I am a senior at Mifflin County

High School and am a member of the National Honor Society. My extracurricular activities revolve around 4-H where I've had incredible opportunities to grow in my animal husbandry and agricultural knowledge and experience. As a part of the Mifflin County 4-H program, I am currently the President of the Rabbit Club and Vice-President of the 4-H Teen Council. Over the past 8 years in 4-H, I also broadened my experience by participating as a member of the Horse and Pony Club and Dog Club for a year.

I grew up experiencing different cultures and my first experience with agriculture actually started in Zambia where I was born, and where my mom adopted me. We lived in a rural area and my mom was part of a team setting up a large community garden (2 acres), and helped initiate a healthy eating program for the widows and orphans in the area. They planted and grew potatoes, tomatoes, corn, and other vegetables... all by hand! My feet were in the dirt even before my earliest memories. We could walk out our back door and pick bananas, lemons, oranges and avocados! I was privileged to learn early where our food comes from. After we returned to the U.S., 4-H opened the doors for me into the world of animals, agriculture, and county fairs!

In addition to agricultural knowledge, my county fair has taught me invaluable life lessons: hard work, perseverance, healthy competition and good sportsmanship. I have developed lifelong friendships as a result of attending my Mifflin County Fair over the years, and was excited to have those years culminate in the Pennsylvania State Fair

Queen pageant! It has actually taken some time for the title to sink in. I still don't think it fully has, but I continue to be honored and humbled by all the fantastic people I met at Hershey. I want to give my highest congratulations to all the world-changing ladies I met during the few pageant days. The work you all do in promoting agriculture in the places you call home is significant and I'm proud to stand with you in promoting our amazing County Fairs!

Soon after the pageant, I attended Cornucopia at the Pennsylvania State Capital. After Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding's inspiring opening speech, I enjoyed my time talking with him about the influential Farm-to-School Bill that is setting the stage of agriculture education in classrooms. Walking through the event, I learned of many amazing programs that actively are involved in support of farmers and agriculture. I enjoyed meeting Chris Hoffman who was awarded pig farmer of the year. He explained to me the details behind the award and I learned that one of his many barns is in my county! I also loved meeting the Pennsylvania Honey Queen, the Pennsylvania State Dairy Princess, and the FFA State Council.

As the weather gets warmer, I look ahead with excitement to all the Fairs I've been invited to attend. Each fair brings a unique flair and personality to our Commonwealth, and I look forward to embracing and being a part of it. If you see me walking the grounds of your fair, be sure to stop me and say hello. I will be delighted to meet you!

I'd like to thank my mom for her ongoing support and encouragement; the Mifflin County Fair for their dedication to the youth of Mifflin County; Skylar Bree and Anna Mackneer for supporting me at the pageant; the PA Fair Queen Program; and to the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs for the incredible opportunity I've been given.

As Spring is just around the corner, I wish you all a fruitful growing season and good health. Remember in this busy season to enjoy quality time with family and friends. Thanks to all of you who work every day in support of the great Ag industry.

Grace

# Welcome New Associates!

## Attractions, Miscellaneous

### **Carrie McQueen Ultimate Stiltwalker**

PO Box 933 Kennesaw GA 30156

Phone: (770) 883-1947

WebSite: carriemcqueen.com

E-Mail: carriemcqueen@gmail.com Info: Stiltwalker

### **Dr. Magical Balloons**

PO Box 663 Auburn AL 36831

Phone: (334) 444-5467

E-Mail: dewayne@dewayneReynolds.com

Info: Comedy Magic Show/Strolling balloons

### **Fight Underground**

c/o Sidekick Media Services

1619 Broadway Avenue, Suite 100

Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Phone: (412) 342-8057, 2nd Phone (412) 302-8390

WebSite: www.futhrowdown.com

E-Mail: missy@sidekickmediaservices.com

Info: Sports Entertainment/Live Wrestling

### **KOI Drag Racing**

238 W. Seminary St Owenton KY 40359

Phone: (859) 576-7380

WebSite: www.koidragracing.com

E-Mail: blossom32379@aol.com

Info: Dirt Drag Racing

### **Lee Andrews**

141 Hadden Hall Drive Macon GA 31210

Phone: (678) 315-4329

WebSite: leeandrewsproductions.com

E-Mail: leeandrewsproductions@gmail.com

Info: Comedy Magic and Juggling Show

### **Phantom Entertainment**

50 Clay Rd. Carlisle PA 17015

Phone: (717) 258-4401 Fax: (717) 258-4202

WebSite: www.phantomentertainment.com

E-Mail: phantomcom@comcast.net

Info: Amusement rides, mechanical bulls, inflatable games, and novelties.

### **Attractions, Thrill & Stunt Shows Andy Rotz**

9745 Garis Shop Rd Hagerstown MD 21740

Phone: (301) 991-3956

WebSite: www.andyrotz.com

E-Mail: andy@andyrotz.com

Info: Wild West Show

### **Xtreme Monster Sports Inc**

8721 Woodbine Rd Airville PA 17302-8942

Phone: (717) 870-4155

WebSite: www.xmonstersports.com

Info: If you would like to learn more about having one of our monster trucks make an appearance at your event or to book the trucks for a performance or to give rides please call.

## Musical Attractions

### **Echo Valley**

377 Echo Valley Rd New Galilee PA 16141

Phone: (724) 714-9625

WebSite: echovalleybluegrass.com

E-Mail: echovalleybluegrass@gmail.com

Info: Echo Valley has been entertaining people of all ages since 2009 with their variety of traditional bluegrass, gospel, Celtic, and folk styles.

### **Jeff Orrin/Penny Cone Junction**

525 Rivermill Road Jersey Shore PA 17740

Phone: (570) 360-7757

Info: Music

### **Meat Loaf Show**

66 Townsend Ave Swoyersville PA 18704

Phone: (570) 760-7341 Fax: (570) 779-0695

E-Mail: unclerobbysgarage@gmail.com

Info: Show Band Tribute Band

## Security

### **Premier Atlantic Security Group Inc**

PO Box 147 Breinigsville PA 18031

Phone: (570) 581-8660 Phone 2: (570) 527-1433

Fax: (570) 581-8549

WebSite: www.lleoa.com

E-Mail: info@lleoa.com

Info: Security Services, Traffic Control, Event EMS, Emergency Plan Development, Venue Equipment Rental