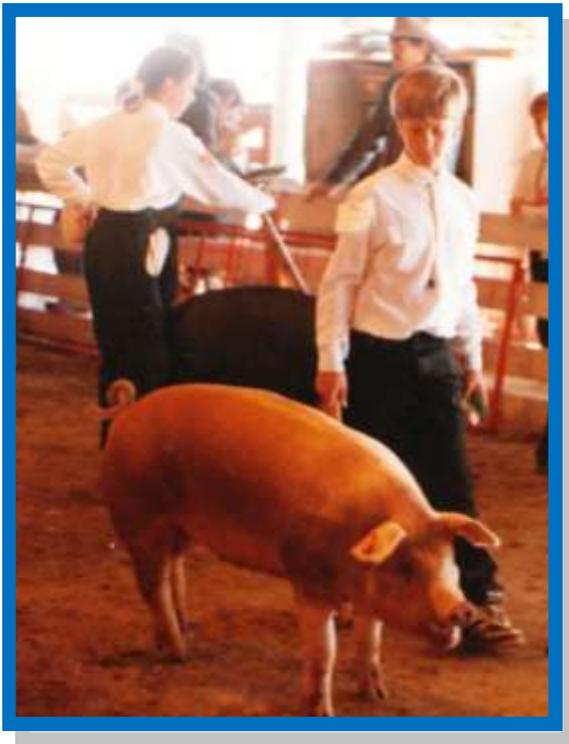




Fair Exchange

January
2017

Message from Dane Dugan, RMAF President



I would like to start by wishing all of you a Happy New Year! May the next twelve months bring prosperity in your professional and personal lives. A new year signals a fresh start for many of us, myself included. Cheers to whatever great things that may bring!

As we announced at convention, our theme for 2017 is "Set Your Wheels in Motion: Activate. Elevate. Innovate.". This seems very fitting for this time of year because we all know that in order to create

change or make progress towards a goal, you must take the first step. Activate your action plan. Get moving. In future editions of the newsletter, we plan on highlighting how our membership is activating, elevating and innovating in communities throughout our region. This industry is known for being great at all three of those things so it will be fun to recognize and showcase those accomplishments.

Just like the holiday season, fairs always bring about those nostalgic feelings of your childhood. I chose the picture included with this article **because I'm constantly reminded how my experiences in 4-H, FFA and working at the fair helped shape who I am today.** Many people just think of the fair as cotton candy and carnival rides. For me, it was **home.** I'd spend my summers volunteering in the fair office and helping with landscaping around the grounds. I quickly gained a sense of ownership and pride in the facility and am forever thankful for the wonderful people I met through this experience. It also introduced me to a unique industry that I always want to be a part of - **whether that's managing a fair or as a service member.**

The number one aspect of the fair industry that makes it so great...the people. These relationships are incredibly meaningful and they really **do last a lifetime.** I'm so thankful for the many friendships and sense of family that has been built because of them. It makes trekking through the tough times so much more bearable.

Speaking of people, I want to make a special shout-out to our Executive Secretary, Nancy Pitz for all that she does to ensure our association is successful. Nancy is a cornerstone and anchor for everything that happens with RMAF. Simply put, thank you for all that you do.

Well, the ride of 2017 is already in motion. Let's enjoy and make the most of it.

This may be your last newsletter!

If you have not paid your 2017 dues, your membership is in danger of becoming INACTIVE.



Up-Coming Meetings & Conventions

November 8-11, 2017—92nd Annual RMAF Convention, Hotel Eleganté, Colorado Springs, Colorado

November 7-10, 2018—93rd Annual RMAF Convention, Holiday Inn Grand Montana, Billings, Montana

November 13-16, 2019—94th Annual RMAF Convention, Davis Conference Center, Layton, Utah

November 11—14, 2020, 95th Annual RMAF Convention, Hotel Eleganté, Colorado Springs, Colorado

2016 RMAF Board of Directors

President:	Dane Dugan, Fair Time Consulting
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Director:	Michael Mezmer, Service Member
Director:	Tammie Ryan, Service Member
Past President:	Brandon Bird, Eastern Idaho State Fair



Eldon E. Rice Passed away January 1, 2017 at Rosebud Healthcare Center surrounded by his family.

Once upon a time, there along the banks of the lower Yellowstone Valley near Savage, Montana, arrived a toe head on October 30, 1933. He was born to George and Ottoni Rice following their arrival from Oklahoma in a Model-T, joining four siblings; Loraine, George Jr., Virginia and Eloise. Grandpa Pedersen and Uncle Albert Pedersen were on a sugar beet farm, where everyone worked on the small diversified farm raising crops and cattle during the "Dirty Thirties" until they acquired their own farm near the intake diversion. Things started and agriculture became more favorable. Eldon graduated from Savage High School in 1952.

He attended Montana State from 1952-1956 receiving a degree in General Agriculture and Commission in the US Army, Armor Branch, serving in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Korea, and Fort Lewis, Washington, before starting his Extension Career in Rosebud-Treasure Counties on February 1, 1960. He returned to Montana State and received a Master's Degree in Range Science in 1965.

Eldon served on many boards and committees over the years, serving as secretary for several. Eldon made acquaintances easy and, until coal development started to expand open-pit mining, he knew about every family in Rosebud and Treasure Counties. Early in Extension Career, he met Morla Cole and they married in June 1962. From this marriage Morla Elizabeth was born, a beautiful toe head little girl just like her dad.

Eldon and family purchased the old OZ Ranch on Armells Creek in 1970. A variety of animals were always on the place, keeping the work ethic going along with career work. Due to coal development and rapid growth forecast for the area, the County Commissioners requested that Eldon coordinate planning board activities. **He said he didn't know anything about planning, but the Commissioners responded with "You know the people!"**

The planning commission carried out activities from 1974-1985, when budgets were down sized, resulting in job termination. Eldon sought new employment and landed in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, in another county agent role. Morla Elizabeth was in college first at Dawson Community College and later Dickenson Community College where the love of her life, Mike Moser, had a full scholarship to play basketball.

Retirement was in the picture for Eldon in late 1988, thus returning to Rosebud County, where he became involved in the County Fair. 1985 was perhaps one of the most eventful years, he sought new employment early, went through divorce in October, and married Velma in December. This expanded family brought two step-children; Jess Owen Bardon and Jerette Lynne Bardon.

Eldon was always drawn to the farm environment where he worked on various farms, particularly helping with sugar beet harvest, driving truck in the Howard Valley for nearly 50 years.

Eldon was a member of several organizations: the MSU Alumni Board for two terms, Rosebud-Treasure Wildlife Association, and Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs, serving as president in 1999 and receiving fair manager of the year Kermit Fleming Award, thus a life member of Hiram Lodge #52, serving as Master of the Lodge five times, and also an active in York Rite. He is a 55 year Lions Club Member and served in several offices. **Eldon's** hobbies included harmonica playing, bird watching, hunting the Montana moss agate, and working on farms. He volunteered a lot too!

Eldon is survived by his wife, Velma; daughter, Morla E. (Mike) Moser; step-son Jess (Robin) Bardone; Jerette (Derick) Mitzkus; siblings: George (Jinny) Rice, Virginia Rahr, Eloise Edwards, Buford (Darlyne) Rice, Bert (Deanna) Rice, Steven (Judy) Rice, Emery (Jody) Rice, and Jim (Barb) Rice; grandchildren: Mallorie Moser, Brady Mitzkus, Gwendolyn Mitzkus, Shannon Duede, and Sara Camp; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Loraine Carter; and grandson Mikray George Morris Moser.

FAIR EXCHANGE

Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs Newsletter
PO Box 77, Filer, ID 83328-0077
208-326-2288

Nancy Pitz, Editor

The FAIR EXCHANGE is published four (4) times yearly and is the official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs

We would love to hear from you!

If you have items of interest/news that you would like to get out to RMAF membership in the newsletter, you can drop a line to the RMAF office via email—rmaf@filertel.com

All newsletter submission need to be into the RMAF office by 25th of the month preceding the publication dates (January, April, July & October)

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2017 Dates: August 8-12

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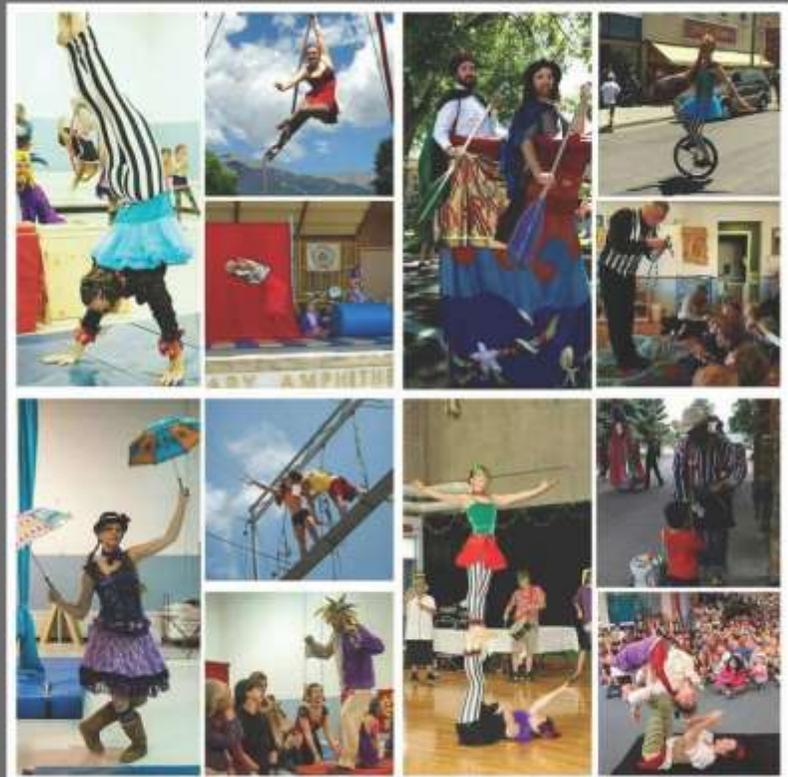


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From the Files of “Tailgate Entertainer” By Alan Bruess

Tailgate Entertainer is a podcast about the fair industry and the exciting people involved in it. The goal of the show is to help those involved in the industry succeed by sharing years of collected wisdom. You will not find a more eclectic mix of people in the world than those that work at fairs. The exciting journeys, lessons, and humorous anecdotes are woven together here to provide encouragement, education, and support for the industry” You can listen to the podcasts at www.tailgateentertainer.com

Along with the podcasts are “life lessons” on the road Blog by Alan Bruess. Alan is a seasoned veteran in the fair entertainment world and a member of RMAF. Please enjoy these blogs as I have.

Tammie Ryan

Service Member Rep

THINGS I MISSED

Little did I know, after I finally arrived home, I would be grateful for missing so much.

Around 2am on April 18th, 2016, the Emergency Broadcast System fired a piercing warning in my ears. I had fallen asleep in Houston, Texas, with my earbuds in, listening to the soothing sounds of cello music, but was soon jolted awake by the threat of fifteen inches of rain and a tornado warning. Unfortunately, I was scheduled to leave only a few hours later to start a long journey back to Washington State with my truck and cargo trailer. Due to highway closures and extremely dangerous conditions, it was clear to me in the morning I would not be leaving.

This was just the first of **three obstacles** I would face on my way home.

A day later the skies were friendlier, so I took full advantage of this window and left early. Two days into my trip, I rewarded myself with a hotel room in Las Vegas and a much needed full night’s rest. With my battery charged and a bright morning ahead, I left the hotel and did my routine



safety check on the trailer. I was shocked at what I saw. My heart sank a little as I stared at an adjuster bolt from my trailer brakes sitting next to one of my tires. It was not a good sign, rather the start to a long and expensive day of repairs. After tearing the wheel off I discovered the bearings had collapsed around the spindle, completely destroying the brake hub. Immediately, I knew I had dodged a bullet. This kind of damage frequently causes fires that can result in a complete loss of the trailer and its contents. A wave of gratefulness swept over me as I remembered how I almost didn’t stop the night before. If I hadn’t, there is no telling where in Nevada the trailer would have given up all hope. Lady Luck shined a little brighter that day as I was led to a mobile trailer repairman named Gary who fixed it up for me.

Almost \$500 and 9 hours later I was back on the road headed north - but not for long.

After driving for a bit, I pulled into a small gas station next to a motel and restaurant. It was the only thing around for a long distance in any direction. Standing there, with his hood up, looking confused, was Eli, a col-

lege student whose car’s radiator had just been destroyed by hitting a bunny. His VW Rabbit was killed by a rabbit, which in turn also lost its life in the misfortunate mishap. I spent the next couple of hours helping Eli and making sure he had company while waiting for the tow truck. By the time it arrived, it was approaching midnight, so I pulled over next to some idling semi-trucks and quickly fell asleep.



Eventually, I made it home on Saturday, two days behind schedule. The delays were frustrating, to say the least, and cost me some opportunities at home. I had to remind myself to be at peace when things like this happen **because it’s not the events I miss that make a difference, but rather the events I don’t know I missed. I made it home safe, and in the end, that’s really all that matters. Would I have made it home ok if I had left on time?** Of course, there is no way of knowing that answer, but for the purpose of this article, I did a little research. I searched the Highway State Patrol records for incidents that happened during two different time periods. The first, on Highway 93, during the day of April 20th, north of Las Vegas, where I would have been if I had not been delayed by the storm in Houston. The second, at the same location, but a day later, where I would have been had my trailer brakes not failed. Three events caught my attention: a major crash near Wells, Nevada, a semi-truck rollover near Filer, Idaho, and a 46- year--old woman arrested for traveling one hundred miles per hour on the wrong side of the highway.

Fortunately, I showed up late for all of these.

I’ve never subscribed to the idea that everything happens for a reason, but I firmly believe many things do. I live my life by this rule and never question when my plans get changed by circumstances out of my control. Thanks to my little research project, next time something happens, it will be easier to kick back, take a deep breath, and be thankful for all the things I’ve missed.

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2016 Convention Silent & Live Auction raised \$5,129.00 for the District Education Funds! Thank You!



91st Annual Convention—Spokane, Washington November 9—12, 2016 Doubletree Spokane City Center Summit Award Winners

<i>FAIR</i>	<i>ITEM ENTERED</i>	<i>PLACING</i>
<i>Division A</i>		
Weld County Fair	Promotional Poster	1st
Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede	Promotional Poster	2nd
Campbell County Fair	Promotional Poster	3rd
Big Sky Country State Fair	Fair Event Guide	1st
Davis County Fair	Fair Event Guide	2nd
Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede	Fair Event Guide	3rd
Big Sky Country State Fair	Fair Theme Logo	1st
Davis County Fair	Fair Theme Logo	2nd
Campbell County Fair	Fair Theme Logo	3rd
Latah County Fair	Fair Photo (people or Animals)	1st
Big Sky Country State Fair	Fair Photo (people or Animals)	2nd
Weld County Fair	Fair Photo (people or Animals)	3rd
Weld County Fair	Fair Photo (Other)	1st
Big Sky Country State Fair	Fair Photo (Other)	2nd
Bonner County Fair	Fair Photo (Other)	3rd
Campbell County Fair	Premium Book	1st
Bonner County Fair	Premium Book	2nd
Weld County Fair	Premium Book	3rd

<i>Division B</i>		
Eastern Idaho State Fair	Promotional Poster	1st
NW Montana Fair & Rodeo	Promotional Poster	2nd
Western Montana Fair	Promotional Poster	3rd
North Idaho State Fair	Fair Event Guide	1st
Eastern Idaho State Fair	Fair Event Guide	2nd
Western Montana Fair	Fair Event Guide	3rd
Western Montana Fair	Fair Theme Logo	1st
North Idaho State Fair	Fair Theme Logo	2nd
Eastern Idaho State Fair	Fair Theme Logo	3rd
North Idaho State Fair	Fair Photo (people or Animals)	1st
Utah State Fair	Fair Photo (people or Animals)	2nd
NW Montana Fair & Rodeo	Fair Photo (people or Animals)	3rd
Utah State Fair	Fair Photo (Other)	1st
North Idaho State Fair	Fair Photo (Other)	2nd
NW Montana Fair & Rodeo	Fair Photo (Other)	3rd
North Idaho State Fair	Premium Book	1st
NW Montana Fair & Rodeo	Premium Book	2nd
Eastern Idaho State Fair	Premium Book	3rd

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Bobbi Jo Heald

Campbell County Fair, Gillette, WY 2015, 2016



"It was a hit!...Bubbles flying all over the fairgrounds... I am going to have them back!"

Wendy Sandberg, Fair Director

Washington County Fair, St. George, UT 2010, 2011, 2014

"If you book the stilt show, you have to book the bubble tower, I think the adults had more fun with it than the kids. It was a great addition to our KidsZone, but...it could be a stand alone event."

Derek Ricci, Fair Manager

Brown County Fair, Aberdeen, SD 2016



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Chad M. Banks

Sweetwater County Fair, Rock Springs, WY 2012, 2015, 2016



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91st Annual Convention November 9 - 12, 2016 Doubletree Spokane

The beautiful city of Spokane, Washington was the site for the 91st annual convention of the Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs convention held on November 9 - 12, 2016. The Doubletree Spokane City Center hotel is located on the banks of the Spokane River in downtown Spokane and served as the host hotel for 436 delegates representing fairs in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and North & South Dakota.

Musical and variety acts showcased on the stages in the Grand Ballroom following each meal. Johnna Johnson got the group motivated to **"Just Jump" with her lively and humorous** keynote address on Thursday morning. The educational programming included a variety workshops including:

Volunteers: The Greatest Generation, Baby Boomers, Gen-Xers and the Millennials; Vendor Issues from A to Z; Farm to Fork Movement - **It's Here to Stay' Volunteers: Recruiting & Retaining**; To App or Not to App; Latest Social Media Trends - What? Not Again!; Service Member Marketing Materials - What Fairs Need; Interim Event Set-ups/Tracking to the Maintenance

Staff; Livestock Shows at Fairs; The Power of Great Service; Gun Show/Concealed Weapons on Your Grounds; Fairgrounds Design Trends; Rodeo Trends & Issues; Using iPads for Exhibit Check-in, Judging & Kiosks; Unique/Creative Low Maintenance Landscaping; Gate Promotions that Work; **Your Fair in the "cloud"**; Spin to Win: Insure the Media is Telling Your Story Your Way; Livestock Show Ethics. The group loaded on buses on Saturday for a trip the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds for a tour, lunch and a workshop on Drones - Is there a proper place & time for this new tool?, presented by Bird Eye of the Sky.

Award for recognition of outstanding individual in the RMAF membership were presented throughout the convention. Janet Konkol, Weld County Fair, Greeley, Colorado is the Fair Manager of the Year, Criss Crozier Neiman, Wyoming State Fair, Douglas, Wyoming is the Fair Person of the Year and Marty Davis, is the Service Member of the Year. The Hall of Fame award was presented to Bob Batista, Western Idaho Fair, Boise, Idaho and the family of Lloyd Shelhamer accepted the Heritage award. Mr. Shelhamer was very active in the RMAF during

the years that he established United Tote using in the racing industry.

The final dinner on Saturday night was highlighted by the presentation of the Summit Awards to the fairs that participated with their photos and marketing pieces from their 2016 events. The gavel was passed to the incoming President of the RMAF, Dane Dugan who announced the theme for 2017 **"Set Your Wheels in Motion - active, elevate & innovate"** and invited delegates to save the date of November 8 - 11, 2017 for the 92nd annual convention to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado at the Hotel Elegante in conjunction with the Colorado Association of Fairs & Shows.



—Spokane, Washington
9—12, 2016
Spokane City Center



91st Annual Convention—Spokane, Washington
November 9—12, 2016
Doubletree Spokane City Center
Honoring Award Winners



Fair Person of the Year—Criss Crozier Neiman, Wyoming State Fair (right) award presented by Vicki Rupert



Service Member of the Year—Marty Davis (left) award presented by John Dunnigan



Hall of Fame Award Winner—Bob Batista, Western Idaho Fair (center) with Reed Williams (left) and Rich Byrum, (right)



Heritage Award—Lloyd Shelhamer



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Phone: 208-326-2288
Email: rmaf@filertel.com
www.rmaf.net

2017 AWARD NOMINATIONS
NOMINATIONS DUE APRIL 1, 2017

Submitted by _____

Organization _____ Phone # _____

Circle award category:

Minimum of 5 years of Service with organization & the RMAF:

Fair Manager of the Year Fair Person of the Year Service Member of the Year

Minimum of 10 years of Service with organization & the RMAF:

Hall of Fame Award (living) Heritage Award (posthumous)

Name of Nominee _____ Title _____

Organization Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

_____ Phone # _____

NOMINEE RESUME—Must be attached to qualify for review & include the following information:

1. Must include present and past fair experience, employment, and achievements that the candidate has contributed to the organizations mentioned.
2. Nominee achievements or involvement in the fair industry such as positions held in national, regional or state fair organizations etc. should be included.
3. Nominee's profile should include achievements, involvement and contributions within their community.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT MATERIALS

1. Any other comments or letters of reference that would add a positive position to the candidate's profile / resume of past or present achievements is encouraged and recommended.

FAIR MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

1977	Al Klingler, Shelby, MT	1993	Mary Lynn Taylor, Miles City, MT	2009	Scot Meader, Missoula, MT
1978	Les Jourdonnais, Missoula, MT	1994	Tom Jones, Casper, WY	2010	Ron Jeffries, Rapid City, SD
1979	J. Olin Mills, Torrington, WY	1995	Mary Lu Pollat, Torrington, WY	2011	Bill Dutcher, Billings, MT
1980	Bill Chiesa, Great Falls, MT	1996	Sam Yewusiak, Missoula, MT	2012	Renaë Korslien, Minot, ND
1981	Bob Glasgow, Billings, MT	1997	Orville Brando, Powell, WY	2013	Jamie Larson, Sidney, MT
1982	Jerry Iverson, Minot, ND	1998	Agnes Kinney, Glendive, MT	2014	James Goodrich, Douglas, WY
1983	Peggy Metcalf, Bozeman, MT	1999	Eldon Rice, Forsyth, MT	2015	Tim Solomon, Havre, MT
1984	Bill Ogg, Douglas, WY	2000	John Pitz, Filer, ID	2016	Janet Konkol, Greeley, CO
1985	Ned Applebury, Hamilton, MT	2001	Sue Shockley, Bozeman, MT		
1986	Roy Howell, Blackfoot, Id	2002	Patty Reardon, Great Falls, MT		
1987	Gerry Pladson, Havre, MT	2003	Barney Cosner, Douglas, WY		
1988	Bob Cartwright, Kalispell, MT	2004	Jim Abendschan, Calhan, CO		
1989	Barbara Renner, Coeur d'Alene, ID	2005	Bob Batista, Boise, ID		
1990	Chuck Bonomo, Rock Springs, WY	2006	Betty Hough, Gillette, WY		
1991	Kathy Gavin, Blackfoot, ID	2007	Chris Holloway, Coeur d'Alene, ID		
1992	Don Jacques, Calgary Alberta	2008	Howard Gernant, Basin, WY		

FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR

1980	Mollie Searle, MT	1993	Glen Meier, MT	2006	Kory Opp, MT
1981	None Chosen	1994	Arlee Phillips, NE	2007	Bill Greer, WY
1982	Steve Christian, MT	1995	Bill Nooney, MT	2008	Ron Edwards, AB Canada
1983	Bill Fisher, MT	1996	Judy Olson, WY	2009	Sandra Hawke, Billings, MT
1984	Marion Waters, MT	1997	Maynard Norenberg, MT	2010	Deb Galle, Aurora, CO
1985	George Okano, WY	1998	Doris Wallace, ID	2011	Bonnie Seaman, Filer, ID
1986	Katy Jourdonnais, MT	1999	Bill Ammen, MT	2012	Judy Duncombe, Salt Lake City, UT
1987	Bob Silvetson, MT	2000	Roland Lewis, WY	2013	Pam Teller, Rapid City, SD
1988	Don Hartman, MT	2001	Linda Gwyn, ID	2014	Bob Albin, Sidney, MT
1989	Janet Veidt, MT	2002	Stan Steen, MT	2015	Dave & Sue Nussear, Coeur d'Alene, ID
1990	Betty Phillips, NE	2003	Linda Lynch, WY	2016	Criss Crozier Neiman, Devils Tower, WY
1991	Karen Bonomo, MT	2004	Julie Gemar-Williams, MT		
1992	Frenchy Girard, MT	2005	Vicki Rupert, WY		

SERVICE MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

1980	Lloyd Shelhamer—United Tote	2000	Ike Sankey—Sankey Pro Rodeo
1981	Hap Peebles—Harry Peebles Agency	2001	Freddie Prez—Freddie Prez Show
1982	Jack Hunter—Jack Hunter Sound	2002	Arlee & Betty Phillips—Staats Custom Awards
1983	Augie Morin—Augie Morin Productions	2003	Randy Merrill—Winterset Agency
1984	Bernie Thomas—Thomas Carnival	2004	Jim & Chris Calhoun—Dean Short Talent Agency
1985	Joe Williams—Inland Empire Shows	2005	Jeff & Pam Martin—The Blond Curly Haired Magician
1986	Dale Small—Small Rodeo	2006	John Dunnigan—Dunnigan Music
1987	Leon Jacobs—All Awards	2007	Bobby Baker—Bobby Baker Enterprises
1988	Vern Prosch—Regalia Ribbons & Trophies	2008	Michael Mezmer—Michael Mezmer Entertainment
1989	Bud & Beverly Johnson—Johnsons Petting Zoo	2009	Fran Romeo—Romeo Entertainment Group
1990	Bill Lackey—Lackey Sound	2010	Jerry Ross & Adrienne Crane-Ross, Harmony Artists
1991	Joan Saltel—Buddy Lee Agency	2011	Gary Fjelstad—Rocky Mt. Talent Service/ISA
1992	Reed Williams—Inland Empire Shows	2012	The Doo-Wah Riders
1993	Robert McKay—McKay Shows	2013	Tom Sailor—Winterset Concert Events
1994	Gib Richards—Gib Richards Productions	2014	John Hanschen—Thomas Carnival
1995	Olie Anderson—4x4 Daredevils	2015	Liz Gregory—Gregory Talent & Productions
1996	Mary Hunter—Jack Hunter Sound	2016	Marty Davis, Bear Creek Productions
1997	Alan Sands—Alan Sands Entertainment		
1998	Tom Atkins—Thomas Carnival		
1999	Bob Mendenhall—Staats Custom Awards		

HALL OF FAME AWARD

2007	Jerry Iverson, ND State Fair, Minot, ND
2008	Gib Richards, Gib Richards Productions, Albuquerque, NM
2009	Arlee & Betty Phillips, Hemmingford, NE
2010	L. Reed Williams, FUNnBIZ.com, Missoula, MT
2011	Tom Atkins, Thomas Carnival
2012	Barbara Renner, North Idaho Fair, Coeur d'Alene, ID
2013	Alvie Rothe, Weld Co. Fair, Greeley, CO
2014	Bobby Baker, Bobby Baker Enterprises
2015	John Pitz, Twin Falls County Fair, Filer, ID
2016	Bob Batista, Western Idaho Fair, Boise, ID

HERITAGE AWARD

2007	Bill Chiesa, Montana Fair, Billings, MT
2008	Jack Hunter, Jack Hunter Sound, SD
2009	Les & Katy Jourdonnais, Western MT Fair, Missoula, MT
2010	Joe P. Williams, Inland Empire Shows, MT
2011	Jack McDonald, Calgary Stampede
2012	Bob Glasgow, Montana Fair,
2013	Gene Inloes, Weld Co. Fair, Greeley, CO
2014	Marion Watters, Phillips County Fair, Malta, MT
2015	George Ortner, Blaine County Fair, Chinook MT
2016	Lloyd Shelhamer

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2016 Convention Sponsors



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I was so surprised when I was awarded the 2016 Fair Manager of the Year that I did not thank those who have supported me. Without the support of the Weld County Commissioners the fair would not even be possible. The 21 member Weld County Fair Board are the ones who make the difficult decisions and give generously of their time and talents.

I am so fortunate that Jenn Eastwood works with me. She is always smiling and is so capable and willing to help in any way she can. Over the years we have worked together she has taken on a greater role and I truly appreciate her.

The most important people who support me in are my three daughters; Erin, Sara and Beth and their husbands and those wonderful grandchildren. They were all active in fair when they were young and appreciate what it takes to put on a fair.

I absolutely could not do what I do without my husband Mike. He supports me in every way. He listens to my ideas and makes suggestions to make them happen. He is always there to let me decompress (sometimes I am sure he has heard enough!!) He keeps the home fires burning!!

When I attended my first RMAF Convention in 2011 Jim Abendschan and Bill Ogg took the time to show me the ropes and make sure that I had a great convention. I soon learned that is the how all members of RMAF are - friendly, helpful, supportive and encouraging. I am so grateful for an organization like RMAF and its members. We all support each other, share ideas and experiences with each other and truly become one another's fair family. I am humbled, honored and grateful to have been selected.



Fair Manager of the Year, Janet Konkel with Jim Abendschan

Three Top Tips for Young Professionals

Submitted by Tom Aldrich, Western Montana Fair

In my short time as an event-oriented public sector professional under the age of 30, I have one Fair, over 200 events, thousands of pages of bureaucratic busy work, and an armored truck worth of fundraising dollars under my belt. These are the top three things I have learned since transitioning from the private sector to my position with the Western Montana Fair.

Never stop learning The ability to learn quickly is expected of young people. We can soak up and retain knowledge from YouTube tutorials and online forums like no generation ever has. The internet makes us infinitely wise about whatever we choose to remember. This is our single biggest asset in the work place and gives us a distinctive edge. Training seminars and workshops seem antiquated compared to self-teaching. Learning is motivation, too. We ought to choose who we work with and where we work based on the lessons we can learn and how that knowledge can be incorporated into our professional development.

Do creative work in-house/outsource the busy work Young professionals can

save our organizations loads of money and utilize our learning mindset by doing creative work in-house. The basic idea here is to outsource busy work that bogs us down and demotivates us while bringing creative work that motivates and bonds us back to the office. A quick read online shows us the exact strategies expensive marketing and media companies utilize while most social media platforms have marketing tools that are very accessible. Most media sponsors are happy to give advice on this topic. Design work does take some talent and time, but being able to incorporate it into one's skillset is very valuable. The Western Montana Fair won **first place in RMAF's Summit Awards** for a Fair logo that was made in-house. A small fortune was saved in making it and our only cost was purchasing design software. Doing design in-house and controlling our marketing strategy lead us to have a better connection to the impact and community while giving us a more consistent presentation of our brand.

Share knowledge and tell a story There is an antiquated idea that sharing knowledge with colleagues diminishes our value and importance as an employee. Someone who believes this lie would say we should make ourselves as proprietary as possible for the sake of job security and leverage. This just **isn't true**. **Networking opportunities** and references for the future are much more valuable than job security in the present. There is no sacrifice in sharing knowledge. We are a **generation of story tellers**. Whether it's social media or future job interviews, who we are is the sum of what we know and how we present ourselves and our organization to the world. 2016 was the best fair Missoula had in a long time. Our director resigned the week before the event. We suffered low numbers due to crazy weather the year prior. Not much was expected **from our young staff**. **What's our story?** We are the underdogs who put on a storybook fair by being industrious, creative, and hardworking!

What's your story?

