

BLUE RIBBON NEWS

Volume I
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KVLS

Summer Edition
July 2014

An online quarterly newsletter published for the members and friends of the Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show and Osceola County Fair. A 501 c3 non-profit organization.

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HAY NOTES

- **August Membership Meeting,**
Thursday, Aug. 14 at 7 PM
- **KVLS Office Hours:**
Monday – Thursday 8 am – 3:30 pm
- Email: kvls@osceolacountyfair.com



Check our website regularly to keep up with event dates, deadlines, news and more at www.OsceolaCountyFair.com.



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FEATURE

Manager's Update

by Miranda Muir

Wow! This summer has been busy and the action here in the KVLS Office has not stopped. We are already hard at work getting ready for our 2015 fair, but also hosting various functions and gearing up for the fall, the Circus, the Trunk or Treat, and more. With so much going on and exciting changes and new additions coming our way, it is a great time to be a part of our amazing organization.

Florida Federation of Fairs Convention

The summer started in May with our trip to Naples and the **Florida**

Federation of Fairs Convention. The Kissimmee Valley Livestock show could not have been better represented as members John Holl and Reid Weber were awarded YPI Scholarships and the opportunity to attend convention free of charge. Next, our very own Dawn Rowe was asked to serve as Secretary/Treasurer on the FFF Board of Directors. Finally, the convention finished up as I was honored to be chosen as the recipient of the FFF and IAFE Fair Institute Scholarship. Sponsored by North American Midway, this \$1,000 scholarship will allow me to continue my studies and

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KVLS members & Jay Strates of Strates Shows.



Manager's Update, cont.

attend the Institute Summit during the Texas State Fair in October. The Fair Institute was designed to further educate individuals involved with fairs and gears all classes towards industry interests, such as marketing, emergency procedures, food and beverage, and more.



YPI Steering Committee

Next, in June, I received news that I had been selected

to be the **International Association of Fairs and Expos YPI Steering Committee representative from Zone 2**. The Young Professionals Initiative was established, "to provide a venue for young professionals to guide the future of the fair industry through leadership development, mentoring, incentives, education and idea sharing with the IAFE." As the Zone 2 representative, I will be participating in bi-monthly conference calls, assisting with planning YPI events at convention and conferences, and recruiting and encouraging new under 40 professionals to join and get involved. Anyone involved with the fair industry must admit that the majority of our members are more experienced and have been involved for many years. We have much to learn from these individuals, but I truly believe that to secure our legacy for years to come, it is time to recruit the next generation. Fairs across the country can only benefit from passing along our history and knowledge, but also allowing new technologies, ideas, and enthusiasm to begin leading the way.

Calgary Stampede

I was most fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to the **Calgary Stampede** in early July. The trip was organized by the Florida Federation of Fairs and it was absolutely amazing. I will be giving a presentation and sharing all the details at the August membership meeting. There was so much to see and



Lisa Hinton – FFF Executive Director, Rick Vymlatil, FFF Board President, Bob Thompson, CS Chairman of the Board, Bill Gray, CS 1st Vice Chairman, David Sibbald, CS 2nd Vice Chairman, Dana Peers, CS Board of Directors and our Host for the trip, Miranda and Denise Vymlatil



View from the top of the mountain in Banff National Park.

do, it is just too much to write about in my available space. However, perhaps most impressive was the enthusiasm and work ethic of the 2,500 volunteers who make the show a success. For Stampede volunteers it is an honor to be involved, and they wear their name tags with pride. They are 100% committed to giving everyone who enters the gates a once in a lifetime experience. Their efforts and dedication are truly what made the trip.

Finally, while in Calgary, I was honored to be asked by Florida Federation of Fairs President, Rick Vymlatil to be the **YPI Committee Chair for the coming year**. This is yet another honor bestowed upon me in just a short period of time. I am very excited to be involved here at



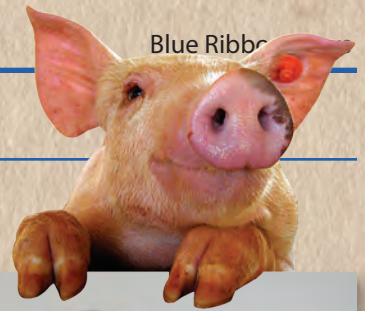
Calgary Stampede Rodeo.

home, at the state level, and even on the international level with the IAFE.

The next few months are going to go quickly! As I write this, we are gearing up to go to the **FFF Summer Workshop, I am headed to Dallas, TX in October, and of course the IAFE Convention in Las Vegas, in December**. However rest assured, we have great things in store for February and I cannot tell you how excited I am for our next fair. Everyone is working hard to make sure it is bigger and better than ever before. I challenge all of you to find a new way to get involved and take the extra step to push us even further. **Small efforts combine to do great things and together I know we can do great things!** 🎀



SOME THINGS TO OINK ABOUT



Dawn Rowe Elected to State Executive Board

The Florida Federation of Fairs elected Dawn Rowe to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for the upcoming 2014-2015 Fair season. The election took place in Naples, Florida during the annual convention attended by County Fair members throughout the state of Florida.

Dawn is a KVLS board member and former General Manager. She currently works for Kissimmee Utility Authority. Dawn joined the Florida Federation of Fairs in 2004 and has served as a State board member since 2009. During that time, she has served on various committees such as sponsorship, welcoming, auction, resolutions, membership, and associate of the year. She's taught workshops and served as moderator at the annual convention and summer workshops.

Osceola County Fair President Dale Davis stated "We are extremely proud of Dawn, she is the first person from Osceola County to hold this position on the state board, and she will be a real asset to the Federation". The



Pictured L to R; Felecia Chivington, Federation 2nd V.P. (Pensacola Interstate Fair), Rick Vymlatil, Federation President (South Florida Fair) & Dawn Rowe.

mission of the Florida Federation of Fairs is to increase the overall quality of Florida's Agricultural Fairs, provide the members the support and guidance

needed to enlighten youth and educate the fairgoers on agriculture, trade, entertainment and heritage of Florida. 📌

Bob Dalton Wins First Star Volunteer of the Quarter Award

Bob Dalton is a passionate member of the Goat Show committee and has been instrumental in growing the show. In addition, Bob shares his computer skills by creating the slide show of sponsors that is displayed during our market animal sales.



Bob and his entire family have helped build our KVLS Christmas floats the past two years. He has also taught his children the value of community service by leading by example.

When Miranda asked members to help decorate a vehicle and participate

in Trunk or Treat, it was no surprise that Bob and Cathy were there. And, they arrived in hippie Fair theme attire!

During this year's Facebook campaign, Bob participated and "shared" our posts more than any other member. This helped promote the Fair and made our Facebook campaign successful.



Bob's dedication and help in many areas of the Fair made him an excellent choice for the Star Volunteer Award. 📌



UPCOMING PAGEANT

KVLS to Hold First Annual Miss Osceola Scholarship Pageant During the 2015 Fair!

It official! The Miss Florida organization has approved KVLS as an official Preliminary Pageant to Miss Florida. The pageant will be held on the last Saturday of the Fair, February 21 at 7 PM in the Exhibition building.

Contestants ages 17 – 24 will compete in the areas of interview, swimsuit, talent and formal wear. The pageant is open to girls from Osceola and seven adjoining counties. The winner will proceed to the Miss Florida Pageant.

Miss Florida will then compete for the coveted title of Miss America. The Miss America Organization is the world's largest provider of scholarship

assistance for young woman; over \$45 million in tuition scholarship assistance was made available this past year!

The contestants who participate are not charged an application fee, therefore, community support to cover pageant expenses and provide prizes to the winners, is needed! If you or your business would like to partner, please contact Kathy Gantz, sponsorship coordinator at 407-346-1104 or honeybunn25@netzero.com. Together, we can empower young women to achieve their personal, professional and educational goals. 📌



2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations to the following KVLS members elected to serve on the 2014-2015 board of directors. President: Dale Davis, 1st V.P. Matt Walter, 2nd V.P. Rick Nelson, Secretary; Pam Plylar, Treasurer; Cindy Moore, Directors: Jim Fisher, Karen Kirkendall, Gary Schmidt, Linda Tyner, Shawn Beck & Dawn Rowe. Alternate board members are; John Holl, Jr., Sonya Howard & Bruce Wilson. 📌



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

Scholarships Awarded

KVLS presented \$4,000.00 in scholarships to eight Osceola County youth. The recipients were Alison Jowers, Phoebe Obrecht, Ashley Stahl, Nick Yma, Landon Wilson, Hunter Pirie, William Byerly and Elizabeth Rodriguez. Each winner received a \$500.00 scholarship to be used for their future education. The scholarships are renewable for one additional year. In addition, a \$500.00 Scholarship was presented to Phoebe Obrecht in the memory of late board member Donald Garmany. The scholarship was presented by Meg Garmany. 📌

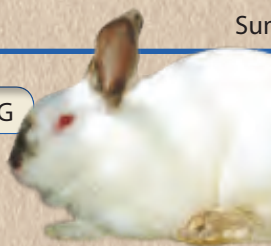


Meg Garmany,
Phoebe Obrecht
& Dale Davis





WHAT'S HOPPENING



New Member Application Deadline: August 4, 2014


If you know someone who you think would be an asset to the KVLS organization please consider sponsoring them for membership. New Member applications are due by August 4, 2014. Applications are available on www.OsceolaCountyFair.com – membership link.

Facility Rental

The KVLS pavilion is available for rental. Please keep our facility in mind for community events, company parties, showers & family reunions.



Osceola County Fair Marketplace

We are extremely excited to announce the Osceola County Fair Marketplace! After listening to our commercial vendors who were previously located in the Exhibition building during past Fair, it's been decided to move the vendors outside. This change will allow the vendors access to more fairgoers and will allow expansion for our Arts & Crafts exhibits. This all new and unique shopping area will be open each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the 2015 Osceola County Fair. We are currently accepting applications for vendors and are especially interested in handmade, one-of-a-kind artisans, as well as home-based businesses. 



Osceola County Fair

FEBRUARY 13-22, 2015

2015 Fair Goals

- All New Decorative and Bold Main Gate Entrance
- Miss Osceola Scholarship Pageant
- Video Barn Tours
- Extensive Signage Updates
- User-Friendly Handwashing Stations
- New Information Booth
- New Welcoming Committee
- Featured Entertainment Nightly Inside Stage - Exhibition Bldg.
- New Fair Promotions

OSCEOLA COUNTY FAIR



MARKETPLACE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT KVLS PAVILION

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
July 25 & 26	Fri. 6:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m.	Florida Jr. Cattlemen's Show*	KVLS Arena/Barn
August 1-3	Time TBA	Small Farms Conference	KVLS Arena
August 14	7:00 p.m.	KVLS Membership Meeting	KVLS Conference Room
September 6	7:00 p.m.	Citrus and Peach Tree Workshops	KVLS Conference Room
September 11	7:00 p.m.	KVLS Membership Meeting	KVLS Conference Room
September 13	8:00 am.	1st Steer Weigh-In	KVLS Scales
September 13		Circus Pages	KVLS Pavilion
September 20	9:00 a.m.	Poultry Workshop	KVLS Show Ring
September 20	2:00 p.m.	Rabbit Workshop	KVLS Show Ring
October 3 & 4	Fri. 6:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 p.m.	Kowtown Klassic Cattle Show*	KVLS Arena/Barn

*event is open to the public. **Event is looking for KVLS members to volunteer.** Contact Cindy Moore 407-908-8868.