

BLUE RIBBON NEWS

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KVLS

Spring Edition
April 2015

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

■ Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

We will be electing 5 board members and 3 alternates from the list below. Please plan to attend and vote!

Shawn Beck	Aaron Mick
Bob Dalton	Cindy Moore
John Holl	Rick Nelson
Sonya Howard	Dawn Rowe
Amanda Lauler	Matt Walter

■ KVLS Office Summer Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

■ 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

2015 Fair Huge Success

by *Miranda Muir*



After the 2014 Osceola County Fair, I deemed it the year that KVLS overcame.

Through diversity and loss, our organization bound together

to host and promote one of our most successful events ever, and I cannot tell you how surprised, honored, and excited I was when 2015 was even better! First we overcame and now we "ACHIEVED!" What a year! And none of it would be possible without all of our amazing members, sponsors, and the wonderful Board of Directors that put in countless hours of time, blood, sweat, and tears to make it all happen.

I am not a highly political person and rarely get involved in debates over the pros and cons of various figures, but I remember a night, almost 2 years ago, when I was putting together a presentation to send to Florida, in hopes of becoming your next General Manager. I needed a quote and I wanted it to somehow describe the philosophy that has driven me through life. I came across this thought from Paul Ryan, "Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together." First I had to

Google who Paul Ryan was. The name sounded familiar, but being from Illinois, home of former Governor and the later incarcerated George Ryan, I did not want the KVLS Board's first impression of me to be a quote from a prisoner, but then I decided the quote was acceptable and it really did say and mean what I wanted it to.

You all know by now, I grew up at the Fair. It is where I love to be and what I love to do. However, it was not because there were carnival rides and cotton candy, that only lasted 5 days. It was the people. My fair family. They were the ones I knew I could always depend on. They would be there, at a moment's notice, no matter what. We celebrated together. We cried together. And most importantly, we ACHIEVED together. Even now, I am nearly 1100 miles away from home, and just a few weeks ago, I walked a Sangamon County Fair Board Member and his wife with packages of diapers and baby items. And waiting for me as soon as I arrived in Las Vegas at the IAFE Convention last December, the Board President with hugs and smiles. They are still my team. I call them when I need to borrow things, when I need to know how to handle something, and when I just need to talk shop for a minute. Near, far, this fair, that fair, the most important thing is, we are a team.

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2015 Fair Huge Success, cont.


And perhaps even more important is that our ACHIEVEMENTS mean so much more when we do it together.

In the past two years, my team has grown exponentially, as I consider each and every one of you to be a part of my ever growing fair family. I like to think that our ACHEIVEMENTS and the ever growing success of our organization can be directly attributed to the strength of that team. However, to be honest, it is not really what I think, but what you

think. What you believe. What you feel in your heart.


In 2015 we hosted over 106,000 visitors! Our carnival sales increased another 16% over last year! And we hosted new contests, shows, entertainers, and more that have never before been a part of our annual event. It is such an exciting time! We should be celebrating and running on high all summer long. Those of you who attended various meetings, volunteered your time in numerous

ways, donated funds and were just here cheering everyone on, made it happen.

So, as we prepare for 2016, the sky's the limit! And we need ALL of you. Are you on the team? I know I am already geared up and ready. My fair coma lasted all of about 5 minutes before I found myself thinking of what is next. I hope you are right beside me. If we can ACHIEVE all of that, just think what we are capable of doing next year and beyond! 

STAR VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Jimmy Morgan

The KVLS is very fortunate to have so many committed volunteers helping in a variety of roles. Jimmy Morgan is one such volunteer who lends his time to all the livestock committees. During the Fair, Jimmy helps with our animal weigh ins, waters down the arena before our shows and assists others whenever help is needed. He is often the first one in the barn in the morning and the last one to leave. Jimmy joined KVLS in 1996 and will reach Lifetime status next year. Congratulations Jimmy on being recognized as Star Volunteer of the Quarter! 



Thank you to our 2015 Fair Sponsors!

Please remember to patronize our
Fair Sponsors all year long.



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SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

2015 Fair Was Something to Crow About!

This year's Fair included many new features such as new signage, new marketplace, new events and promotions along with our traditional favorites!

Photo Credits: Gary Schmidt



Photo Credits: Gary Schmidt



SOME THINGS TO OINK ABOUT

1st Annual Miss Osceola SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

First Annual Miss Osceola Scholarship Pageant:

Seven contestants between the ages of 17 – 24 competed in the areas of talent, swimsuit, evening gown, personal interview and impromptu speaking. \$3,000.00 in scholarships was awarded to the winners. Miss Osceola Brandis Austrino will represent KVLS in the Miss Florida Pageant June 16-20 in St. Petersburg, Florida. 🦋



First Annual Jeep & Auto Show: Board member Jon Holl organized this new event. Fair sponsor Telemundo helped pass out the trophies to winners. 🦋



◀ **First Annual Whip Cracking Competition:** Contestants of all ages enjoyed this fun competition. 🦋

BEYOND THE BARN



KVLS participated in the National Day of Agriculture event held March 18 in St. Cloud. Jr. board member Kevin Kersey was the lead organizer of the event which showcased the important of agriculture within our community. 🦋

