



# NYSAAF

## NEWSLETTER

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc.



### **From The President**

It seems like only a very few days ago that I began my journey as your president and now we are fast approaching our 2016 Convention and my term will be over. I have enjoyed the past year very much and I definitely enjoyed the hospitality of the fairs I was able to visit and only wish I had been able to visit more fairs. I fully intend to continue to visit fairs in the years to come until I have made it to as many as possible. I want to thank the officers and board of directors of our association for all of your support and for the progress we have made in the past year. I also have to extend my thanks to our new Public Policy Committee under the leadership of Director of Public Policy R. Harry Booth. Harry and Mark St Jaques have made great progress in getting our group recognition at the State level and our alliance with Farm Bureau has been just what we needed to move our cause forward. They are already meeting with legislators to try to get some capital improvement dollars in the 2016 State Budget. We almost made it last year and are hoping for success in 2016.

I also have to extend my thanks to Executive Secretary Norma Hamilton for all of her help to me in the past few years. Norma has announced she will be retiring at the end of her term in April and will definitely be missed. The Executive Committee advertised for someone to be our new Executive Secretary and three candidates were interviewed. The committee has selected Past President Russ Marquart CFE to be the new Executive Secretary beginning in April. Russ will be working closely with Norma in the next few months to make the transition as smooth as possible. Treasurer Joan Rowland has also indicated she will not be seeking reelection as treasurer in January and the Nominating Committee will be looking for someone to nominate as treasurer in January.

First Vice President Andy Imperati has put together a great program for our Convention in January and I hope to see all of you there.

As the holidays are approaching Pat and I want to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year .

Bob Simpson

### **2016 Agriculture Awareness**

This Fair season, seven (7) Fairs will have the opportunity to showcase New York agriculture through the NYSAAF Ag Awareness program. The Association provides seed money for improvements to agriculture related exhibits, equipment purchase or the development of a new exhibit. Our Board of Directors is very committed to insure this program will continue for many years to come.

The Fairs eligible for the 2016 program funds are; Broome County Fair, Essex County Fair, The Hemlock Fair, Grahamsville Little World's Fair, Otsego County Fair, Seneca County Fair and the Wyoming County Fair.

As a reminder to the participating Fairs, your application is due to be submitted by December 27th for review by the committee.

See you all at the Convention in Rochester!

Russ Marquart, CFE,  
Agriculture Awareness  
Project Coordinator

### **Clinton County Dairy Princess**



Aubrey Kerr of Ellenburg Center is a senior at Northern Adirondack Central School and an active member of the school's FFA program and the 2015-16 FFA chapter president. She recently obtained her FFA Empire Degree, the group's highest honor at the state level and was the New York State District 3 Star Recipient this past year.



### **District 2 Fall Meeting**

District 1 and District 2 came together for their Fall Dinner on Thursday, October 26th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, New York. Steve Berninger, District One Director coordinated to have Jeff Williams, Director of the Division of Public Policy from New York Farm Bureau to speak to the group about the state of things at Farm Bureau and within New York State government. John Luskin, District Two Director coordinated the dinner and introduced each Fair as they reported on their fair and happenings on their grounds. President Bob Simpson, gave a few remarks on his travels to fairs this summer and upcoming events for the NYS Association. Past President, Harry Booth was in attendance and was able to have us each reflect on our blessings as we look forward to 2016. A fun evening of conversation and catching up with old and new friends was enjoyed by all.

John Luskin, District 2 Director

Jeff Williams, Director  
of the Division of Public  
Policy from New York  
Farm Bureau

## 2016 Convention

The 128th Annual NYSAAF Convention will be held January 15-18, 2016 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY

### Registration

The registration desk will be located in the gallery, street level. Your registration packets with badges and tickets will be available Friday 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Saturday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Registration forms have been mailed to you. On December 16th, registration increased to \$20.00. List your name on the form as you would like it to appear on your badge.

### Saturday & Sunday Breakfast— Advance ticket required

For the 2016 convention the NYSAAF is offering a breakfast on Saturday, January 16 and Sunday, January 17. The menu will include: Sliced fruits, scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, sausage, assorted pastries, juices, coffee and tea. Breakfast will be located at the Radisson Hotel in the Grand Ballroom. Advance tickets are required and can be ordered on the registration form mailed to you. The cost is \$13.50 per person, \$16.00 per person if purchased after Dec. 15.

### Badge Requirements

#### Name Badges must be worn to all functions.

Please wear your registration badge at all times. These badges are important for your identification to attend the meetings, enter the trade show and other functions involved with the convention. These badges indicate that you have registered for the convention; they help the trade show participants put names to faces and the ribbon color identifies fair attendees, associate members, officers and speakers.

### Convention Program

You can download the 2016 Convention Program at [www.nyfairs.com](http://www.nyfairs.com)

### Hotel Reservations

Reservations should be made directly with the Radisson Riverside Hotel and the Hyatt Regency. Be sure to tell them you are with the NYSAAF to get the proper room rate.

It is very important for everyone making reservations, (whether individually or one person making the reservations for the whole group) to be sure they are identified by name and by fair to eliminate any repetitions. We receive credits on the convention expenses from the Radisson and the Hyatt depending on the number of rooms used. Therefore, it is most important that all of our registrants stay at one of the two hotels and that they know you are part of our group. Deadline for room reservations is December 31st. If you are tax exempt you must present the necessary paper work at the time of registration. If your fair is paying with a corporate card, please read the following instructions:

### Group Credit Card Instructions- Radisson Riverside Hotel

In effort to assist with previous billing issues we suggest the following procedures to assist in smoothing out the process. If you are a group that is looking to have all the rooms from your fair or organization billed to one credit card the following will enable you to do so:

1. Have one main contact for your group call the hotel 585-546-6400 and ask for Linda Donoghue the reservations manager.

2. Tell Linda that you are with Ag Fairs and you would like to create a **"group master"** for your fair. Linda will then create a "group master" for your billing purposes.

3. You will need to have the credit card and fill out a credit card authorization form.

Once that group master is created you can then either give Linda the list of names to go on your **"group master"** or you can have the individuals from your fair call in.

If you are going to have **individuals call in** on their own please let them know that they will need to make a reservation under ABC fair part of the Ag Fairs block. That way all reservations will be under the correct fair. Linda will also take care of any payment or billing issues that you may have. Her email address is [donoghuel@gfhotels.com](mailto:donoghuel@gfhotels.com)

The Riverside Convention Center is connected to the hotels by skywalks. Note that there is a NO SMOKING policy at the convention center.

### Directions

The parking garages for the hotels can be reached from Interstate 90 to:

WEST - From I-90 take exit 47 to route 490 east (stay in left-hand lane), then take Plymouth Avenue exit. Make a right onto Plymouth Avenue, then a left onto Main Street.

EAST - From I-90, take exit 45, follow route 490 west to Plymouth Avenue, exit ramp. Go straight to Main Street and take a right onto Main Street. After crossing the Genesee River, make a left into driveway from Main Street to Radisson Riverside Hotel, 120 E. Main Street. Make a right into driveway from Main Street to Hyatt Regency Hotel, 125 E. Main Street.

### Presidents' Reception

The President's reception will be held in the Riverside Ballroom at the Radisson Hotel on Friday, January 15 from 9 PM until midnight.

### Auction

Saturday following the Past President Reception, our annual scholarship auction will be held. Donations can be left at the registration desk. Be sure your name is on each donated item. It is requested that the item have a minimum value of \$25.00. The Association will again be accepting credit cards for auction purchases. In addition to benefitting the Scholarship Fund, 25% of the proceeds will go to the General Fund to support convention activities.

### Door Prizes

We request only one door prize per fair and it can be left at the registration desk. Label each item with the name of your fair and distinguish between door prize and auction item.

### Banquet

The NYS Association of Agr. Fairs banquet ticket will be \$37.00 for either choice of Harvest Chicken or Sirloin Steak, if purchased by December 15th, On December 16th the cost of the banquet tickets will increase to \$42.00. This offer is being made available to you by the Association in the hope that you will join us for the 128th annual banquet and entertainment showcase on Sunday in the Empire Hall North of the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

### Memorial Display

Memorial forms were mailed to you. If you have someone you want remembered, please send completed form to Dr. Marilyn Trainor, 436 Harris Dr., Watertown, NY 13601 by January 1.

### Trade Show Booth & Hours

Exhibit will be open Saturday, January 16 from 11 AM to 5 PM and on Sunday, January 17 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Booths are 8 ft. x 10 ft. Contact Norma Hamilton at 518-753-4956 or [carousels4@aol.com](mailto:carousels4@aol.com) for further information on obtaining a booth. A lunch buffet (on your own) and seating area will be available on both days in the trade show for your convenience.

### Discount Coupons

Lunch: Check your registration packet for a Luncheon Discount Coupon being offered by the NYS Association of Agr. Fairs and The Joseph Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center redeemable for a savings of \$1.50 off any concession purchase of \$5.00 or greater at the trade show.

This will offer you the opportunity to have lunch and also to conduct business. Tickets for the special drawing will be included in your registration packet. You must deposit the ticket at the trade show to be eligible. There will be a box where the prizes are displayed. Five qualifying tickets will be drawn Saturday at 4:30 and five Sunday at 3:30 PM. Qualifiers must be present to win. On Sunday, a drawing of the qualifiers will determine the winner. The winning registered delegate must be present to win. The prizes will be displayed in the trade show at the convention.

### Trade Show Parade

The theme for 2016 is "County Fairs". The "Little Red Wagon Parade" will be held Sunday at 2:45 pm in the trade show area. Rules to participate were mailed to you with your registration information. Return your entry form by January 1 to: Nelson Eddy, 31571 Peck Road, Black River, NY 13612. If you need further information, contact Nelson at 315-773-5133.

### NAME BADGES MUST BE WORN TO ALL FUNCTIONS

You can download the 2016 Convention Program at: [www.nyfairs.org](http://www.nyfairs.org)



**Steve Gilliland**

**The Keynote Speaker - Saturday, January 16, 2016 - 9:45 AM**

A member of the Speaker Hall of Fame, Steve Gilliland is one of the most in-demand and top-rated speakers in the world. Recognized as a master storyteller and brilliant comedian, he can be heard daily on SiriusXM Radio's Laugh USA and Blue Collar Radio. With an appeal that transcends barriers of age, culture and occupation— plus an interactive and entertaining style—Steve shows audiences how to open doors to success in their careers, their relationships and their lives. Presenting to over 250,000 people a year, more than two million have now heard him speak, with audiences encompassing nearly three dozen industries. Steve has the distinction of speaking in all 50 states and in 15 countries. As one newspaper stated, "Steve is what happens when the humor of a stand-up comic collides with the inspiration of a motivational speaker."

**"Seeing Straight in a Cross-Eyed World"**




**Gary Berg**

**Speaker-Sunday, January 17, 2016 - 9:45 AM**

The purpose of Gary Berg's presentation, entitled "Seeing Straight in a Cross-Eyed World", is to help people better understand that we each see the world and interpret it in our own unique way.

This program examines how change is occurring at an all-time amazing rate so how do we best handle that to be the best we can be. It also looks at how sounds, sights, words, past experiences and even laughter and music can all be factors in how well we understand and communicate with each other so we can hopefully be more patient and accepting of other people's view-points and ideas moving forward.

Gary is a business owner, former college administrator, coach, teacher and more. He was born and raised in Menomonie, Wisconsin, and now lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has attended over 100 annual fair association conventions and IAFE conventions throughout the United States and has a long history of working closely and successfully with fairs and festivals.



**NEW at the 2016 Convention!**  
**Come on down and be a contestant in Ag Jeopardy!**

Join us for a fun filled session where you and your team test your knowledge answering agricultural related questions all within a game show setting.

Stop by the Registration Booth for details and to sign up. It's going to be fun!



**175th Columbia County Fair in Chatham was held September 2-7**



**Delegates from New York Fairs attend the Zone 1 meeting at the annual IAFE Convention and Trade Show.**

## Fair Reports - 2015

### Seneca County Fair

Dates: July 15-18  
 Attendance: 11,800 down 17%  
 Gate Admission: Free  
 Parking: \$2.00  
 Weather: Hot - Very little rain  
 Carnival: Playland Amusements  
 Free Entertainment  
 July 15, Dad & I (classic rock group)  
 July 15, Fireworks  
 July 16, Demolition Derby (paid)  
     attendance 950  
 Donna & the Mystics  
 Double Take  
 July 17, Country Five  
 Bright Lights & Country Music  
 July 18, Demolition Derby (paid)  
     attendance 2000  
 2016 Fair Dates: July 20-23  
 Reported by: Ellen TenEyck, President



**Ty with a goat at the Seneca County Fair**



**A ride provided by Playland Amusements at the Seneca County Fair**

### Hemlock "Little World's" Fair

Dates: July 21-25  
 Attendance: 34,556, up 5%  
 Gate Admission: Adult \$12.00, Seniors \$6.00, youth \$10.00, children free  
 Parking: Free  
 Weather: Perfect weather for a fair, sunny and warm every day. Just a light shower opening morning and closing evening.  
 Carnival: Gillette Midways, up 4%  
 Free Entertainment/ Attendance:  
 7/21 Demolition Derby, attendance 5,500  
 7/22 Monster Truck Show, 5,666  
 7/23, Truck Pulls, 5,459  
 7/24. Tractor Pulls, 7,359  
 7/25, Demolition Derby, 10,572  
 Two by Two Zoo  
 HB Chainsaw Carving  
 Reported by: Wendy Parsels, Office Admin.



**Herkimer County Fair treasurer Gerry Elthorp, President Dick Elthorp and Secretary Kathy Ostrander**

### Herkimer County Fair

Dates: Aug. 18-23  
 Attendance: 61,389, up 6%  
 Gate Admission: Adult \$7.00, children \$3.00  
 Parking: Free  
 Weather: Beautiful week  
 Carnival: Gillette Shows  
 Free Entertainment:  
 8/19, Shania Twin  
 8/20, Ruby Shooz  
 8/21, Showtime  
 8/22, Swamp Drivers  
 8/23, Big Country Showdown  
 Reserved Seats Sold Out  
 8/21 Demo Derby  
 8/22 Truck Pull  
 2016 Fair Dates: Aug. 16-21  
 Reported by: Gerry Elthorp



**Washington County Fair Manager Mark St. Jacques and Treasurer Pat Evans.**

### Washington County Fair

Dates: Aug. 24-30  
 Attendance: 121,874  
 Gate Admission: adults \$10.00, children 13 under free, Seniors \$5.00 Wednesday only  
 Parking: Free  
 Weather: Perfect 70-80 degrees, No rain  
 Carnival: Amusement of America, up 10%  
 Free Entertainment All Week:  
 Buffalo & Brandy  
 Agricadabra  
 Buffalo & Barfield  
 Hot Dog Pig Races  
 Sylvia & Magic Trunk  
 Puddles the Clown  
 Josh Knotts Extreme Illusion  
 Mutts Gone Nuts



**Washington County Fair - On the left Julia Steidle, Reagan Savile (top) Neve Savile, & Marlee Savile: right is Olivia Savile.**

Brad Machett Hypnotist  
 2016 Fair Dates: Aug. 22-28  
 Reported by: Mark St. Jacques, General Manager

### Dutchess County Fair

Dates: August 25-30  
 Attendance: 394,422, up 3%  
 Gate Admission: Adult \$15, children under 12 free, seniors \$10.00  
 Parking: Free  
 Weather: Sunny Tuesday-Saturday. Showers Sunday afternoon.  
 Carnival: Powers Great American Midways, up 12%  
 Entertainment/Fee/Attendance:  
 8/25, Dan & Shay/A Thousand Horses, paid, attendance 2082  
 8/26, Doobie Brothers, paid, attendance 3760  
 8/27, Cole Swindell, paid, attendance 3760  
 8/28, Spin Doctors, Free, attendance 1856  
 2016 Fair Dates: August 23-28  
 Reported by: Andy Imperati, General Manager



**Pleasant Valley Railroad Station at the Dutchess County Fair**



**Andy Imperati, Secretary/Manager of the Dutchess County Fair at the August 25-30 event.**

*Continued on Page 5*

**Fair Reports Cont.**

**Schaghticoke Fair**

Dates: September 2-7  
 Attendance: 88,795, up 2%  
 Gate Admission: Adult \$11.00, children 13 and under free, seniors \$5.00 on Sr. Citizens Day  
 Parking: Free  
 Weather: Hot, 90 degrees, Humid last 2 days  
 Carnival: Reithoffer Shows, up 12%  
 Free Entertainment all week:  
 Kachunga & the Alligator  
 The Rhinestone Roper  
 Hot Dog Pig Races  
 Marty Haggard (9/7)  
 2016 Fair Dates: August 31 – September 5  
 Reported by: David Moore, Secretary



**Farnam Caird in the museum at the Schaghticoke Fair held Sept. 2-7. Farnam has been with the fair for 65 years.**



**Flower display in the NY products building at the Schaghticoke Fair.**



**Columbia County Fair Secretary/Manager Angelo Nero and Steven Berninger**

**2015 Scholarship Winners**

**Kendall Gillette**

My name is Kendall Gillette. I am a freshman at The State University College At Brockport. I am currently a Biology/Pre Med major. My parents own Gillette Catering which includes Gillette's Pizza and Slush Works. They travel up and down the east coast from February to November. I have been out at fairs ever since I could remember. I spend my summers working with my family at fairs. This includes many fairs and festivals in New York. They are Otsego County, Saratoga County, Dutchess County, Fonda Fair, and Cobleskill Sunshine Fair. I am the person I am today because of my experiences at the fairs.

**Kaleb Booth**

My family has been involved in the Washington County Fair for over 50 years. Through this experience they have taught me to be respectful, never be afraid to try new things and to take every opportunity to learn and make myself a better person. Three of my grandparents currently serve on the fair board of directors and someday I hope to follow in their footsteps. My grandfather, Harry Booth, was just the past president of the NYSAAF and he is one of the biggest role models in my life. We all love the fair and will continue to be a part of it for generations to come.



**Kaleb Booth**

Cobleskill – Beef Livestock Science  
 Fifth generation of family involved in the Washington County Fair – exhibitors, superintendents, association members and directors. Kaleb has exhibited a wide variety of projects – probably the favorite is beef cattle.

Other fair involvement is 4-H food booth, FFA Farmland, hosting tour of school officials, cleaning museum, assisting at Farmer's Olympics, family Booth's Blend exhibit, after fair dinner celebration and Family Fun Day.

Community Service- roadside cleanup, church/Sunday School, yard clean up for senior citizens, village parades-driving tractors for floats.

Kaleb has visited other fairs with grandparents, attended 2015 NYSAAF convention and participated in Buffalo & Brandy's showcase on Sunday and attended Monday's business meeting.

He was a 4H member for 11 years, National Honor Society, FFA Vice President, FFA Dairy Judging Team 2013 first in NY State, Gold Team at Nationals, 2014-15 Parli-Pro Team, 3rd in State, going to National FFA Empire Degree.

Kaleb has worked on the family beef and compost farm, Steward Dairy Farm, Capital Tractor, Locust Grove Smokehouse-intern for 10 weeks, and Allenwaite Dairy Farm intern for 10 weeks.

**Jeffrey Weeks**

NYS Fair Managers Association \$500.00 Scholarship Winner Jeffrey Kent Weeks II is the oldest son of Dawn and the late Jeff Weeks of Mohawk. Recipients of this scholarship are chosen on the basis of who have been active in their local fair and are pursuing a college degree in a field related to agriculture or fair management. Jeffrey has owned and operated his hog business since 2008 and has worked on his families dairy farm all of this life. He has exhibited his swine, sheep, dairy and beef at many livestock shows and fairs throughout the northeast. These include: Herkimer County Fair, Schoharie County Fair, Columbia County Fair, Altamont Fair, New York State Fair, Cooperstown Farmers Museum Youth Livestock Show and the Northeast Regional Exposition (Big E) in Springfield, MA. He has won numerous champions and prestigious awards with his animals throughout his youth showing career. Jeffrey has become a prominent showman and breeders of swine, sheep and cattle.



**Jeffrey Weeks**

Jeffrey is a 2015 graduate of Owen D.Young Central School and currently training in the United States Marine Corp Boot Camp in Parris Island, S.C. After all of his training is complete he will serve in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve stationed in Syracuse. In January 2016 Jeffrey will be starting his college education at SUNY Cobleskill majoring in Agricultural Engineering. The Herkimer County Fair also endorsed Jeffrey for his scholarship.

**Meagan Chittenden**

My name is Meagan Chittenden, 20 years old, and am currently a senior at SUNY Cobleskill where I am studying Agricultural Business in hopes to obtain a position as an agronomy sales person. I am the daughter of Brian and Beth Chittenden and reside in Schodack Landing, NY on a 600 cow jersey farm. I have shown my dairy cows at my home county fair, Columbia County Fair in Chatham since I was old enough to hold a halter along with other New York country fairs. Being a farmer is a tremendous blessing, therefore I take it as a personal responsibility to share the ways of the modern farmer as an advocate to the public through social media and every day encounters.



## Bits & Pieces

### Wanted: Fair Pictures for the 2016 Convention

President Bob Simpson will have a slide presentation before the general session on Saturday and Sunday of the convention. Please mail digital pictures of your 2015 fair to Bob at Presjeffcofair@aol.com by January 1. Note in the subject line: "Fair Pictures".

### NYSAAF Fair Dues

Association treasurer, Joan Rowland, reminds all Fair Treasurers and Managers that the dues notices went out in October and are payable by December 7 so that all are accounted for by convention time. Note that your dues are determined by your 2014 attendance. Mail your dues payable to NYSAAF to Joan at 451 North Creek Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

### 2016 Dept. of Ag & Markets Officers Information Forms

2016 Agricultural Fair & Officers information form listing your current officers has been sent to you. Please complete so an updated list can be distributed at the January convention.

Your completed form should be returned to Carly Hewitt no later than December 7th, 2015 so that an updated list can be distributed at the NYSAAF January Convention. If you are unable to meet this deadline due to your annual meeting date, please update the form as much as possible and final changes can be added at the convention. Please feel free to call with any questions.

Thank you,  
 Carly Hewitt, Concessions & Exhibits Office  
 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY 13209  
 (315) 487-7711 ext. 1220 • carly.hewitt@agriculture.ny.gov

### Premium Reimbursement Report

In order for your Fair to be eligible for premium reimbursement for 2015, you must complete the Annual Report sent to you and return to us before December 15, 2015.

The Annual Report, Premium Book and Harness Race Summary (if applicable) are due by December 15, 2015. It is important that you meet this deadline since our calculations cannot be completed until all of the Annual Reports have been received. If your report is received after this deadline, your Fair will be deemed ineligible for reimbursement. Please submit the following:

1. Agricultural Society Annual Report (AF-8)
2. Harness Race Summary Sheet (AF-1) (if applicable)
3. Premium Book

BEFORE DECEMBER 15 SEND TO:  
 Eileen Horton, Fiscal Management  
 NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets  
 10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235

If you have any questions, would like an electronic version of the form e-mailed to you, or believe that you may not be able to make the filing deadlines, please call us at (518) 457-9564.

## Dates to Remember

- December 15 ..... Pre-registration for NYSAAF Convention
- December 15 ..... Reservations for Convention Banquet  
 Registration, banquet & breakfast tickets will increase after 12/15
- December 31 ..... Deadline for hotel room reservations

### 2016

- January 15-18.....NYSAAF 128th Annual Convention & Trade Show  
 Joseph A. Floreano Rochester  
 Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY
- April 1 ..... April Newsletter Articles Due
- April 16 ..... NYSAAF Board of Directors Meeting,  
 Fair Grounds, Syracuse, NY
- April 25-28 ..... 48th Annual IAFE Management Conference,  
 Hyatt Regency Tulsa Hotel, Tulsa, Okla.
- May 6-7..... IAFE Zone 1 Annual Meeting,  
 Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH
- September 1 ..... September newsletter articles due

## Obituary

### Ethel A. Vivona

#### Amusements of America

Ethel A. Vivona (nee Centanni), 96, of West Caldwell, passed away on Monday, Nov. 2, 2015.

Mrs. Vivona was a member of the Miami Showmen's Association Women's Auxiliary and a former member of the New York Showmen's Association Women's Auxiliary and the National Showmen's Association.

Born in Newark, N.J., Mrs. Vivona lived in West Caldwell for more than 50 years. She and her husband, Morris also maintained a home in Florida for many years.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 70 years, Morris; beloved children, Dr. Kathryn Fedina and her husband, Anthony, Adrienne Vivona Inman and Morris Vivona Jr.; cherished grandchildren, Kimberly Pyontek, Dr. John Fedina, Kacie Mangler, Gregory Inman, Jessica Vivona and Joe Vivona, and adored great-grandchildren, Nicholas and Isabella Pyontek, Marissa and Gianna Mangler, Jordan Inman and Jake Fedina. Mrs. Vivona was predeceased by her parents and 13 brothers and sisters.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Miami Showmen's Association, 3391 Griffin Road, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312.

## 2015-2016 NYS Fair Managers Officers

At the September meeting of the NYS Fair Managers Association, the following officers were elected for the 2015-2016 term:

Lisa Jones, President, Otsego County Fair  
 Jason Craig, Vice President, Delaware County Fair

Gerry Elthorp, Secretary/Treasurer, Herkimer County Fair

The next Managers Meeting is scheduled in Oneonta on October 1 & 2, 2016.

The NYS Fair Managers Association will be giving a \$500.00 scholarship to a student following the guidelines of the NYS Association of Fairs scholarship fund as long as the fair is a paid up member of the Fair Managers Association.

## Marla Calico Named IAFE President & CEO

SPRINGFIELD, MO - The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) is proud to announce Marla Calico as the new president and CEO of the organization. Ms. Calico will take over the position on Jan. 1, 2016, from outgoing President & CEO Jim Tucker.

"We are pleased and excited Marla is taking over for Jim. We did a very serious national search, conducted several interviews and are confident Marla is the correct person to take the reins of IAFE at this important time in history," stated 2015 IAFE Chair John Sykes of the East Texas State Fair in Tyler. "There is no doubt she has the knowledge, professionalism and enthusiasm to move the IAFE to an even higher level."

Ms. Calico joined the IAFE in 2006 as director of education and has served as chief operating officer since 2014. Prior to joining the IAFE professional staff, she served as general manager of the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield, Mo. She earned her Certified Fair Executive designation in 1988 and in 2003 she served as chair of the IAPE. She was inducted into the IAFE Hall of Fame in 2012.

The process was led by a Search Committee consisting of the IAFE Executive Committee -- First Vice Chair and Chair of the Search Committee Kent Hojem of the Washington State Fair; IAFE Chair Sykes; Second Vice Chair Becky Brashear of the Maryland State Fair; Past Chair Marlene Pierson-Jolliffe of the State Fair of Virginia; and Past Chair Debbie Dreyfus-Schronk of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition -- and added 30-year fair veteran Jerry Hammer of the Minnesota State Fair and Young Professionals Initiative (YPI) Representative Jessica Underberg of the Erie County Fair (New York). Executive search firm Witt/Kieffer sought leaders from around the world to be considered for the position and

presented them to the Search Committee.

According to Hojem, "It was exceedingly critical that an exhaustive search be undertaken for the new IAFE president and CEO. This organization and the fair industry in general will continue to face increasingly complex and diverse issues. The need to identify and engage the best individual to lead this organization into the future was always our primary focus. Marla represents those qualities we deem paramount to insure a successful future for our organization."

Calico holds a Bachelor's degree in Agri-Business from Missouri State University and throughout her long career at the Ozark Empire Fair served the Springfield community as a volunteer and/or board member of numerous civic organizations. She has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Alumni from Missouri State University and as one of Springfield Business Journals "Most Influential Women."

"I'm honored to have been selected to serve the IAFE members as the next President and CEO and look forward to a bright future for the Association. We have a dedicated and seasoned staff who are excited to expand the use of technology to deliver education, facilitate the exchange of ideas, and enhance communication with our fantastic members around the globe," said Calico. She also noted that among the top priorities for the Association in 2016 will be increased fundraising for the IAFE Education Foundation to support expanded educational programming, a series of "listening" sessions in various settings to get critical input from members on issues most important to them, as well as a focus on advocacy for agricultural fairs in governmental, media and corporate sectors.

## New Members

### Alyssa Trahan

223 West Spruce St.  
East Rochester, NY 14445  
585-506-7991

AlyssaTrahan@gmail.com  
AlyssaTrahan.com  
Country Music

### Houston Bernard Band

257 Marrett Rd., Lexington, MA 02421  
646-283-5555

HoustonBernard@gmail.com  
www.HoustonBernardBand.com  
High Energy Country Music Show

### Niagara County Peach Festival

Kiwanis Club of Lewiston, NY Inc.

Michael J Roemer

PO Box 18, Lewiston, NY 14092  
716-472-5886

Michael.roemer@nyws.uscourts.gov  
3 day fair, weekend after Labor Day

### Old Style Foods

Jeff Beaver

9 North Road, Sailisbury, NC 28144  
704-202-9238 • 704-637-0211

jbeaversstorms@yahoo.com  
Corn roast, lemonade stand

### Ruby Shooz

Jamie Cosco

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Show Band Entertainment

### Watershow Productions, Inc.

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## IAFE, The Network!

The IAFE Convention & Trade Show will be held in San Antonio, Texas in 2018 & 2019.

Its official! The IAFE Convention and Trade Show will be moving to San Antonio for 2018 and 2019. The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will be the home of the trade show and educational programming. Less walking; most hotel rooms are closer to the meeting space than the distance between elevators of The Paris Hotel to the Event Center in Bally's at our current convention site. Attendees will have eight hotel options, with a range of rates, amenities and ambience.

Save the Dates: November 25-28, 2018 and December 1-4, 2019.



**R. Harry Booth, President of the Washington County Fair in Greenwich and Past President of the NYSAAF received the IAFE Heritage Award November 30 at the IAFE Convention in Las Vegas, NV. Harry is shown here with the award sponsor Carol Porter of Haas & Wilkerson Insurance.**

**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF AGRICULTURAL FAIRS, INC.**

Norma W. Hamilton, Executive Secretary  
67 Verbeck Ave. • Schaghticoke, NY 12154  
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*Thank you to all who contributed to  
this newsletter.*



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**Join us January 15 - 18, 2016**  
**128th NYSAAF Annual Convention**  
Riverside Convention Center • Rochester, NY  
Convention Program – [www.nyfairs.org](http://www.nyfairs.org)

Call for room reservations:  
Radisson Riverside Hotel – 585-546-6400  
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<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/nysagfair2016>

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