



NYSAAF

NEWSLETTER

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc.

President's Message from Jason Lawrence

What a year this has been so far, it is not at all what I would have expected as your President. Upon assuming the role of President, I worked diligently on behalf of many of the fairs in New York to find the compromise on the anticipated date change of the State Fair, after coming to a workable compromise, then came COVID-19 in March. Who would have guessed COVID would have had such a drastic effect on all of the Fairs in New York and in general our personal lives as well. I have missed visiting your Fairs this year and hope to have the opportunity to visit many of them in the coming years. I'm certain this pandemic has drastically affected our Fairs and the way in which we operate in the future. We will all be searching for the NEW NORMAL whatever that might be. The Board held a special meeting in August to discuss the Convention. As you know this was a difficult decision to cancel, but it was agreed that it was best for our Associate Members who potentially would have had to quarantine for 14 days for a 2 day trade Show and our Fair delegate members. We were able to negotiate with both the hotel and convention and moved the 2021 obligation to 2023. This will also allow us additional time to complete the "Request for Proposal" for future Conventions.

I was very pleased to see many fairs host virtual livestock shows and auctions to benefit the 4-H Youth Projects that the youth had worked so hard to prepare for them. Thank you for that.

As required by our BY LAWS, we still are required to have an Annual Meeting to ratify the business of 2020. That meeting format will be discussed by the Board at the October Meeting and you will all be informed of when, where and how, this meeting will take place. In the meantime, I hope these unprecedented times find you well. I look forward to seeing all of you in the future.

Jason

A Message from your Executive Secretary

Well like all of you, this year has been unusual for us all. I have missed visiting your fairs this year. Needless to say the summer months were challenging. However, I assure you that the Association has continued to move forward to inform our members of actions of the Board. As you know, we felt it was in the best interest of our member Fairs and Associates to cancel the Convention. We were able to negotiate with the Hyatt Hotel and the Rochester Convention Center to minimize damages of Covid-19. As Executive Secretary I participate regularly with other folks in a similar position throughout the Country. They too are having to make decisions about the future, so it helpful to have their thought on Fairs in the future. I have been monitoring and forwarding important information which has been passed by IAFE. I hope this is helpful to you as you work to plan for 2021, which I am sure will forever change the look of the traditional County Fair. It is very rewarding to see that many Fairs, hosted events to allow for the youth of our Fairs to showcase and market their projects. If, I can do anything to assist you, please do not hesitate to be in contact. I am

here to help you. On a personal note, I recently had a complete left knee replacement done. I am on the mend and expect to be back on my feet in a few more weeks. Best wishes for a great fall season!

A Message from 1st VP Ed Rossley

Could...

Our...

Venues...

Ill fortune...

Disaster be overcome?

NYSAAF rose to the challenge and discovered new ways to promote our Fairs. Thanks to the strong relationship with the Showpeople's Association the "Virtual Fair" site was created. Many Fairs built their own virtual and live shows and auctions to showcase their exhibitors. Many Fairs featured carnival food eats which reflected the Board's giving spirit and met many fair patrons cravings along with a distraction during the pandemic.

We look forward to a better 2021 as we work together to create safe adaptations. We hope you enjoy your holidays along with your family and Fair family. Looking forward to seeing each of you.

Have fun!

Ag Awareness 2020/2021 Showcase

Our Ag Awareness program is pivotal to the many of our Fairs. Like everything else it presented many challenges to the program. The Committee recommended to the Board that we continue to allow those Fairs eligible in 2020 to continue with their projects and showcase them for funding in 2021. So, I look forward to many new great accomplishments by those Fairs in 2021.

As previously approved, 2021 will begin the NEW round of funding for the Ag Awareness project program. The Board also approved an increase of incentive to \$1700.00 per Fair. I have recently sent the Fair eligible for participation information to complete for their project in 2021. Those Fairs eligible to participate in 2021 are Allegany County, Cattaraugus County, Chenango County, Cortland County 4-H, Delaware County, Genesee Valley Breeders, Goshen Historic Track, Herkimer County, Jefferson County, Orleans County Junior Fair, Oswego County and Tioga County.

I look forward to working with these Fairs to improve exhibits and agriculture areas at their respective Fairs. I am certain that they will put these funds to good use in coming year.

See ya'll in the summer of 2021.

Scholarship Update:

Hi everyone. To say 2020 has been a tough year is an understatement!

But as far as finding deserving young people with awesome characteristics, great community involvement, outstanding academics, and total dedication to our association's fairs and agricultural programs. WE HAVE THEM!!!!

Even with all the chaos going on around us it was a pleasure and a privilege to get to learn about each one of the candidates. Many thanks have to be given to our scholarship committee. Starting with our rookie Martha Bush, Scott Christian and Nick Pelham.

Below are our 2020 Scholarship award winners, the fair and districts they represent.

Association Awards

- Mackenzie Lil – Ontario County Fair, District 7
- Hunter Gardner – Columbia County Fair, District 1
- Emily Conners – Clinton County Fair, District 3
- Seth Donahoe – Herkimer County Fair, District 4
- Rebecca Coombe – Grahamsville Little World’s Fair, District 1
- Jessica Engel – Erie County Fair – District 8
- Lillian Penird – Ontario County Fair – District 7
- Emily Beidt – Genesee County Fair – District 8
- Annika Donlick – Cortland County Junior Fair – District 5
- Maddison Peryea – Clinton County Fair – District 3

Fair Managers Award

Bryanna Warner – Chautauqua County Fair
I will be assembling bio's and pictures of each of the students for the virtual convention.
Please stay safe take care John Craft

Become Involved in the NYSAAF Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates who are interested in serving on the Board Of Directors. A candidate should submit; 1. A letter of intent to serve NO Later than November 1, 2020 and 2. A letter of support from the Fair Board you represent.

Information should be sent to: NYSAAF – Executive Committee, Attention: Russell Marquart, PO Box G. Elma, NY 14059. Letter must be received NO LATER November 1, 2020.

In Memorial – we note the passing of our dear Fair Friends

Jim Slocum-Hemlock Fair, Peggy Lipinski – Schaghticoke Fair, John Andersen – Yates County Fair, George Barker – Monroe County Fair, John Burr – Lewis County Fair, Richard Elthorp, Herkimer County Fair, Dominic Vivonia – Amusements of America, Angel Wheelock Ward – Wheelock Amusements.

Congratulations!!!!

Congratulations to Paula Struble and Maria Lucero from the Erie County Fair for achieving “Certified Fair Executive” (CFE) honors this past Spring.

Dates to Remember:

- IAFE Convention Registration..... Open
- IAFE Annual Convention, San Antonio, Texas Nov. 29 -Dec. 2, 2020
- NYSAAF Board of Directors Meeting, Herkimer County Fairgrounds, Frankfort, NY October 17, 2020
- IAFE Cyber Seminar – Public and Media Relations (IFM #220)..... October 21, 2020

IAFE Cyber Seminar – Sponsorship I (IFM #121)..... October 28, 2020

IAFE Cyber Seminar – Financial Management (IFM #102)..... November 12, 2020

NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs Annual Meeting (Date to be determined)..... January 2021

NICA Annual Meeting, Gibsonton, Florida..... To be determined

OABA Annual Meeting, Gibsonton, Florida..... To be determined

IAFE Spring Management Conference

IAFE Zone #1 Conference, hosted by York State Fair, York, Pennsylvania..... May 13 – 16, 2021

IAFE Spring Seminar