



April 2017

NYSAAF

NEWSLETTER

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc.



Gary Newkirk

President's Message

It seems like it was just yesterday that we were out on our Fairgrounds getting ready for the 2016 Season, but here we are in the Spring of 2017 getting ready to do it all over again!

Our 2017 Convention is now behind us and I certainly hope that everyone had a great time and found it beneficial. The formal program is always great, but I am sure that all of the networking that happens between the sessions and the "after hours" meetings with the liquid refreshments is an even bigger part of the weekend experience!

I guess the best news is that we thought we were starting into the season with \$89,285 for improvements in the Agricultural side

of our Fairgrounds and it has now been amended to \$96,153. Please, if you see any of your Senators or Assemblymen, thank them for their support.

On Monday, March 6th, we had our annual Lobby Day. Harry Booth and Mark St. Jacques did their usual great job organizing this opportunity to keep our presence in Albany. The major agenda item was again getting our \$500,000 Premium money in the budget, but we also had the opportunity to thank everyone for the Grant. Hopefully, if we all make good use of the funds that they have provided; we can go back in and get another round of funds.

I am looking forward to a great 2017 Season and I hope to be able to visit as many of our great fairs as possible.

Gary Newkirk

2017 Officers



Left to Right Front Row, Melissa Beardslee, Treasurer, Russell Marquart, CFE, Executive Secretary, Back Row, President Gary Newkirk, 1st VP Scott Christian, 2nd Nick Pelham, 3rd VP Jason Lawrence, Past President Andy Imperati

2017 District Directors



Left to Right Front Row, Lauren Rowland, Taryn Moyle, Back Row, Frank Cuff, Richard Freligh, Joseph Giroux, Douglas Hanno, Alton MacDuffie

Public Policy Report

Lobby Day went very well again this year. We had 22 people representing our Fairs and we visited 14 Senators and 17 Assembly members. Our main focus was to thank them for their support last year in obtaining the \$5 million for capital expenses and we presented each legislator a Certificate of Appreciation.

The appropriation in the Governor's budget for county fairs was once again at \$340,000. Our request for 2018 was to reinstate the annual appropriation for premium dollars back to \$500,000. There appears to be a great deal of support from our legislators to make the budget increase.

We had a booth at the Farm Bureau Taste NY Reception and many of us also attended that. This was another great way to interact with some of the Senators and Assembly members who were there.

Thank you to all who took the time come and talk to our legislators. I know how important it is to keep ourselves involved at this level. I hope you found it time well spent and rewarding.

R. Harry Booth, Director of Public Policy



"New York Agriculture Thrives at the Fair!"

Russell L. Marquart, CFE
Agriculture Awareness Project
Coordinator

Agriculture, New York State's #1 industry! The NYSAAF Agricultural Awareness program provides support to the local County Fairs to showcase New York's best in agriculture and livestock.

In 2017 there are ten (10) Fairs eligible for the program they include;

Allegany County Fair - The Fair will undertake a building construction project to put a hip roof on the Dairy Barn. This new barn will provide more accommodations for the growing livestock population at the Fair. Cattaraugus County Fair - New livestock pens will house animals during the Fair. It will provide more comfortable surroundings for both the animals and the patrons. Chenango County The Fair plans to partner with FFA to create a container garden space in front of the building to enhance and promote the various agricultural entities participating in the Fair. Cortland County Junior Fair - Improved educational signs will grace the grounds promoting local agriculture. Featured will be environment concerns for plant life, livestock, animal welfare, soil improvement and all that grows. Delaware County Fair- The Fair will feature its new mobile blacksmith shop. The farrier will provide working demonstrations on the use and applications of the various tools of the trade. Herkimer County Fair - A re-construction project of the Ag Awareness Building is planned. New floors,

carpet and exhibits will help to give the fair visitors a more welcome and inviting educational experience. Jefferson County Fair - Plans to create a NEW fiber exhibit. It will be an impressive new learning tool for the Fair. Promoting the traditions of making quality hand-crafted item from animal fiber will be featured. Orleans County 4-H Fair- With the ever-growing animal population at the Fair. The Ag Awareness funds will be used to purchase additional livestock pens for the animals during their stay at the Fair, the comfort and welfare of the animals are of the utmost importance to the families that spend hours raising, training and educating about the importance of livestock. Oswego County Fair - Education is very important to the mission of the Fair. The public will have the chance to experience hands on where their food comes from, the process with which it is planted until it is harvested and shipped to the consumer. Pick your apple, collect your eggs, and plant your seeds will be highlighted by this new and exciting educational exhibit. Tioga County Fair - Plans are to expand the petting zoo. This will give the guest a hands-on experience with the animals. Educational banners will provide valuable information for the guest. Veggie Racers will race their vegetable creations to the finish line for a fun filled day of laughter at the Fair.

As people of this great State, we are proud to keep the tradition of the County Fair thriving here in New York!

Executive Secretary Report

First, I must thank the Board for this opportunity to serve as your Executive Secretary. It has been challenging to say the least but one I am embracing each day. There are many more moving parts than I ever imagined. Special thanks goes to Norma Hamilton for her support and guidance along the way.

Our Associates Member Directory, please support these people as they are our partners in the business.

Please verify your email addresses, I will use email much more to communicate to the Membership. Someone should be monitoring it at least weekly.

Statewide Pass information, please make this available anywhere possible in your communications to guests and exhibitors. The Sale of these passes is very important to the success of our Ag Awareness project as well as the Association.

Lastly, be sure to acknowledge and support our Sponsors from the Convention, these are key to keeping our Convention affordable. Thank you for your generous support.


There were 39 fairs registered and 726 people pre-registered for the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
 Russell L. Marquart, CFE
 Executive Secretary

Congratulations!



Laura Kwilos and Justin Iwankow of the Erie County Fair have successfully completing the IAFE Institute Of Fair Management program.



In Memorium

W. Jay Milligan, Sr.
JM Productions

Chautauqua County Fair
Jared A. Wooley

Jared A. Wooley, 79, Forestville, New York. Jared was a Director/Honorary Director with the Chautauqua County Fair Board. He joined the association on 1972. He was a 50 year member of the Chautauqua County Pomona Grange, New York State Grange and a 50 year member of the County 4-H, among other civic organizations. He owned and operated Mapl-Camp Dairy & Sheep Farm in Arkwright, New York.

Milligan grew up in South Buffalo, the adopted son of a Buffalo milkman and a New York telephone operator. When he was 19, he participated in his first demolition derby. At 31 he produced the first demolition derby for the Erie County Fair. The inaugural event featured only 17 cars and was won by Ed Henning of Lancaster. Currently, JM Productions brings demolition derbies to 60 state and county fairs throughout the Northeast.

In 1974, Jay Milligan Sr. created the All American Thrill Show sponsored by the American Motors Corporation. The show climaxed with a mid-air, 360 degree barrel roll called the Astro-Spiral. This was the same maneuver executed by Milligan's team as Roger Moore's stunt coordinator in the James Bond film, "The Man with the Golden Gun."

District Directors

District 1 - Director Frank Cuff

In 1974 myself and wife, Theresa, had started food vending at New England Fairs. We now have three sons and five grandchildren who all partake in the business. In 1990, until now I have been a concessionaire at the Ulster County Fair. A few years later appointed to the Board of Directors. It is now with pleasure serving my third term with the NYSAAF.

District 3 Director - Joseph Giroux

Joseph Giroux, President of the Clinton County Fair resides in Plattsburgh. Joe retired after 7 years as the Clinton County Treasurer seven years ago. Joe, his wife Carolyn and son Todd operate a dairy farmer in Clinton County. Joe is a past state board member for Farm Bureau and is actively involved in the local Farm Bureau and Cooperative Extension. He also sits on the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Board.

District 5 Director - Kevin O'Brien

Kevin has been a Director with the Delaware County Fair since 2012 and has been involved with the Fair for many years prior to that. Kevin and his wife Beth have been married for 28 years and have 4 children and 7 grandchildren with more on the way. Kevin is a Supervisor for NYC DEP on the Reservoirs and has worked for them for 28 years. They have always enjoyed the Fair and watching their children and now grandchildren show their animals. As a Director he is enjoying everything about it and the "Fair Family" they have built along the way.

District 7 Director - Taryn Moyle

Taryn Moyle lives in Orleans County with my husband and 2 children. We are an ac-

five 4H family where I volunteer on the Dog Program Development Committee (DPDC), Horse Program Development Committee (HPDC), and the Fair Committee. I am happy to be a part of this organization and helping Youth, families and community educate, support and grow each other.

3rd Vice President – Jason W. Lawrence

Jason is a resident of Norwich, New York in Chenango County where he lives with his wife Lesley, and two children Madison and Andrew. He is currently the Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Marshal for the City of Norwich. He has been a Member of the Chenango County Fair since 2005. After being elected to the position of Board of Director in 2005, his first year as a board member he was placed on the Buildings & Grounds Committee, facilitated the Equine Exhibit, and helped with other odds and ends. In the last four years, he has also served on the Talent, Security, and planning Committees. He has owned horses for over 20 years. He has significant knowledge of farm management and has experience with being a Horse Show Coordinator for some of the largest horse shows in the United States; including the New York State Fair Horse Show, The Syracuse International and The American Royal Horse Show in Kansas City. Jason has served the NYSAAF as District 2 Director in 2011-2012; Served on the NYSAAF Scholarship committee and the Ag Awareness committee. Jason finds gratification during the fair when he sees families and children enjoying their day; weather they are showing animals, riding a ride, or just eating a candy apple.



Dutchess County Fair - New Admissions Gate

District 5 Meeting

The District 5 Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday April 23rd, 2017 at 2:00 at the Silo Restaurant in Greene. Reservations need to be made and can be done so by contacting Kevin O'Brien at 607-743-7979 or Beth at 607-434-1319.

Scholarship Committee is sending a reminder to all fairs

The purpose of the scholarship fund:

To provide financial assistance to those high school and college students who have been active in their local fairs or the NYSSA and who intend to pursue or who are pursuing higher education.

Awards

Up to seven (7) \$1,000 scholarships and (1) \$500 scholarship from NYSFMA will be awarded for 2017.

Eligibility

Applicant must be in his/her senior year of high school in New York State or be a New York State resident already attending college and planning to pursue or already pursuing a degree at an accredited institution of higher learning.

Application

Applications must be downloaded from the NYSAAF website, www.nyfairs.org, completed by the student, printed out, signed by the applicant and a parent or guardian, and then submitted to one of our member fairs or to the NYSSA for endorsement. Contact information must include cell phone number. Handwritten applications will not be considered. Students should be sure to contact their local fairs in advance to confirm membership in our organization and office hours. A complete list of our members can be found on our website.

Deadlines for applications are as follows: Student to member fair by Friday in April 14.

Member fair to District Director by Friday, April 21.

Dates to Remember

2017

April 25-28.....	IAFE Management Conference, Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, WA
May 3.....	IAFE Cyberseminar – Ag Programing & Competitive Exhibits
May 16.....	IAFE Cyberseminar – Lightning Safety
May 10-12.....	Institute of Fair Management Summit, Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento, CA
July-September.....	Fair Season
August 28.....	NYSAAF Newsletter deadline
October 14-15.....	NYS Fair Managers Association, Doubletree Hotel, Syracuse, NY
October 25.....	IAFE Cyberseminar – Entertainment 1
November 1.....	IAFE Cyberseminar – Parliamentary Procedures
November 1.....	NYSAAF Newsletter deadline
November 8.....	IAFE Cyberseminar – Government/Community Relations
November 26-29.....	IAFE Annual Convention & Trades Show, Paris Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

2018

January 12-15.....	NYSAAF Annual Convention, The Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, New York
May 3-5.....	IAFE Zone 1 Meeting – hosted by the Washington County Fair, Queensbury Hotel, Queensbury, NY

2017 Convention Wrap-Up

The 129th Annual New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention at the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, NY was held January 13-16, 2017. Thirty-nine Fairs attended as well as Associate Members of the Association. Over 750 individuals were in attendance. President Andy Imperati, Dutchess County Fair, Rhinebeck, NY welcomed everyone to the Convention.



**Keynote Speaker,
Juli Burney**



**Keynote Speaker,
Clint Swindall**

Saturday's keynote speaker was Clint Swindall, "Tell me Somethin' Good!" and Sunday speaker Juli Burney presented "Those Who Laugh, Last".

A variety of breakout sessions continued throughout the four day event and delegates enjoyed an interactive game show experience "Fair Family Feud".

The Auction to benefit the scholarship program grows in items and attendance each year. Record amounts were raised for the fund in 2017.

The Trade Show was held on January 14 & 15 and included 88 booths. The "Little Red Wagon Parade" with its theme "County Fairs" was a tremendous success.

The Association's "Hall of Fame" Award was presented to NYSAAF Past President and Executive Secretary, Russell Marquart, CFE of the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, NY.

New York State Showpeople's Association awards were presented to Jefferson Mayne of the Madison County Fair for "Fair Person of the Year"; Avery Wheelock for "Show Person of the Year" and Cameron Ward, Wheelock Rides for "Workhorse of the Year".

The Officers for 2017 are as follows; Gary Newkirk, CFE of the Ulster County Fair, New Paltz, NY will serve as President of the NYSAAF for 2017. First Vice President, Scott Christian, Essex County Fair, Westport, NY; Second Vice President, Nick Pelham, Steuben County Fair, Bath, NY; Third Vice President Jason Lawrence, Chenango County Fair, Norwich, NY; Treasurer, Melissa Beardslee, Delaware County Fair, Walton, NY and Russell Marquart, CFE, Executive Secretary, Erie County Fair, Hamburg, NY.

District Directors are:

- District 1 Frank Cuff, Ulster County Fair
- District 2 Lauren Rowland, Saratoga County Fair
- District 3 Joseph Giroux, Clinton County Fair
- District 4 Douglas Hanno, Lewis County Fair
- District 5 Kevin O'Brien, Delaware County Fair
- District 6 Richard Freligh, Seneca County Fair
- District 7 Taryn Moyle, Orleans County 4-H Fair
- District 8 Alton M. MacDuffie, Genesee County Fair
- NY State Fair Acting Director Troy Waffner, Syracuse
- Associate Directors – Jeff Lloyd, Utica, NY & Joseph Sofo, Jr., Auburn, NY

Showcase Acts: The One Man Band & Son presented by Artists and Attractions; The Martin Family Circus presented by Klein's Entertainment, Gord Bamford presented by Variety Attractions and The Great Dubois, presented by Fusion Talent Group.

2018 Convention dates are January 12-15 at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY

For more information on NYSAAF Fairs & Convention contact Russell Marquart, CFE, Executive Secretary at rlmarquart@aol.com or visit our website at www.nyfairs.org.

NYSAAF Hall of Fame – 2017 Hall of Fame Award



Russell L. Marquart, CFE of the Erie County Fair, received this year's Hall of Fame Award for dedicated service to the NYSAAF.



Left to right: Tracie Newkirk, Jonathan Newkirk, and Gary Newkirk.

50/50 Winner Drawing



Nicole O'Connor wins the 50/50 Raffle, accepting on her behalf are her parents, Matt & Loretta O'Connor, of the Lewis County Fair.

New York State Showpeoples Association Awards



Fair Person of the Year - Jefferson Mayne,
Madison County Fair



Showman of the Year - Avery Wheelock,
Wheelock Rides



Work Horse of the Year - Cameron Ward,
Wheelock Rides

NYS Fair Managers Meeting

"Mark Your Calendar" The NYS Fair Managers Meeting will be held October 14-15, at the Double Tree Inn, Syracuse, New York. Jason Craig of the Delaware County Fair is planning a full program which will include dinner at the State Fairgrounds. Hotel information will be forwarded at a later date.

OABA Circle of Excellence

Congratulations, to our Associate Member, Strates Show for earning the OABA Circle of Excellence award given by the Outdoor Amusement Business Association.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Debbie Powers, Powers Great American Midways. Debbie is currently the President of the Showmen's League of America and was voted in as the 3rd Vice President of the OABA. Way to go Debbie, you will represent our business proudly!

Educational Display

The IAFE offers 3 outstanding educational displays for use at your Fair. Farmer for a Day, Milk Maker and Corn is Everywhere, are available by contacting the IAFE Office. If you have questions contact via email at eventsunlimited1@gmail.com

2017 NY Fairs Pass Available

An official New State Fairs Pass is available for \$100.00. The pass is good at all NYSAAF member Fairs and the New York State Fair. The pass admits the person named and one companion plus parking where available. Applications and a complete list of member fairs is available at www.nyfairs.org.

129th Annual
NYSAAF
Convention Sponsors

GOLD SPONSORS - \$1500
Allied Specialty Insurance
Dreamland Amusements
Powers Great American Midways

SILVER SPONSORS - \$700
W.G. Wade Shows

BRONZE SPONSORS - \$500
Coleman Bros. Shows
Delaware County Fair
Erie County Fair
Herkimer County Fair
Lewis County Fair
Variety Attractions, Inc.
VisitRochester

129th Annual
NYSAAF
Convention

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS - UP TO \$350

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National Ticket Company
North Pole Productions
Polar Bear Ice Cream
Seneca County Fair
The Fair Publishing House
Zutter Designs

Thank you to all of our sponsors for your continued support of the NYSAAF

Visit us on our website at: www.nyfairs.org

Newsletter

The NYSAAF Newsletter is published 3 times a year in April, September and December. Send information for the newsletter to Russell Marquart at rlmarquart@aol.com. Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter. Visit us on our website at: www.nyfairs.org.



New NYSAAF Contact Information

NYSAAF
Attention: Russ Marquart
PO Box G • Elma, NY 14059
Phone: 716-655-1958 • FAX: 716-655-1958 • Email: rlmarquart@aol.com



Like us on Facebook at NYSAAF, be sure to Share with your friends to get our message out to more people, please!

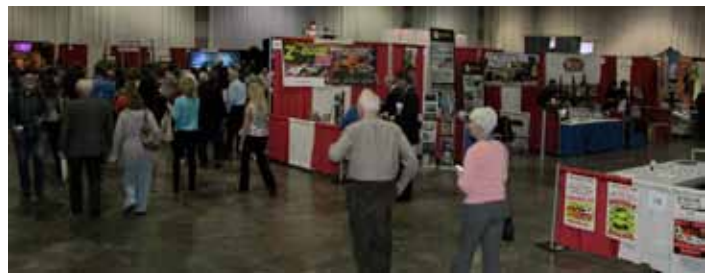
Convention Scrapbook



Convention Scrapbook



Convention Scrapbook



2017 New Members

Mary's Foods

Tony Tortorice
47 Springblossom Circle
Henrietta, NY 14467
585-727-9827

Dave's I Got It

David Neurotte
2347 Fix Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
585-967-8504
I Got It Games

Moose Joose Slush

Jody Conklin
135 Creekwood Drive
Mouresville, NC 28113
708-609-8494
Email: codyscarts@gmail.com
Frozen Slush

Jump-N-Fun

Frank Carhart
6 Roethal Drive
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Stunt Jump, Mechanical Bull, Inflatables

Singer Storyteller Farmer Tom Walsh

Thomas Walsh
PO Box 72
East Amherst, NY 14051
716-400-1755
Email: farmertomwalsh@yahoo.com
Family Entertainment- Ag Awareness
Photography

Midway Foods

Eric W. Albro
PO Box 683
Davenport, FL 33836
407-461-8774

Dan's Fried Dough/ J & R Concessions, Inc.

Jacqueline Weir
39 Woods Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144
617-974-8846
Email: jmweir@bdo.com
Fried dough, Zepples, Dough Nuggets

Leon Leather Company

Andrew Alcantera
140 Lakeside Drive East
Port Orange, FL 32128
386-679-3880
Email: Andrew@leonleather.com
Commercial Exhibit

Santillo's Concessions

Jessica Santillo
11511 Block Schwl Road
Prattsburgh, NY 14873
585-429-0357
Email: jjsantillo29@gmail.com

Rachel's Ice Cream

Rachel Peck
973 Windfall Road
Utica, NY 13502
315-569-0390

Town of Wilton Recreation

Stephen Porto
10 Lewis Drive
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-544-9455
Email: sporto@townofwilton.com
Recreation Programs, events, community events

On The Edge 2-Wheel Action Shows

Tom McNeal
8661 Highlands Drive
Trussville, AL 35173
205-441-6222
Email: info@ontheedgeshows.com
Bicycle & Motorcycle Actions Show

Equilibrium Circus

Molly Keczan
4585 King Street
Beamsville, Ontario, Canada L0R 1B1
416-606-6559
Email: info@equilibriumcircus.com
Family Friendly Circus & Variety entertainment

The Crow Ridge Band

Bernie Schallehn
150 Crow Ridge Road
Voorheesville, NY 12185
518-330-5078
Email: berniewrite@aol.com
Contemporary and Classic Country music

Annlee Concessions

Grant Simons
585 S.W. Seville Place
Lake City, FL 32024
386-984-0832
Email: simongsg@bellsouth.net