

2016 CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

'A FAIR FAMILY REUNION'



Serving Iowa Fairs Since 1907

www.iowafairs.com

242 8th Avenue West, Cresco, Iowa 52136 – Phone 866-547-FAIR or 563-547-4996 – E-mail: tsb@iowafairs.com

The Association of Iowa Fairs enjoyed another large record turnout for its 2016 Conference and Annual Meeting held on December 9, 10 and 11, at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines.

Representatives from the 106 fairs in Iowa and of the 158 associate members converged onto the Conference Center for a weekend of learning, sharing and fun. Final attendance tally for the Conference showed 1,347 people registered for the event.

The opening business meeting of the Association was held on Friday morning, followed by the very popular session 'Open Forum'.

Workshops that were featured Friday included: 'Animal Rights & Activists' presented by Linda Chezem, Professor of Youth Development & Ag Education, Purdue University; 'Alcohol at the Fair – What You Need To Know' presented by Robert Bailey & Jason Hohn, both with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division; 'Iowa Tourism & County Fairs' presented by Shawna Lode, Iowa Tourism Manager; 'Fair Board Newcomer', presented by Tom Barnes, AIF Executive Director.

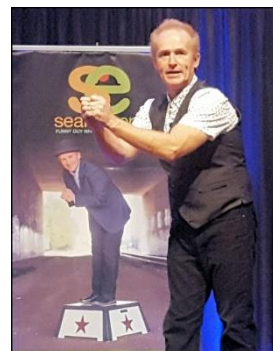
Human Trafficking Training was held on Friday afternoon. Presenters were Celine Villongco, Human Trafficking Coordinator with the Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, and Vanessa Miller, L.E. Instructor at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

AIF District workshops were held Friday afternoon, hosted by AIF District Directors. Iowa has six fair districts with 16 to 19 fairs in each district. Delegates from each Fair attended their own district meeting where they discussed district business and made plans for future district meetings.

The ever-popular entertainment showcase had three sessions, Friday evening after the Awards Banquet, Saturday noon and Saturday evening after the Social A'Fair & Auction. All three showcases were held to standing room only audiences.



Saturday opened with the keynote address of the Conference. This year Sean Emery, entertainer and speaker presented 'Familiarity Breeds Contempt ... Not Seeing the Elephants Anymore' to a large and enthusiastic group of Conference attendees. After the keynote address, the Saturday schedule was full with seminars, workshops, and a breakfast meeting for AIF associate members.



Saturday workshops and seminars included: 'Capital Improvements on Fairgrounds', moderated by Tom Barnes, AIF Executive Director; 'What's Up', moderated by Randy Beckman, AIF District Director; 'All Things Livestock' hosted by Dr. David Schmitt, State Veterinarian; Mike Anderson, ISU Extension Livestock Specialist; 'Keep Iowa Beautiful Programs for Fairs', presented by Gerry Schnepf, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful; 'State Fair Queen Contest', presented by Jessie Peters & Tonya Cook, Iowa State Fair; 'Animal Rights & Activists', presented by Linda Chezem, Professor of Youth Development & Ag Education, Purdue University; 'Ag Learning Centers at County Fairs', moderated by AIF District Director Kerry Scheidegger; 'Fair Secretary/Manager Workshop', hosted by Tom Barnes, AIF Executive Director.



The International Association of Fairs and Expositions sponsored guest speaker on Saturday afternoon with Ron Diamond addressing the Conference. Ron's presentation, 'The Irrefutable Laws of Leadership' is an introduction to the basic laws of leadership and why it is so important to help everyone in your fair's organization from the top down find and develop their leadership potential so that continued growth and maximum efficiency can be achieved.

A spouse tour was held Saturday morning which featured a trip to the World Food Prize & Hall of Laureates. Those going on the tour enjoyed a self-guided tour of the World Food Prize building and the work of Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Norman Borlaug.

Saturday evening featured the very popular 'Social A'Fair and Auction'. This included a large social and supper attended by over 650 Association members. The theme for this event was 'Christmas Spirit' where attendees dressed in their favorite (or not so favorite) holiday costume.

Following the Social and Auction was the 'President's Reception', hosted by 2016 AIF Board President Jerry Hopperstad and members of the Worth County Fair Board.

Sunday morning started out with a church service dedicated to deceased fair board members and fair volunteers in Iowa followed by the popular 'Fairman's Breakfast'. After the breakfast, 'Mini-Sessions' were held. These sessions featured an open discussion on the sessions' topic among the attendees. Session topics included 'Share the Fair', 'Livestock Auctions', 'Not Your Typical Track Events', 'Off-Season Beverage Sales', 'Unique Fund Raising Events' and 'Single Source Livestock Shows'.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Gene & Shirley Newell

Long Grove

Mississippi Valley Fair, Davenport



Roger Ahrenholtz

Harlan

Shelby County Fair, Harlan

2016 FAIRMAN OF THE YEAR



Bob Fox

Mississippi Valley Fair, Davenport
(left) was named the AIF's 'Fairman of the Year'.

Leo Overland Memorial Showman of the Year



Horizon Talent Service

Pam Bradford of Horizon Talent Service in Hopkins, Minnesota was selected to receive the Leo Overland Memorial Showman of the Year.

Conference Guests



Special guests at the Awards Banquet on Friday evening were Robert Dodds, Vice President of County Services, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Dr Cathann Kress, Vice President of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Pictured above are (left to right): Bob Dodds, Dr Cathann Kress, Sue Barnes, AIF Executive Secretary/Treasurer and Tom Barnes, AIF Executive Director.

ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTIONS

Jim Sloan Elected AIF Board President

2017 Officers of the Association Board of Directors were elected at the Board's organizational meeting held on Sunday afternoon following the AIF Conference.

Jim Sloan of Eldon was elected as the 2017 President of the Association Board. Tricia Rosendahl of Eagle Grove will serve as the Board's 1st Vice President and Mark Drost of Tracy will be the Board's 2nd Vice President. Past President of the AIF Board is Jerry Hopperstad of Northwood.

In addition to Board Officer elections, Tom & Sue Barnes of Cresco were retained by the Board as the AIF's Executive Director and Executive Secretary/Treasurer, respectively for 2017.

AIF District Director elections were held at the fall district meetings and ratified at the AIF's Annual Meeting held during Conference. Elected to the AIF Board for a 2-year term include Steve Voss of Sibley in Osceola County (NW District), Jon Baltes of Hampton in Franklin County (NC District), Rick Palmer of Manchester in Delaware County (NE District), Danny Olson of Red Oak in Montgomery County (SW District), Jo Reynolds of Indianola in Warren County (SC District) and Randy Beckman of Sperry in Des Moines County (SE District).

AIF Conference & Annual Meeting Dates

December 8 - 10, 2017 December 7 - 9, 2018

AIF Conference will be held at the
Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines

2017 AIF District Directors



Steve Voss – NW



Kerry Scheidegger – NW



Jon Baltes - NC



Tricia Rosendahl – NC



Joe Yedlik - NE



Rick Palmer - NE



Paul Quam – SW



Danny Olson – SW



Jo Reynolds - SC



Mark Drost – SC



Jim Sloan - SE



Randy Beckman - SE

Iowa State Fair Board Elections

Iowa State Fair Board directors were also elected during the State Agricultural Society meeting, held during the Conference.

Those elected as Directors to the Board include Dave Hoffman of Le Mars (NW District), Alan Brown of Hampton (NC District), Paul Vaassen of Dubuque (NE District), Gary Van Aernam of Exira (SW District), Jerry Parkin of Earlham (SC District), and Gary McConnell of Bloomfield (SE District).

John Harms was elected as President of the Iowa State Fair Board for 2017. Dave Hoffman will serve as Vice President and Alan Brown will be Board Treasurer. Gary Slater is the Secretary/Manager of the Iowa State Fair.

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SOCIAL

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 – 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Iowa State Capitol, East Rotunda, 1st Floor

This Social is a time to meet with our State Legislators to discuss state funding of our Fairs and other legislation that is beneficial to the fair industry in Iowa. All fair folks are invited to attend this special event. Your help is needed as you are asked to contact your legislators and ask their support on all of the legislation the Association sponsors.

FROM THE OFFICE ...

As we say, where did the time go? 2016 was quite the year, offering up fun, excitement and sometimes challenging times. But now it is behind us. In our 2016 travels we found much excitement, energy and a true dedication to your Fairs. It is important to keep in mind your Fair is a vital part of your community. Your Fair is an educational tool that needs to be expanded upon. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers that help make the fair industry as strong as it is.

The 2016 Conference is now a fond memory. It certainly was a fun and educational weekend. All of the workshops and guests speakers were presented to 'a full house'. The new convention facilities at the Holiday Inn certainly added to our Conference, and offers much needed flexibility with the Conference schedule. The one-on-one networking between fair folks is a very important aspect of the Conference. I hope everyone got some great ideas for your Fair.

Sue & I certainly look forward to the Conference every year. It is indeed a lot of work, but seeing all of our extended 'fair family' is something we look forward to. The Conference is the main focus of our efforts for the Association and each year it continues to improve.

Again, our 2017 calendar will be full of traveling, including the spring and fall district meetings and the IAFE Zone 5 meeting in Peoria Illinois. And 'Fair Tour 2017' will keep us busy throughout the summer months. Lots of windshield time and very much worth the effort. We really enjoy the diversity of Iowa and experiencing all our Fairs have to offer.

Thanks to all for your continued support of the AIF. Hope to see you on our travels this year.

Tom Barnes AIF Executive Director

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Sophia Breuer (right) of Burlington in Des Moines County awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship, courtesy of Staats Custom Awards of Mt. Pleasant and the Association of Iowa Fairs. Lori White, General Manager of Staats (left), made the presentation at the Awards Banquet.



Scholarship applicants must have an immediate family member on their local county fair board, be a member in good standing of either a county 4-H club or FFA chapter and show involvement in other areas of their community. The applicant's field of higher education must be tied to agriculture, with preference given to applicants attending Iowa schools.

Congratulations to Sophia!!

Thank-You Thank-You Thank-You

To the following for sponsoring snacks, refreshments & coffee breaks.

Action Theater/Impact Pro Wrestling - All American Lumberjack Shows

Campbell's Concessions - Dawghouse Concessions - Evans United Shows

GL Berg & Associates - Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP)

Maddie Poppe - Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pulling Assn

Prairie Event Supply - Rixstine Recognition - Smith's Amusements & Concessions

Spectrum Weather & Specialty Insurance

'The Best Around' Concessions - Variety Attractions

Visit www.iowafairs.com

The AIF's website is updated as often as needed to keep everyone up to date on changes with the AIF's membership. Membership listings for both Fairs and Associates can be downloaded from the website. This is one more reason why the website is important to all members.

The 'Members Only' site is full of information for member fairs. A user ID and password is needed to access this area of the website. Contact the AIF office for instructions on getting an ID & password.

IT'S AUCTION TIME!!!



The annual auction on Saturday evening featured 149 items donated from member fairs and associates. The proceeds from the auction are used for expenses that are incurred by the Association in its efforts that help grow and benefit the fair industry in Iowa. This year the auction raised \$28,772.00

Thanks to all who supported the auction!



2016 Blue Ribbon Fairs



Plymouth County Fair, Le Mars – NW District



Franklin County Fair, Hampton – NC District



Mighty Howard County Fair, Cresco – NE District

2016 Blue Ribbon Fairs



Mississippi Valley Fair, Davenport – SE District



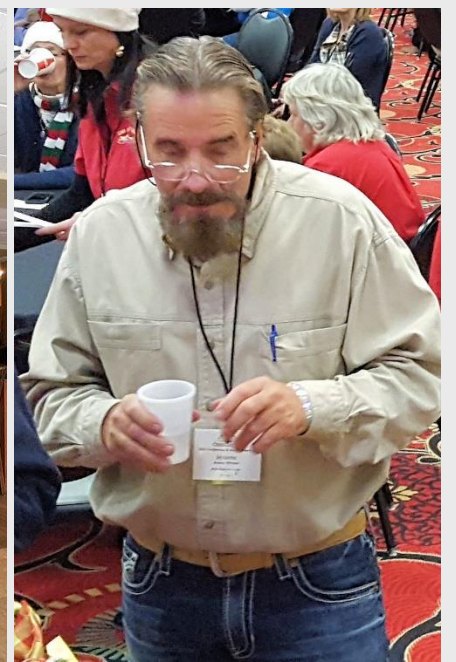
Lucas County Fair, Chariton – SC District



Montgomery County Fair, Red Oak – SW District



Conference Scenes ...



Conference Scenes

