

Ohio Fair Managers Association

Annual Meeting of the Ohio Fair Managers Association Inc.

January 7, 2018 (OFMA board review and approve content: 2/28/18)

District Director Stanley Strode held the Necrology Service for deceased members of Ohio's Fairs and friends prior to the start of the Annual Business Meeting.

President Robert Buxton called the 2018 Ohio Fair Managers Association Annual Membership Meeting to order at 10:47 am. The meeting convened at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 North High Street Delaware Rooms, in Columbus, Ohio.

Booklets of the minutes, agenda, yearly calendar, Coffee Mug and Government Advantage report, Resolution report were provided to all delegates by the credentials committee.

President Buxton thanked the Prowant Family, Owners of Prowant Specialty Company for their sponsorship of the Annual OFMA Meeting.

President Buxton welcomed all attending delegates and guests and following the Pledge of Allegiance by Ohio Fairs Queen Crista Wortkoetter and then instructed Executive Director Howard Call to sound the roll. The Credentials committee reported to the Executive Director all delegates seated.

The Credentials Committee presented the Delegates and Alternates list to the podium as part of the official record of delegates seated with all in attendance.

Minutes of the last annual meeting held January 8, 2017 were approved by motion of Allen County, Second Mahoning County to accept as inserted. Motion approved by voice signification.

Treasurer Robert Dawson presented the State of the Finances of the OFMA. Robert reviewed several items within the budget to clarify differences in spend over the period of the report. Investments were reviewed as well. Robert detailed the 990 Filing for the last fiscal year in great detail including changes in the form. Robert in addition detailed the new state filing procedure and completion of this requirement Portage County moved to adopt the financial reports as presented, second by Mercer County, Motion approved by voice signification.

The following committees reported:

Program: Director Paul Harris: Successful Convention Program, good Key Note address presented by Ashlee Lundvall. Paul thanked the committee as a whole for their work in securing presenters, speakers and all that participated as speakers, moderators and attendee's. Paul commented that the topics were well attended. Those Topics that the fairs would like to see please submit them to the OFMA office.

Trade Show: Tom Higbie, Sold 128 spaces, extra hospitality was bought to ensure that traffic found its way to those areas off the beaten path, and some sponsored to ensure traffic flow. The Poker Chip Frenzy worked very well with over 560 participating to win a chance at the daily iPad Drawing and other prizes.

Sponsorship: Dan Bullen, Good response, cash of over \$24,000 and in-kind \$ 16,000. Lost the Convention Sponsor, but picked up several others. Dan commented that these sponsors are important to deferrer costs; the fairs need to consider these sponsors and tradeshow participants for use at their fairs.

OFMA RESOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Presenters Jon Overmyer presented the following:

2018 OFMA RESOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLUTIONS No Resolutions were submitted.

Point of discussion inquired by a delegate on the district submitting a resolution for consideration that would have been a constitutional change: Constitution states the following:

ARTICLE X

This Constitution may be amended at the Annual Meeting by concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the official Delegates voting upon a roll call vote. Any amendment, however, to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of the Association by November 1, and the Executive Director shall inform the member Fairs of such amendments by December 1 prior to the opening of the Annual Meeting. Any amendment to this Constitution so submitted shall be signed by the member so submitting. The amended Constitution shall become effective at the close of the Association's Annual Meeting where the amendments have been approved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1- *Now be it recommended that the OFMA Board of Directors support the Ohio Department of Agriculture position to require all swine show to be terminal or swine to be on the fairgrounds for no more than seventy-two (72) hours.*
- 2- *Now be it recommended that the OFMA Board of Directors review changing the constitution so that resolutions be submitted by the annual meeting and then voted on at the Spring District Meetings.*
- 3- *Now be it recommended that the OFMA Board of Directors review the Constitution of the appointment of the Director-At-Large position, that the maximum term be six (6) years, and each newly elected President appoint at less one (1) director at large. Anyone maybe reappointed after being off the Board for two (2) years.*
- 4- *Now it is recommended that the OFMA Board of Directors work with Ohio Department of Agriculture that Fair dates be established for a four (4) period as per statue.*
- 5- *Now it is recommended that the OFMA Board of Directors work with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to revisit the possibility of the ODA conduct the Fair audits.*
- 6- *Now be recommended that the OFMA Board of Directors look into the possibility of establishing a Fair King contest.*

Queen Program, Bev Fisher, presented the outgoing 2017 Ohio Fairs' Queen Crista Wortkoetter with a parting gift and Robert Dawson presented a \$500 Check for her educational use. Bev spoke of the 2018 program with 78 of the 79 queens participated, program went well, Morgan McCutcheon, Hartford Independent Fair will be the 2018 Ohio Fairs' Queen. Bev presented Morgan with a Travel Bag for upcoming journey representing Ohio's Fairs.

New Business:

President Robert Buxton recognized the retirement of Chris Brust, Pike County, and Director District 3 with 9 years of service to the OFMA Board.

Executive Director Howard Call spoke to the coming year's fair season and the need to ensure that the fairs speak with their media outlets to the safety of their fairs, midways and overall operations. The tragedy of 2017 will reflect into 2018, however being proactive in an approach should help with communicating the safeness of our fairs. Howard also spoke to the diminishing Ohio Fairs Fund which (**3769.082 Ohio Revised Code fairs fund**) has been severally hurt with the advancements of off track betting and that out of state betting pools do not support the Ohio Racing Industry Fair Funds. The OFMA has communicated this concern for the last several years to OHHA and they have communicated their concerns to the Ohio Racing Commission. **The ORC States:** *In the event that the moneys available on the first day of March of any year are less than that required to carry out divisions (A)(1), (2), and (3) of this section, the moneys so available in the Ohio fairs fund shall be prorated equally to the items set forth in such divisions. In the event that the moneys available on the first day of March of any year are in excess of that required to carry out divisions (A) (1), (2), and (3) of this section, such excess shall be distributed equally to those county agricultural societies and independent agricultural societies conducting stake races, such excess to be added to the stake races conducted under division (A) (3) of this section. The balance of such excess shall be distributed to provide four per cent of such excess to the Ohio expositions commission to be added to the purses pursuant to division (A) (2) of this section, and the balance shall be distributed to the county and independent agricultural societies conducting stake races, such excess to be added to and divided equally among the stake races conducted under division (A) (3) of this section.*

This provision has been activated for the 2017 revenue to be distributed in 2018.

This subject has been broached to several key legislatures who are supporting of our Ohio Fairs; the law will open in the coming years for a possible fix. The OFMA has communicated this concern for the last several years to OHHA and they have communicated their concerns to the Ohio Racing Commission.

Executive Director Howard Call introduced the office supporting team that works the office, registration printing tradeshow game, meeting rooms Presentation needs. Right hand: Theresa Call, Leanne Bush, Cathy Cunningham, Amanda Ray, Sue Bush, Diana Cochran, Angie Everhart, and Kelsey Sedlak. Howard thanked them for their assistance and dedication to getting the job done and official photographer Alex Bush, AMBUSH Photography.

Election of Officers

President Robert Buxton opened the 2018 Officer Election:

For President: Dan Bullen Green County, Call for candidates from the Delegates, Greene County moved to accept the nomination of Dan Bullen, second Hamilton County, Allen County Moved to close nominations and cast an unanimous ballot , second Attica Independent Fair Vote by voice, approved

1st Vice-President: Rodney Arter Hartford Independent Fair , Hartford Independent Fair moved to Place Rodney Arter Name as 1st VP, Summit County Second, Coshocton County moved to close the nominations and cast an unanimous ballot second Pickaway County Vote by voice, approved

2nd Vice President: Paul Harris Geauga County Fair and Tom Higbie Hancock County Fair were placed in nomination, Mercer County Moved to accept the nominations, Allen County Second. Call for nominations from the floor Summit County Moved to close nominations, second Geauga County Fair. Note pads included with in the delegate's packet were used to register the vote
Paul Harris, Geauga County Fair elected

Treasurer: Robert Dawson, Lake County, call for candidates from the Delegates, Williams County moved to close the nominations, Wayne County second. County moved to cast a unanimous ballot. Second Ashtabula County, Vote by Voice, approved.

President Robert Buxton passed the gavel to Incoming President Dan Bullen; President Dan Bullen presented Bob with a retirement plaque and several parting gifts.

Huron County moved to adjourn, second Allen County, Motion approved by hand signification at 11: 53 am

Submitted by Howard L. Call, CFE, Executive Director, OFMA (Anual2018minutes, doc)