



Ohio Fair Managers Association Convention Planning January 8-9 2021 October 23 update



2021 Ohio Fairs Convention Details

Currently the City of Columbus has space restrictions of no more than 300 people at a time in the **total Hyatt Meeting space per event meeting**, within the confines of the meeting space per session. If these mandates change the Board of Directors is ready to reconsider those changes.

The OFMA Board of Directors considering your costs, COVID restrictions and travel timing will open the Conference on Friday January 8 at 11:00am and close the conference Saturday by 2pm. In order to facilitate the required meetings with the Director of Agriculture, the Annual meeting of Delegate Members, the Queen program and Raffle (over 230 tickets committed) the board has approved the following:

♦ Two Means of Education Senior Fair

1. In person Sessions and round tables Friday and Saturday
2. Webinars in January and February on Secretary/Treasurer, ORC law changes, ODA Mandated Animal Health, other ODA and Fairs related topics.

♦ Junior Fair: Zoom seminars will be planned for the Junior Fairs, more to come

- ♦ Fairs are recommended to register not more than 3 per fair. The cost will be \$25.00/registration.
- ♦ Registering more than 3 may limit that fairs ability to participate in activities.
- ♦ District Meetings will be held locally in their respective districts in lieu of being held at the convention to meet that constitutional point.
- ♦ All queen candidates will participate in their respective district competition with one queen selected to represent their fair and district in Columbus on Friday, January 8th.
- ♦ Some meetings will be limited to one per fair on account of room size seating, a seat ordering will be in the registration process for each meeting room
- ♦ Sponsorships are available for 2021 under a new plan
- ♦ Hotel Links are on the OFMA Website for the **Hyatt** and **Drury Hotels**. The Hyatt has lowered the room rate to \$119 per sleeping room for this years conference.
- ♦ Registration will be available November 1 with documents from the OFMA office
- ♦ See the in person Conference Schedule on page 3
- ♦ Associates are permitted to obtain a hospitality, suite and or sleeping room to schedule meetings with fairs as members of the OFMA in lieu of the Tradeshow

Pg 3 Q&A Survey answers
Pg 5 Convention Program
Pg 6 Junior Fair Program
Pg 7 OP ED Eric Bates
Pg 8 New Sponsor Program
Pg 9 HB 6 Repeal Info
Pg 10 Hall of Fame Requirements
Pg 11 Communications Topics
Pg 12 Queen Program details
Pg 13 District Meetings Details

Ohio Fair Managers
ohiofairs@att.net



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Questions and Answers from the Summer Survey

1. Can a fair register more than 3 people? **YES you can register many however participation is limited in each session to one or two registrants per fair because of room size-social distancing. Example: my fair can send three people Friday and then send 3 different people Saturday? Yes**
2. Can we bring food into the Regency Ballroom Friday evening for the queen program and the Reverse raffle: **YES**
3. Will there be entertainment Friday Evening events? **The committee is looking into this.**
4. Can we bring alcohol into the Ballroom. **NO, you can bring a glass or carry a glass or bottle of beer in. There will be a cash Bar . NO COOLERS**
5. Why are you having a queen contest? **When this Pandemic started we had no idea it would be here 9 months later and we encouraged fairs to have a queen program.**
6. Why are you having a Reverse Raffle. **Over 230 tickets were out and many sold at the time we decided to have the conference and it's a nice event to social network as well.**
7. Why are you having a conference? **We must get our state reopened and get our fairs open, no better way to demonstrate than having our January event within the limits of the regulations.**
8. Do I need to wear a mask or face shield, **YES, what ever the health mandates at the time of the conference are in effect**
9. Why not a trade show this year. **We are limited to 300 people with in the meeting space at one time**
10. Can the Tradeshow vendors or Associate members use the hotel rooms for meetings. **YES**
11. Why are you using the Hyatt instead of going to another Hotel? **The OFMA has long term contracts with 4 properties in Columbus, Hyatt, Convention Center, Drury and Crowne Plaza. If we had a conference in another hotel we would be in violation of our signed agreements. THE OFMA with the assistance of the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau negotiated an addendum with all facilities to not use the Crowne and the Convention Center, reduced lodging blocks at the Durry, and no penalties at the Hyatt for attrition or lodging minimums. The Hyatt is located in the center of the state for travel ease for all fairs. In addition the Hyatt dropped their room rate to \$119 for this year's event.**
12. Why the 300 limit? **That is the restrictions placed on the hotels by the Mayor of Columbus and the State Health Department.**
13. Will the food court be open: **YES**
14. Will the Big Bar be open: **Yes**
15. Are restaurants open in Columbus? **YES**
16. Communication Awards and Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame? **Yes the Board believes we need to recognize our outstanding fair leadership and recognize achievement in what fairs do to communicate. The Communications portion will be adjusted towards COVID.**
17. Parking? **The parking Deck under the Hyatt meeting space will be open and the Hyatt offers Valet with a daily rate. The Chestnut street Garage is open as well.**

Questions can be forwarded to the OFMA office at ohiofairs@att.net.

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Convention topics and Program
96th Annual OFMA Conference
Friday January 8th, 2021 & Saturday January 9th, 2021
Hyatt Regency Hotel and Meeting Space Columbus, Ohio

Friday January 8, 2021 Registration: 11:00am to 4pm Nationwide Rooms 1st Floor

1:00 to 2:00 pm Sessions

#F1 **Delaware Rooms 126 seats:** *How did you make the decisions you made on what to do and what not to do? – Round Table Discussions Fairs A-K 2 per fair can attend this session*

#F2 **Franklin Rooms 126 seats:** *How did you make the decisions you made on what to do and what not to do? – Round Table Discussions Fairs L-W 2 per fair can attend this session*

#F3 **Union Rooms 126 seats:** *Setting up a communication committee to handle question/ answers and social media releases. 1 per fair can attend this session*

2 pm: Queen interviews Taft Foyer 1st floor

2:30 to ? Sessions

#F4 **Delaware Rooms 126 seats:** *How do we plan for 2021 – Let's Talk and have a good bull session. Round Table Discussions Fairs A-K 2 per fair can attend this session*

#F5 **Franklin Rooms 126 seats:** *How do we plan for 2021 – Let's Talk and have a good bull session Discussions Fairs L-W 2 per fair can attend this session*

Regency Ballroom Queen practice for evening event 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

4:30pm Off Property Dinner with President Mr. And Mrs. Rodney Arter – Queens only

6:30 pm Regency Ballroom Queen Semi-finals w/ Cash Bar, room seats 300

7:30 pm Regency Ballroom Reverse Raffle, auction and more w/ Cash Bar room seats 300

Saturday – Registration open 7:30 to 11am Nationwide rooms 1st floor

8:00 am *Regency Ballroom Awards Breakfast, Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame, Communications Awards and 2021 Ohio Fairs' Queen Crowning*

10:00 am to 11:30 am Sessions

#S1 **Union Rooms 126 seats:** *How can we hold events if the Covid restrictions are in place - Planning for the future. – Round table 1 per fair can attend this session*

#S2 **Delaware Rooms 126 seats:** *Livestock Sales by Fair A–K What worked and what didn't – Round Table 2 per fair can attend this session*

#S3 **Franklin Rooms 126 seats:** *Livestock Sales by Fair L-W What worked and what didn't – Round Table 2 per fair can attend this session*

#S4 **Hayes Room QuickBooks** – General conversation 1 per fair can attend this session

NOON: Regency Ballroom:

ODA State of Fairs as required by law attendance from every fair

OFMA Annual Meeting as required by Constitution

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE REQUIRED –

Conference Closes no later than 2:00 pm

4pm: Greater Ohio Showman Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency Ballroom

Revised 10.20.2020



Junior Fair Education Programming

Roger Smith OFMA Junior Fair Chairman



In planning the 96th Annual Ohio Fairs Conference for January 2021 the OFMA is limited to only 300 participants at any one time. Roger Smith Chairman in close cooperation with OSU Extension and Lisa McCutchen, Extension Specialist Licking County have developed the following program method. We regret not being able to continue hosting 1300 of our Junior Fair board members in Columbus.

There will be a live session on Saturday January 9, 2021 available to all junior fair board members and advisors. The teens will sign up for a topic, and each topic will be a separate Zoom meeting. With each Zoom meeting, breakouts will be used to have discussions in smaller groups, but everyone in that Zoom will discuss the same topic. For instance, those who want to talk about fundraising ideas would join one Zoom meeting – and if there were 100 of them, we might use 10 breakout rooms, so that each discussion involved only 10 people... That will allow for smaller groups than having everyone join one Zoom and them using the topics as the breakout rooms.

There will be a moderator for each breakout room to help facilitate the discussion. At the conclusion of the discussion phase, the registrants will be brought back together in that Zoom meeting to hear a report from each of the discussion groups that met with that topic as their theme. One person from each discussion group will report on what was talked about in their group.

This provides for some interaction with junior fair boards from around the state and gives them a chance to share and pick up ideas. Consensus of the group was that these discussion sessions would be offered one time on Saturday morning.

In addition, there will be other topics developed which will then be turned into videos which will be recorded and will be made available to use at other times. May be used as a part of a junior fair board meeting, or assigned by the advisor to be watched by some of their board. It can be accessed at any time and will hopefully provoke discussion at the local level. Those topics will be developed in the near future.

More to come in the near future on the Zoom sessions and video schedules .

Roger

OP ED: Eric Bates, Bates Brothers Amusements

Dear OFMA Members,

Having had the experience with COVID-19 this present year as have all the other fairs, has been very trying. I have been extremely frustrated, to say the least, at the position the Governor of Ohio has taken regarding our industry which includes carnivals, fairs, festivals and any other associated business such as the food and games.



There needs to be a remedy to this situation and I have a plan that I am going to propose to OFMA and GOSA. The problem came to light as 2020 developed and the Governor shut down our industry. He originally shut down both the portable amusement rides and the amusement parks. Eventually Cedar Fair, aka Cedar Point and Kings Island, filed a law suit against the State of Ohio and it was determined that the parks could open with regulatory guidance. However, the portable rides were not allowed to operate.

The inequality is what infuriates me. After being in business for 53 years, I have enough experience to handle the problems that may arise. The Governor on the other hand made the decision that I did not have the ability to do what Cedar Fair could do and would not allow our industry to open. I know there is nothing Cedar Fair is doing that I could not do and it's unfathomable that the Governor would not allow us to open without an explanation of what we could not do. This is totally unacceptable.

My proposed plan would be as follows:

- ⇒ Come January 1, 2021 I am going to try to open at the mall in Steubenville Ohio and request that the rides be inspected by the State and we will at that time know if the "new norm" is what it was last year.
- ⇒ If that be the case, our organizations need to be pro-active and be in position to file a law suit against the State of Ohio as was done in the past by Cedar Fair.
- ⇒ I have been in contact with a couple of law firms and at this time I have not made any commitments to hire an attorney. Going forward we need to get commitments for funding from any and every party associated with the industry.

I am reaching out to all parties to make a commitment to assist in the financial cost in this endeavor. At this time the cost is undetermined. I fully understand the hardship of not working this year has created for our companies. We are not able to sustain another year of not being able to operate. You won't have to worry about 2022, our industry will be dissolved.

Looking for support, comments and constructive criticism that might help our issue. Below is my contact information.

Eric Bates
Bates Brothers Amusement Co.
Cell – 740-412-916-9210
ericjbates@prodigy.net



**Sponsorship is essential for the OFMA
to meet organizational objectives.**

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Due to COVID-19 and limitations place on the OFMA Convention, sponsorship options will not include specific events or banquets; therefore, we are changing the sponsorship program. The OFMA appreciates the support from our members and sponsors as combined we have a constant goal to preserve our fairs, festivals, and outdoor amusement industry. The OFMA understands the difficulty 2020 presented to our industry. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our extended family!

*The OFMA will recognize support
in monetary donations and in-kind support.*



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Sponsorship Recognition in OFMA Newsletters

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Sponsorship Recognition on OFMA Website
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- ★ Convention Pamphlet Recognizing Sponsors

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Sponsorship Recognition in OFMA Newsletters

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ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Half Page Ad in Annual Directory
2 OFMA Passes for Ohio Fairs

Sponsorship Recognition on OFMA Website
Sponsorship Recognition in OFMA Newsletters



Sponsor/Donor to provide the following:

- If donation is non-monetary, please provide the value. The sponsorship committee will determine the sponsorship level.
- For Banners and Ads, please follow guidelines provided in the OFMA publication specifications and advertising opportunity documents.
- The sponsorship agreement will include the availability to distribute materials to convention attendees at registration.

Ohio Fair Managers Association

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Report on House Select HB 6 Committee Hearing Repeal

- Demand Rider on Electric for county fair provision September 16, 2020
The submitted written testimony has the following section about the provision:

“Rate schedule for county fairs and agricultural societies:

- ♦ *Under the law prior to HB 6, the PUCO approved EDU rate schedules applicable to some customers including county fair boards and agricultural societies. These rate schedules included a rate structure or design that created something like a take or pay obligation for customers. This rate design feature had a significant financial impact on customers that used most of their electricity in a relatively short period of time (one month, for example). As a result, their annual electric bills were affected significantly by this limited period of high use rather than the actual billing quantities in a particular month.*
- ♦ *Current law requires the PUCO to address this billing impact of the previously approved rate design as it relates to county fairs and agricultural societies, and the PUCO has completed this work.*
- ♦ *HB 738 and HB 746 repeal the county fair and agricultural society rate design reform but are silent on the implications for the replacement rate design that is now in place (perhaps with added significance as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on county fairs and agricultural societies). If the repeal of current law occurs and these customers are required to return to the otherwise applicable rate, it is reasonable to expect that the financial hardship these organizations attributed to the prior rate structure will return.”*

Editors Note: This HB 6 if repealed affects every investor owned utility supplying electric to your fairgrounds. Fairs need to contact their state legislature to tell them the financial impact repealing HB 6 will have on your finances. The biggest impact is to those fairs on AEP and who have minimal off season usage.

OFMA is working with legislatures to place this demand rider relief into another bill in November. Please contact your Senate or House Representative.



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Brad Cosenza Chairman
Richard King Co-Chairman

OHIO FAIRS

HALL OF FAME AWARD

FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE FAIR INDUSTRY

RULES FOR OHIO FAIRS HALL OF FAME AWARD ELIGIBILITY

1. The conditions of eligibility are as follows:
 - a) The nominee may be living or deceased.
 - b) The nominee shall have served as a Director, Officer, Volunteer, Friend of the Fair, Fair Manager, be an Affiliate of an OFMA member fair or be a current or past OFMA Associate Member.
 - c) Nominee shall have contributed to the growth of the fair; i.e. gate, Jr. Fair, grounds, buildings, entertainment, racing, etc.
 - d) Nominee shall have contributed to the fair industry something of value in the field of leadership and/or education.
 - e) Nominee shall have been supportive in the affairs of the OFMA.
 - f) Nominee shall have been involved in other community functions.
 - g) Nominee shall have developed and built-up his/her own fair and his/her own staff and working group.
 - h) Distinguished achievement to be considered may include significant contributions to the knowledge and advancement of the fair industry; the design or invention of material, equipment, processes, or technical services; or outstanding service to associations, companies and other organizations serving the fair industry.
 - i) An OFMA President shall not be considered for the Award until two (2) years after his/her term expires.

NOMINATIONS

2. The procedure to be followed by the Awards Committee in the selection of a candidate (s) shall be as follows:
 - a) Each year, the Awards Committee shall announce that the nominations are being received for the Award period ending November 29th of that year. A nomination form shall be mailed or available online to all OFMA fair members.
 - b) Nominations for the Award should be returned with accompanied information giving a full and complete statement of the reason for proposing the nominee with a record of his/her professional and industrial achievements in sufficient detail so that a committee can pass judgment on the candidate's worthiness to receive the Award.
 - c) On or before December 11, the Committee shall review all nominations received and may determine additional persons for consideration. They shall select the recipient (s).
3. After the Awards Committee has determined the recipient, the Chairman of the Award Committee will prepare a citation and shall submit the name of the recipient and citation to the President of the Association for preparation of the Award. All records of the Committee will be deposited with the Executive Director who shall act as custodian of same.
4. All questions coming before the Awards Committee shall be decided by a majority vote of the Committee members. The Awards Committee shall have the power to decide any questions not specifically covered by these rules.



2020 Communication Awards

Brad Cosenza Chairman
Richard King Co-Chairman

Sponsored by: TBA

*To be awarded Saturday January 8, 2021 Hyatt
Regency Ballroom Breakfast Ceremony 8am*

Due: November 29th

Fair Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

2019 Reported Fair Attendance: _____

Categories: (circle categories submitting entries for)

1. Approved Health Plan for Fair
2. Most Unique COVID Signage example
3. Promotional video of 2020 Fair
4. COVID Messaging signage Billboard, Electronic signage
5. Creative approach to hand washing stations
6. Fair Newsletter

Rules

The Communications Awards consists of competition in 7 categories among fairs, which are divided into three divisions according to attendance. Plaques with the total awarded categories per fair, will be awarded to the 1st place winners with 2nd place winners receiving a certificate during the awards ceremony during the OFMA Annual Convention.

Purpose

The purpose of this competition is to acknowledge the Fairs creativity during this difficult year of fairs and to provide recognition for those fairs doing an outstanding job.

Queen events for the 2021 OFMA Convention

Each District will hold a Queen Qualification event no later than December 13th, 2020 at a facility within their respective district for each county and independent fair to have a queen representative attend. Below is a list of stipulations needed and addressed so that all queen events are on an even playing field.

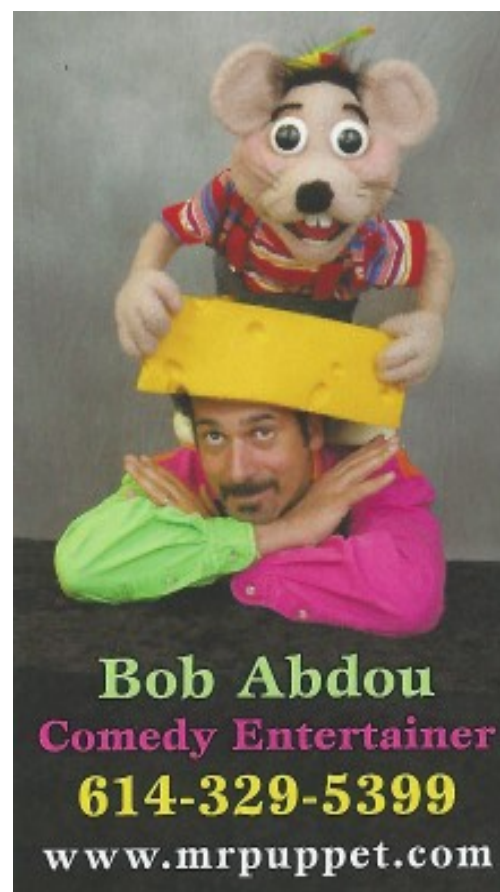
- ♦ Facility shall be within each district and allow for seating of three (3) judges and the queen to be interviewed.
- ♦ All applications will be returned to the OFMA Office and Queen Committee no later than November 1, 2020 to allow for set up of the schedule and verify that each queen is eligible for this event.
- ♦ Fee is \$50.00 per queen.
- ♦ Each participant shall be the 2020 Queen or, if the Fair did not have a queen event in 2020, the participant shall be a 2019 representative. She cannot be the 2019 representative that attended the OFMA Convention in 2020. At that point, the district queen representative can be a runner up from 2019.
- ♦ Queen chosen from each district to represent that district will then be asked to attend the OFMA modified convention January 8 & 9 2021. Nine (9) Queens will be considered as semi finalists and be subject to the final interview with Three (3) new judges. Final selection will be announced on Saturday of convention.
- ♦ Each Queen attending a district meeting will receive the gift they usually get in Columbus.
- ♦ Interview time shall not exceed 10 minutes total per participant. (Example – 10 participants should take no longer than 2 hours from start to finish.)
- ♦ Judges shall perform the interviews then recess while the actual district meeting is going on.



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District Meetings December 2020

- ♦ District meeting shall start with roll call and introduction of each queen present.
- ♦ Elections shall be held in Districts 1, 2 & 3 this year. Moderators have been selected for each district election.
- ♦ Once judges have completed deliberations, they shall return to the meeting and prior to adjourning the business meeting, announce the winner and therefore the representative of that District to compete at the OFMA Modified Convention in January.
- ♦ Should the district decide to announce a runner up – that would be recommended in case the Queen is unable to attend the convention.
- ♦ Each District is responsible to have the Queen participant information forwarded to the OFMA office for registration to the convention in January 2021.
- ♦ Convention participant shall receive further information once she is chosen to participate in Columbus.

| | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| District 1 | 12/12/2020 | Wood County Fairgrounds | 1:00 pm |
| District 2 | 12/12/2020 | Auglaize County Fairgrounds | 3:00 pm |
| District 3 | 12/13/2020 | Warren County Fairgrounds | 2:00 pm |
| District 4 | 12/13/2020 | Ross County Fairgrounds | 9:00 am |
| District 5 | 12/06/2020 | Wayne County Event Center | 5:00 pm |
| District 6 | 12/06/2020 | Pickaway County Fairgrounds | 3:00 pm |
| District 7 | 12/12/2020 | Athens County Fairgrounds | 2:00 pm |
| District 8 | 12/12/2020 | Harrison County Fairgrounds | 2:00 pm |
| District 9 | 12/05/2020 | Lake County Fairgrounds | 9:30 am |



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Ohio Fairs' Queen Mackenzie Hoog with the 2020 Holmes County Fair Queen Ashley Kate during the Holmes County Fair August 11, 2020. Presenting the queen with their sash and crown was Ohio Fairs' Queen Mackenzie Hoog from Montgomery County.

Mackenzie said it is an honor to present the winners at Holmes County, which puts on such a wonderful fair. "This is incredible," Hoog said. "It is wonderful to see the positive way this community supports the junior fair and puts on such a celebration of its youth!"



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**Announcing the 96th Annual
Ohio Fair Managers
Convention Conference
Hyatt Regency Hotel
January 8-9, 2021
Columbus Ohio**