



OHIO FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

September Newsletter 2021



97th Annual OFMA Convention, Tradeshow and Conference January 6-9, 2022 Columbus, Ohio

“STRONGER TOGETHER – Fairs Family Future”

The OFMA Board of Directors and staff are excited to see the outstanding Fair results as the fair season continues into the fall and Fairfield County Fair closes the 2021 season out.

Next up is the final assembly of the Convention Program by **Chairman Paul Harris and the program team**. Various committee reports are within the newsletter. **The following items highlight the program changes, additions and more.**

- ⇒ **Queen Events** and selection to Final Five Thursday January 6
- ⇒ **Tradeshow Setup** Thursday, January 6 and the Tradeshow January 7 & 8
- ⇒ **Sessions** Thursday, Friday and Saturday reducing 1/3 of the sessions to allow more free time to network and tradeshow browse
- ⇒ **Sponsorships Program** will return to sponsoring of named event with 4 levels of participation
- ⇒ **Director of Agricultural Meeting** Friday, January 7 will be a breakfast Meeting with Director Pelandia and state officials
- ⇒ **District Meetings** will be Friday following the Director of Agriculture Breakfast and meeting. Election for Districts 4, 5& 6.
- ⇒ **Showcase of Acts** will be Friday evening opening with the **Presidents Reception** treats and networking, door prizes and table raffle 50/50
- ⇒ **Junior Fair** Saturday, January 8 in Regency Ballroom and the Hyatt meeting space
- ⇒ **Spouse & Guest Events** will be Friday and Saturday, see the news article for details
- ⇒ **Saturday will feature sessions**, Key Note address speaker, announcement of the 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen and the annual Extravaganza Drawings, auctions and 50/50 raffles
- ⇒ Sunday will be the morning church service, **Awards Breakfast and the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**

All Portals are open off of the ohiofairs.org website for Registration by fairs and associate members under the MEMBERS TAB. All Forms are listed under the CONVENTION TAB.

Newsletter contents legend on page 3



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President Rodney Arter's Thoughts:

Wow, what a great fair season this has been. I have had the pleasure of visiting every fair so far this year. What an amazing job many of the fairs are doing. Some fairs have seen record crowds and some record sales.

Thank you to everyone that has found time to spend with me during my visit to your fair. As I have traveled the state, I have seen some terrific new buildings and plans for your fairgrounds. You have heard it before, but every fair is different, and I do believe each fair board does what is best for their fair. There is nothing worse than getting on a Fairboard for the wrong reasons.

I will say that I am proud of the OFMA board and what we have been able to accomplish during this pandemic. Nothing has been easy as our world has been turned upside down. Many trips to the Statehouse to testify by several OFMA board members, Fairboard Members & GOSA. The support that we have in Columbus is fantastic. Many meetings with the Governor and ODA and believe me some of them did not go very well, however the result has been great, with support and a working relationship with both offices. The financial support to each fair is greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone that reached out to their Representatives in Columbus and please thank them when you have an opportunity.

A big thank you to **Mozie van Raaij the 2021 Ohio Fairs' Queen** for working hard and traveling to many fairs to represent the Ohio Fairs.

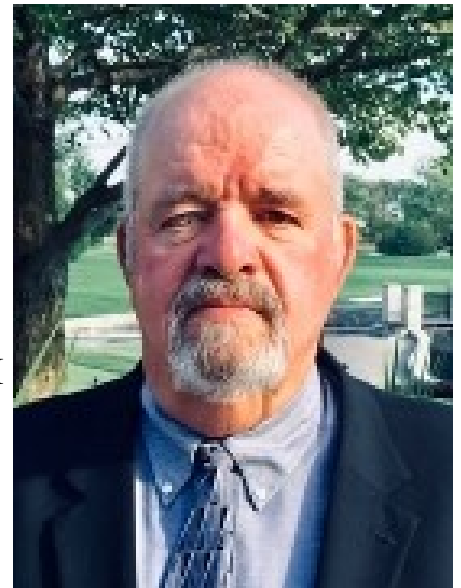
When I was elected President in 2020, I was sure one of the years I would use family in one of the themes in the next two years. With only one convention, I have decided that moving forward as an organization and what we all have been through to go in a different direction.

I have appointed **Doug Marine, President of the Fayette County fair** to fill the District 4 Directors Position till the January Convention District Meeting, Welcome aboard Doug.

STRONGER TOGETHER – Fairs Family Future

I do believe that we are stronger together. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention in January. If you have any ideas for topics, please let your District Director know. Thank You for what you do for the fairs and the youth in Ohio.

OFMA President, Rod Arter 2021



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97th Annual OFMA Convention Program Report

Paul Harris 1st VP

“STRONGER TOGETHER – Fairs Family Future”

As the 2021 fair season draws to a close the Convention program committee is applying the finishing touches to this year's convention program. There will be no shortage of topics for this year, as we embrace the change to our industry that the pandemic has brought. We will explore what has worked, and what has not over the past two seasons. As we continue to provide you with the tools to not only survive but thrive in this ever-changing business.

This year's convention will usher in a new look to our scheduling. Thursday will remain focused on our great queen contest, along with secretary, treasurer, and officer focused educational training topics.

Friday we will welcome The Director of The Ohio Department of Agriculture for a breakfast. For her and her guests to present updates and satisfy the requirements of the Redbook and meet with all the fairs. Followed by the district meetings, and an afternoon of topics and speakers that are sure to help our fairs. Capping off the evening with the ever-popular talent showcase.

Saturday will again be a full lineup as we welcome our junior fair youth. Partnering with OSU Extension for a great lineup. The queen coronation and keynote address speaker as well as another day of information sharing that will spark conversation and thoughts among your boards. Followed by an evening of entertainment and fundraising at the extravaganza.

Sunday will feature the awards ceremony and breakfast and annual meeting as we close what promises to be another exciting convention.

Please plan to join us as we kick the virtual habit and gather in person to celebrate our successful season and what our industry has to offer.



Paul



Sponsorship Program

Stanley Strode, Chairman

OFMA 2nd Vice President

So here we are winding down our 2021 fair season all the while your OFMA board is preparing for our 2022 Convention. I would like to thank those of you who were sponsors at our 2021 Virtual Convention held last January.

It is impossible to put these conventions on without our sponsors. Last year we started leveling a little differently and we have four tiers of sponsors. These tiers include Showman of Showman, Best of Show, Grand Champion, and Blue Ribbon.

We do currently have available events to sponsor if you are interested or you know someone who would be interested. We also welcome those wanting to sponsor in ways other than our Convention Events. Sponsorship applications are available on our website at www.ohiofairs.org. Choose 'Sponsorship' from the pages drop down menu. You could also email ohiofairs@att.net or call the office at (330) 208-0372.

We encourage directors and planning committees to contact these sponsors for your upcoming events. OFMA appreciates your support of these sponsors and in turn the support from those sponsors.

We are looking forward to coming together again at our 97th Annual Convention.

Stanley Strode, OFMA 2nd Vice President



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**FINAL DRIVE
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Friday Evening President's Showcase

By Bob Dawson, Talent Chairman

This year's convention showcase will be held on Friday evening January 7th. We hope to pick-up right where we left off in January 2020 with five to six acts that will entertain you and make your consideration list for your 2022 fair line-up. Nomination procedures and forms for showcase acts are available on the OFMA website.

Ball Room doors will open at 7:00 PM and feature a complementary dessert buffet which will be covered by your convention registration fee and with the generous sponsor support of the Burnham and Flowers Insurance Group.

Convention badges will be required for admission and entrants through the doors by 7:45 PM will receive a door prize ticket.

The entertainment acts will kick-off promptly at 8:00 PM. Reserved tables for the showcase evening are available for \$100 on a first-come basis with your convention registration. We will run a 50/50 raffle on the table proceeds collected.



BOB



Mozie Visiting Hartford Independent Fair



Mozie Visiting Lake County Fair

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2021
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All Restrictions Lifted

There are currently no statewide mandates or restrictions that affect the operations of county agricultural societies related to COVID-19. OFMA does not expect any to be implemented statewide. However, please continue to pay attention to any federal or local restrictions that might impact the operation of your fair or other events.

Prevailing Wage

Legislation that would make paying prevailing wage optional has been introduced by Representatives Craig Riedel and Susan Manchester. OFMA lent their support to this legislation, as we have in previous General Assemblies. The bill is pending before the House Commerce and Labor Committee. OFMA's proponent testimony was submitted at the second hearing of House Bill 146 on June 23, 2021. Other proponents are the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, NFIB Ohio and some local Townships.

COVID Relief Bill

Another round of COVID relief dollars is expected to be considered by the legislature later in 2021. A bill has not yet been introduced, so OFMA does not know if county agriculture societies will get additional funds. OFMA has been speaking with ODAg about distributions of unspent CARES funds from earlier in the pandemic. All fairs qualified for CARES funds, but not all funds were spent. ODAg has advised with OFMA about how to best distribute the remaining funds. Other groups who did not receive relief grant opportunities in the past but may be eligible in the next rounds are ride companies and trade show producers.

Fairs are also encouraged to speak with their county commissioners and other officials about funding opportunities. Many local governments have funds to spend from their federal appropriations.

Red Book Changes

The OFMA continues to move forward with our long-term planning goal of updating and modernizing the Red Book. A huge piece of that goal was accomplished when House Bill 665 was passed and enacted at the end of 2020. Next, we will be working with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to amend and update the administrative code rules. The goal is to have something ready to present to the membership at the 2022 convention.

Little Brown Jug plates

Senator Andrew Brenner has introduced Senate Bill 12 that would create a specialize license plate for the Little Brown Jug. This legislation has passed the Ohio Senate unanimously and is currently pending in the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Proceeds from the license plate would be used to benefit the Little Brown Jug Society to assist in "maintaining, promulgating, and operating the Little Brown Jug as part of Ohio's rich harness racing history."

How to Contact Your Lobbyist

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2022 OFMA Convention and Tradeshow

Tom Higbie Tradeshow Chairman

The Trade Show 2022 is quickly approaching and the committee has all hands on deck picking up the pieces from our virtual convention in 2021. As we know the previous year has taken its toll on all aspects of the fair industry and just like many other aspects of life, you plan and rebuild when necessary.

I like to think of the fair industry representing a big wheel. The junior fair being the bearings and hub of the wheel. The spokes are made up of many other moving parts of the fair being the commercial exhibits, open class shows, food vendors, rides and games, entertainment and much, much more. Without all of these working components the wheel is out of balance. August 1, 2020 the restrictions put forth due to COVID knocked the spokes off the wheel. What we had left was just the bearings and hub with only the junior fair running. Now, we need to rebuild the wheel with all the major components.

The first step is the committee is rebuilding the tradeshow. Many vendors have retired, sold their business or just plain stopped due to the events of last year. As we move forward, it is important to take notice that while the trade show will be set up in the same rooms at the same location, some of the older vendors will not be present and will be greatly missed. New vendor will be there in their place with new ideas and opportunities. Take a minute to thank them for being there and being in the fair industry. While it is important to never forget the great events that have happened in the past, it is our responsibility to learn from the past and apply that knowledge to planning the future.

As we begin to finalize next year's fair schedules, I encourage you to reflect on the activities and events that are being planned. Are all spokes of the wheel accounted for and are all parts working together to make your fair the best it can be. It takes every spoke moving in the same direction to make the wheel perform at its best. We owe it to our kids and community to make this happen.



Hope to see you at the OMFA Convention and Trade Show
This is your Convention and Tradeshow
Tom Higbie Tradeshow Chairman



Hello everyone!

I am Mozie van Raaij, the 2021 Ohio Fairs' Queen. Since being crowned in May, I have had the honor of representing the Ohio Fair Managers Association while visiting the Ohio county fairs.


Seeing the fairs and just how unique each one is has been a blast. One consistent theme of our county and independent fairs is the sense of pride in your fair and the projects that exhibitors have worked so hard on.

To date, I have traveled 3,473 miles to 28 fairs, with a few more to go to! Some highlights from my fair tour have been meeting the wonderful fair royalty, being the Grand Marshall for the 2021 Lake County Fair Parade, attending the Pickaway County Fair luncheon and queen's contest, and judging the 2021 Hartford Independent Fair's queen contest on my birthday!

Thank you to everyone who made your fair feel like home to me while visiting and to everyone who makes our fairs possible. I am looking forward to the remaining fairs and meeting up with all of the queens again at the convention in January!

Mozie





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2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen Program

Tim Massie Chairman

After months and months of delays we were finally able to name **Mozie Van Raaij from Clark County as the 2021 Ohio Fairs' Queen.**

Mozie was crowned in late spring, just in time for the 2021 fair season. I want to thank Bev Fisher for all her work in the monumental task of arranging judges, sites, and the personnel to conduct nine different district queen contests and the final venue held at the Hartford Independent Fair Grounds. I also want to thank each host site for allowing all these events to successfully occur and for everyone who had a part in making this the greatest possible experience for all our young ladies.

Plans are now taking place to conduct this years Ohio Fairs' Queen Contest back in Columbus at the annual convention. At this time, it is our intent for the 2022 contest format to be the same as prior conventions with all county fair queens invited to apply and attend. The application is on the OFMA website in a line fillable PDF format. Queens will be required to fill out the form on line and email the completed application to the OFMA. This will insure that we receive the forms on time and in a readable manner. Applications are due by November 30, 2021.

We plan to have the normal informal gathering on Wednesday evening, January 5 and the individual interviews on Thursday morning, January 6. The program will continue in the afternoon with our rehearsal and finally the evening event in which the top five finalists will be selected. Every fair is encouraged to send their queen representative to participate in the program. We have tried to make the event educational, fun, and overall, a great experience for each of the young ladies.



Tim Massie, Chairman

2022 Convention Guest and Spouse Programming

Greta Gray OFMA Director at Large

My favorite time of the year is Fall, not only for our beautiful Ohio fall colors and cooler temps but more for its time to harvest. Fall reminds me to reflect on the year as well as to be thankful for all I have seen and experienced throughout the year.

The past 18 months has been challenging in various ways to all of us, but I know there are so many awesome stories related to our Ohio County and Independent Fairs to be remembered and shared.

The OFMA Convention is an excellent opportunity share your stories and to network with other like-minded individuals and supporters, build your teams, and start accelerating towards the 2022 fair season.

As we look forward to the convention, there will be a fee-based activity as in the past for our spouses to attend and to be creative, but we would like to open the doors for additional attendee activities that will be fee-based as well as not fee-based.

For the 2022 OFMA convention, these are the activities we will be offering:
Spouse Activity – Painting & Decorating ~ Containers for Plants & Flowers
Attendee Activity – Bourbon Tasting ~ A Fun Time Learning about Spirits
Attendee Activity – Community Service ~ Lap Blankets for Veterans

I am extremely excited for the addition of the community service activity allowing the OFMA Family to give back to our Veterans.

Please stay tuned for more details on each of these activities, and I so look forward to hearing your story at the 2022 OFMA Convention.



Greta Gray
Spouse Programming, Chairperson
Director At-Large, Clinton County
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OHIO FAIRS MEMBERS REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON THE MEMBERS TAB OF THE ohiofairs.org WEBPAGE

Membership fee remains at \$200

**And each registration is \$50 per attending person
Hotel Links for Hyatt, Sonesta and the Drury are
on line on the ohiofairs.org web page**

**Please use the portal to register using your account
you setup in 2019. If you have any issues please con-
tact the office at ohiofairs@att.net**

Name of function	# Of tickets requested	\$ Per tick- et	Total due per function
Fair Membership (Joint membership with the GOSA is not available with Fair Membership)		\$200.00	
Pre-registration (prior to Dec 14)		\$50.00	
Late registration (after Dec 14)		\$70.00	
(Thursday Queen late Lunch Early Dinner) 1 st floor area		\$36.00	
(Thursday) Corn Hole Tournament {Will be put into teams of 2} (CH)		\$15.00	
(Friday) ODA Breakfast (ODA)		\$26.00	
Spouse/Guest Activity (Friday) Bourbon Tasting, A fun Time learning about Spirits 3 classes of 25 to be held at the Drury Hotel Each Class will be 1 hour and 15 minutes starting at Noon		\$50	
Friday Evening: Presidents Showcase (40 Reserved Tables w/10 seats per table) all reserved will be entered into a 50/50 cash drawing. Total seating available 900 seats		\$100.00	
Spouse/Guest Activity (Saturday) Wine and Painting & Decorating Containers for Plants & Flowers. One class at the Hyatt each participant will receive two glasses of wine		\$40	
Saturday Evening: (46 Extravaganza Reserved Table w/ 10 seats per table) all reserved tables will be entered into a 50/50 cash drawing		\$100.00	
RAFFLE TICKET		\$100.00	
(Sunday) Awards Breakfast (AB)		\$26.00	

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ASSOCIATE SERVICE MEMBERS REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON THE MEMBERS TAB OF THE *ohiofairs.org* WEBPAGE

**With each \$115 Membership fee
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can be purchased for \$50 prior to December 1**

**Hotel Links for Hyatt, Sonesta and the Drury are
on line on the *ohiofairs.org* web page**

Name of Function	Total # of Tickets Requested	Price per ticket	Total amount due per function
OFMA Membership Fee <small>\$21 of your dues will be used to fund direct lobbying activities and is nondeductible (IRC section 162e)</small>		\$115	\$115
** Pre-registration (prior to Dec. 1st) {2 free w/ membership fee}		\$50	
** Late registration (after Dec. 1st) {2 free w/ membership fee}		\$70	
Registrant #1 Registrant #2			
Additional listing in Associate Directory (1 free w/Membership)		\$10	
Corn Hole Tournament (Thurs) will be in teams of 2 {optional event}		\$15	
ODA BREAKFAST (Friday) {optional event}		\$26	
President's Evening and Showcase of Acts Snacks and Deserts provided		No cost	
Presidents Evening Reserved Tables (40 tables w/10 seats will be reserved with a 50/50 drawing during the Showcase)		\$100	
Saturday Evening: Extravaganza Reserved Tables (48 tables w/ 10 seat tables will be reserved with a 50/50 drawing during the Evening)		\$100	
Awards Breakfast (Sunday) {optional event}		\$26	
Reverse Raffle Tickets		\$100	



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