



# OHIO FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

*February 2022 Edition Newsletter*



## News from the 97th Annual OFMA Convention and Conference

The annual conference and tradeshow returned to Columbus with better than expected results of participation, tradeshow exhibits, participation on all levels of the meetings, evening events and alot of catching up & networking with old friends and acquaintances.

Thursday for the preliminary Queen selections over 600 attended, Tim Massie has a report in the newsletter.

The Friday night desert reception hosted by President Rod Arter was a full house of over 900 attending for the Showcase of Acts, Bob Dawson reports in the newsletter.

Saturday the General session seated over 1700 in the Ballroom for the Key Note and Crowning of Maya Kidd and the 2022 Queens court.

Saturday evening well over 900 attended for the Extravaganza evening and DJ John for an evening of fun and dancing. Sunday the Awards Breakfast seated over 350 for the Communications Awards and Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame inductions.

The 97th OFMA Annual Meeting saw the election of Paul Harris, President; Stanley Strode, 1st VP; Thomas Stocksdale, 2nd VP and Robert Dawson Treasurer. By the membership.

Maya Kidd, Butler County Fair Queen was crowned 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen. The 2022 Queens program featured 78 County and Independent Fair Queens. Tim Massie reports on the event in this newsletter.

The 2022 Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Inductees Sunday January 9, are James Ridenour, Meigs County Fair and Bob Reidenbach, Ashland County Fair. (L-R)



Pg 3	Convention Report
Pg 5	Showcase a Big Hit
Pg 6	Report on Sponsors
Pg 7	Secretaries & Treasurers
	Continuing Education Session
Pg 8	Ohio Fairs' Queen Maya Kidd,
Pg 9	Ohio Fairs' Queen Program
Pg 11	Ohio Fairs' Queen Event
	Pictures
Pg 12	Extravaganza & Auction
	Report
Pg 14	Tradeshow wrap up
Pg 16	Spouse/ Guest Programs
Pg 17	Trade Show memories
Pg 18 & 19	Hall of Fame Inductions
Pg 20	Annual Meeting Presentations
Pg 21	List of OFMA Sponsors





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## 2022 OFMA Convention Program Report

Paul Harris, Program Chairman

The 2022 convention program is in the books. On behalf of the committee, thank you for all who participated. Special thanks to all who agreed to present and share their experiences for all to benefit.

To all who participated in the survey after convention, your comments and requests will be reviewed, and we will work to implement your ideas. We appreciate your feedback and will continue to strive for educational and interactive ways to benefit our fairs.

This year's lineup was somewhat different with the change on Friday. The breakfast was well received and opened this day up for more tradeshow interaction and a smoother flow of topics throughout the day.

As we look to the future, my goal will be to continue to provide you all with the tools and resources to navigate a path to continued success. We must communicate both internally and externally. The reason behind decisions needs to be transparent. We are all in the same business and it is not a race to see who's better, but an opportunity to work together so we all benefit.

In the days, weeks and months that are ahead, we will work on your behalf. Your comments, concerns and ideas are welcome as we rally to make the 2022 fair season even better.

*Paul*



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## Friday Evening Showcase a Big Hit

by Bob Dawson, Talent Chairman

Only one year removed from shuttered venues and cancelled concerts, your talent committee was concerned about putting on a quality showcase event. We should not have been. Our promoters and booking agents came through for us as always and nominated some excellent regional up and coming acts.

Convention attendees took advantage of a dessert buffet provided with the financial sponsorship support of the Burnham & Flower Insurance Group and the Regency Ballroom was packed to standing room only while six talented acts provided an entertaining night of music.

LiveTech! supplied sound, lights and video for the event and Steve Cover from the Entertainment Resources Group did an excellent job with the stage production.

Drawing some of the evening's largest applause were Murphy, presented by Klein's Entertainment and THW, provided by Variety Attractions. ERG's Cream Camino rocked the house down and Jimmy Mowry, represented by Yugar Productions, anchored the event to everyone's enjoyment.

The Great Geauga County Fair was the winner of the Table Game and provided one of the evening's highlights when they donated their winnings back to the OFMA in celebration of their upcoming 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fair.

Thanks to all who attended the showcase and to our friends from Geauga County for their generosity. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event.



*BOB*

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## SPONSORSHIP REPORT

Stanley Strode, 1st Vice President

The 2022 OFMA convention is now in the history books. After a successful convention it is nice to take the time to thank those who helped to make it all possible. A very big reason for our successful convention was our sponsors. Without our sponsors we would not have been able to have had a convention at this caliber.

We have four levels of Sponsors. The first is Showman of Showman with sponsors including Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, Ohio State Fair, Ohio Soybean, Eagle Golf Cart, Willandale Golf Cart, Fair Publishing House, Burnham and Flower Insurance, Variety Attractions, Concessions By Cox, Nutrien Ag Services, and Live!Tech. The second level is Best of Show and these sponsors are Reithoffer Shows, Lisko Family Amusements, Greater Ohio Showman, Poor Jacks Amusements, Otters Concessions, and Syngenta. Our third level is Grand Champion including sponsorships from Linville Food Concessions, Prowant Specialty, National Golf Cart, Klein's Entertainment LLC, All-Win Electric, Bates Brothers Amusements, Hometown Ticketing, and BASF. The final level is Blue Ribbon with several sponsors including Haas Wilkerson Insurance, Wise Greenhouses, Bush Concessions, Bush's Fairway Concessions, Kissel Amusements, Audio Innovators, Entertainment Resource Group, NTPA, Wade Flory, Tom Higbie, Greta Gray & Mike Hacker.

On behalf of the OFMA, I want to extend a big thank you to these sponsors and to our fairs and festivals who choose to patronize our sponsors. To any other fairs or festivals that have the opportunity, we ask that you please consider supporting our sponsors for your future events.

Have a Great Fairs Season! *Stanley*



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## Tiffany Rankin presents Continuing Education Session

by Bob Dawson, OFMA Treasurer

Over 100 Secretaires and Treasurers participated in the OFMA Continuing Education Session on Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> as part of the OFMA's 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Trade Show.

Tiffany Rankin, CPA with The TLA Group, LLC and President of the Delaware County Fair was the presenter for this session.

Tiffany provided current information on COVID related funds beneficial to fairs and agricultural societies. Details on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and grants from the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) were covered including details on the accounting and footnote provisions.

Tiffany also presented details on how agricultural societies can accept and receipt stock as a charitable contribution from donors.

All participants received a Certificate of Continuing Education for Agricultural Secretaires and Treasurers. The session was recorded and will be available on the OFMA website soon.



*Bob*



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## 2022 Ohio Fairs Queen Maya Kidd,

For me participating in my local county fair is a lot more than just displaying a 4-H project. It is a community of friends that have become family. The Butler County fair has instilled so much into me growing up, and I believe I can never repay the fair community.

For that reason, I am beyond excited to serve of the 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen. Fulfilling the role of Ohio Fairs' Queen this year will give me the opportunity to not only serve and give back to my county fair but all the county and independent fairs across Ohio.

Growing up in the Butler County fair community was a big part of my childhood. Because of the fair I have many memorable moments that built me into who I am today.

Currently, I am beginning to understand what being crowned Ohio Fairs' Queen truly means. I am taking on new responsibilities and tasks. I am not just a fair queen, but a representative. It is my job to showcase and represent all the fairs of Ohio no matter if it is a county or independent fair. Along with new duties, I am becoming recognized in a new spotlight.

My name is becoming attached with the Ohio Fairs' Queen title, which I never experienced before. This is a new experience, yet very exciting.

Growing up in 4-H and the county fair, I always looked up my 4-H role models, which often was my older sister. Now, I am in a position to become that role model to other young individuals no matter if they are fairgoers or participate in the fair.

I am very much looking forward to visiting fairs this summer, and right now I am only in the beginning of this very exciting journey.



*Maya.*

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## 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen Program

Committee Chair Tim Massie

Congratulations to Maya Kidd from the Butler County Fair who was crowned the 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen at the Ohio Fairs Grand General Session! Also, congratulations to all the young ladies who participated in our Ohio Fairs' Queen activities. A record number of eighty-two of Ohio's best young fair representatives applied for the 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen title and seventy-eight were able to participate.

Our week began with an informal gathering on Wednesday evening. The young ladies were able to get acquainted with each other, have some fun with the activities, and pick up a few pointers on what to expect over the next few days. The 2021 Ohio Fairs' Queen Mozie Van Raaij lead the discussion and she was assisted by Mackenzie Hoog the 2020 Ohio Fairs' Queen along with Miss Ohio Lora Current who was the 2019 Ohio Fairs' Queen! On Thursday morning five pairs of judges conducted a business type interview with their assigned group of contestants and selected three ladies from each group. The program continued into the afternoon with our rehearsal where the girls were assisted by Mozie, Mackenzie, and Lora. Later Thursday evening the Ohio Fairs' Queen Pageant was held and the fifteen semi-finalists were named. Each of the fifteen finalists drew a question and was given one minute to respond. The judges met and named the top five finalists who were announced on the stage. Following this announcement, the five finalists were interviewed by all ten judges where the official final order was determined.

Thank you, Mozie for your service as the 2021 Ohio Fairs' Queen. I've said this many times but when we were finally able to have the 2021 queen contest, Mozie was selected and she hit the ground running. She was able to make quality visits to several fairs, and she made the best of her abbreviated year. We wish Mozie the very best in all her endeavors. She will always be a part of the OFMA family and on that note we welcome Maya to the OFMA family!

Thank you to the Eagle Golf Car Company, Bush Concessions, Syngenta, and Otter's Concessions and Dipping Dots for your financial support and sponsorship of this program. Thank you to each young lady who participated in our queen event and thank you to each fair who allowed your candidate to attend and for supporting them. Thank you to my fellow queen committee members and to Bev Fisher for all your help in making this event possible. Thank you to the ten judges who graciously gave of their time to review the applications, sit in on a morning of interviews, and spend the evening narrowing the fifteen finalists to the final five and the final selection of the queen and her court. And, thank you to everyone in the OFMA family who helped make the event successful. Every county and independent fair is encouraged to send their queen representative to participate in the program. We have tried to make this opportunity educational, fun, and overall, a great experience for each of the young ladies. We hope to see every fair represented at the 2023 contest! Have a great and successful fair season!

Tim Massie, Chairman





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# 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen Memories





## **2022 Report on Saturday's Extravaganza and Auctions**

Jon Overmyer Chairman Past President OFMA

WOW! It was great to be back to something that felt "Normal." A special Thank-you to David Drake and GOSA, the OFMA Directors and the volunteers that helped with the set-up and operation of the evening events. Also, thanks to our 2021 Queen, Mozie Van Raaij and 2022 Queen Maya Kidd for their help with the Auctions and Reverse Raffle.

For something new this year, we tried a DJ, and were very happy and impressed with **John Hobdy**. John did a great job getting people involved and filling in when needed. Some things did not go according to plan, but with a little tweaking, we felt everything went well for being off-a year. When you think about it there is a lot going on in a short 5-hour period, a silent and live auction, 2 - 300 ticket reserve raffles, and many other raffles through out the night. A special thank-you to the Great Geauga County Fair for their donation of 5 - \$300.00 scholarships. We welcome anyone or group that would like to add something to the program.

We generated over \$11,000.00 from the auctions to help pay the cost of promotional brochures. These brochures are put out across the state to promote our Ohio County and Independent Fairs.

A goal for the future is to make Our Live Auction available online. This would be available for all our fair people to be involved in the auction. This idea is only doable with the deadline of donations for auction by Thanksgiving in November. This would give the auction committee time for advance advertising of the live auction items. If at any time throughout the year, you run across an item that would be great for the program, please get a hold of your District OFMA Director or the OFMA office.

Thank You! Jon Overmyer, Past President



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it takes us to a place where we ache to go again.

It’s not called the wheel, It’s called the carousel.

It let’s us travel the way a child travels –  
around and around, and back home again,  
to a place where we know are loved.”

*“Mad Men Don Draper”*



# 2022 MARKET PLACE TRADESHOW REPORT

TOM HIGBIE CHAIRMAN

Wow! After two long years the whole OFMA board was finally able to come together and return to an in person convention! The Queen's contest set an all-time record for the number of participants that attended and the program sessions were packed full of valuable information and were all well attended.

The tradeshow looked the same as in years past. Over 125 vendors filled booths in the hallways, Delaware, Franklin and Union rooms. For the 1st time the tradeshow was completely booked before December 1st. As expected, some of these vendors were forced to cancel after booking. New vendors quickly filled those spots and we were able to maintain full capacity throughout the planning process. One lucky vendor from Indiana who drove up to check out the convention was able to pick up a last minute cancellation Thursday morning. As you all know this past year took a toll on many of our vendors. We lost a significant amount to retirement or selling out.

For the first time in a long time the wheel that I have referenced many times, is finally back together. This year we are happy to report that 30% of our vendors that participated were doing it for the first time. These are new vendors that stepped up and supported the fair industry that sticks together and works together. This effort is what keeps the wheel moving. Please remember our vendors as you plan and schedule for next year's fair. All vendors are listed in the OFMA buyer's guide for you to reference when needed.

I would like to thank the entire tradeshow committee along with the entire Call family for all of the work they have put in this past year. Also, a huge thank you to the entire OFMA Board for working together to make this year such a success.

An advertisement for Radio Rentals. It features a woman holding a walkie-talkie, a Ferris wheel in the background, and several Motorola and Kenwood walkie-talkies in the foreground. The text includes "Radio Rentals", "Audio INNOVATORS INC.", "1-800-222-9929", and "www.audioinnovators.com".

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An advertisement for BIG O AMUSEMENTS. It features a large red oval logo with a cartoon character and the text "BIG O AMUSEMENTS". Below the logo, it says "Contact Judy Otterbacher", "e-mail; judyott123@hotmail.com", "Web: https://bigoamusements.com/", and "1585 County Road 155 Cardington, Ohio 43315".

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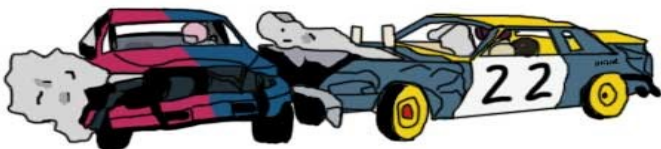
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July 27-August 7, 2022

## 2022 Ohio Fair Managers Convention – Spouse / Attendee Activities

### February 2022 Newsletter

When I am asked about the 2022 OFMA Convention, so many positive thoughts go through my mind. Can I be more precise in my response? Maybe one word?  
Let's try...FANTASTIC.

**F** Fairs · Family · Future

**A** Accelerating towards the 2022 Fair Season

**N** Networking with like-minded individuals & supporters

**T** Team building events for your boards

**A** Awesome programming for Jr. & Sr. Fairboards

**S** STRONGER TOGETHER sharing stories and ideas to make our fairs stronger

**T** Trust the OFMA Board is continuing to work for our fairs and our fair industry

**I** Incredible opportunities on the horizon for Ohio Fairs

**C** Community engagement to promote your fairs & to recognize your sponsors/volunteers

Well, maybe not one word in the end, but it is extremely difficult for me to contain all the emotions, thoughts, and memories from the 2022 OFMA Convention.

The spouse, guest, and attendee activities were well attended and enjoyed by the participants. These activities allow for fun ways to share ideas, network with others from different fairs and supporting organizations, and to give back to our community.

- ⇒ Creativity exploded during the painting & decorating of flower containers along with a subtle reminder of supply chain challenges with our activity with the Mason jars.
- ⇒ A fun session learning about bourbon and sharing Dan & Carol Bullen's experiences surrounding this spirit derived from agricultural commodities.
- ⇒ Our community service activity was well received, and we look forward in working with Veteran's Affairs to distribute the blankets.

*If you would like to submit a note to a veteran, please email your message to me at [gretaellengray@gmail.com](mailto:gretaellengray@gmail.com) and I will gladly prepare a card on your behalf to be distributed with the blankets.*

Greta Gray

Spouse Programming, Chairperson

Director At-Large, Clinton County

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Chris Walls Jackson County Fair Wins the Gold Cart rental from National Golf Car  
 Micha Nuss was the winner of the Hass Wilkerson Gift Certificate Micha is with  
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## Citation

### **The Ohio Fair Mangers is proud to announce the induction of Bob Reidenbach, Ashland County Fair**

Robert Reidenbach, of rural Ashland County, served on the Ashland County Fairboard for 51 years. He served 4 years as the Board President, and also served as the First Vice-President, and the Second Vice-President.

Under his leadership, Ashland was the first handicapped accessible fairgrounds in the state. These upgrades included, in part blacktop streets and parking lot, cemented isle ways, and fully accessible bathrooms.

He was the 1994 Ohio District Five Outstanding Fair Supporter for his nearly 70 years of hard work. He served on the executive, building and grounds, and dairy/beef committees, the Junior Fair Livestock Advisory and was the Stock and Modified Tractor Pull Chairman.

He initiated the Youth tractor safety program which continues today. He served as a 4-H Advisor for Loudonville Boys and Girls 4-H club. The Loudonville FFA awarded him as Honorary Chapter Member to honor his years as a community advisor. This former Navy man's family has followed his example.

His wife the late Sue Reidenbach was on the auxiliary and chairman of the needlecraft show while living. Son, Mike, was on the fairboard for several terms and grandson Adam is currently on the board. Daughter Melissa carries the passion to assist others within her career. She shared that at a local bank displayed a photo from many years of Bob harvesting a portion of the 500-acre family farm.

The third generation continues to farm the land.



**The Ohio Fair Managers Association is proud to induct Bob Reidenbach for the support to The Ashland County Fair, Ohio Fairs Industry, and service to his country, our community into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2022**



## Citation

# **The Ohio Fair Mangers is proud to announce the induction of James Ridenour, Meigs County Fair**

James (Jim) Ridenour and his wife June have supported the fair for over 50 years. Jim first participated at the fair when we celebrated our 100th anniversary and he had continued thru the 157<sup>th</sup> in 2020. He faithfully sat up his company's booth in the commercial building every year and greeted fairgoers with an ornery smile and cheerful hello. This was just one of Jim's favorite parts about the fair. He loved sitting in his booth and visit with "old friends" some that he only got to see and chat with at the fair.

Jim was a proud supporter of the junior fair service and livestock auctions. He not only supported the fair, but supported many other events held all over Meigs County over the years. Jim and June's dedication and their willingness to invest in the future of the youth and our fair became evident in 2012, when a substantial gift to the fair was made to replace the ageing livestock arena with the new Ridenour Family Livestock Arena. While Jim's biggest focus was the youth, he was a supporter of the entire fair. He was one of the very first day sponsors, an entertainment sponsor, supporter of the truck and tractor pulls and several other things.

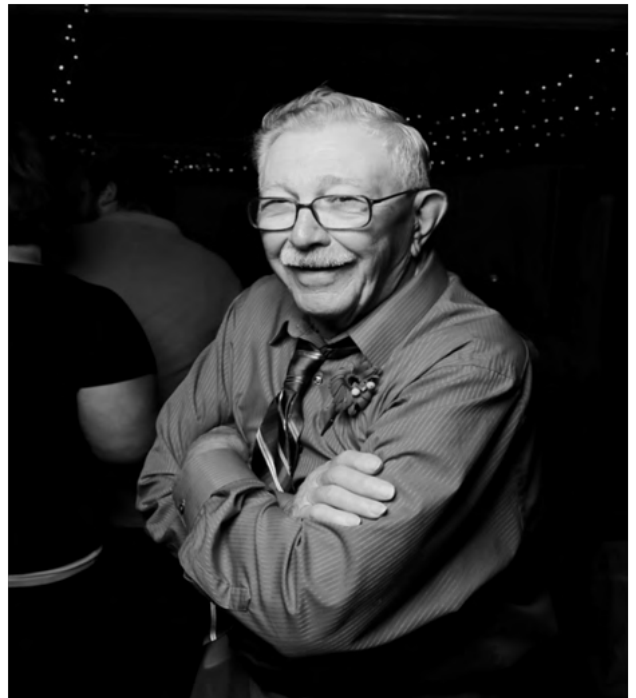
Jim took a lot of pride in the fair and anyone that spoke to him quickly realized how much the fair meant to him. On sale day, he could always be found with his family sitting on the front row bidding on animals, making sure that each exhibitor walked out of the ring feeling proud of their hard work. Because of his generosity many kids were able to save for college and even their first car. His love for the fair wasn't just one week long, if you walked into his business you see all of the photos from the animals he has purchased over the years, and there is a bunch! While Jim's passion was the Meigs County Fair he also purchased animals at neighboring county fairs such as Athens and Gallia Counties.

Jim was proud of his community and believed in giving back to others. He began his service to the community by serving proudly in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959, as a SP4 E4. After serving his country his service became community focused when he and a small group of others founded the Chester Volunteer Fire Department in 1960. This is also the year he started his business Ridenour Gas Service. Over the years Jim sponsored several little league teams, school sports teams and numerous community events. Jim often shared his kindness for others privately, by anonymously helping those in need and without anyone even knowing.

In 2015, Jim was awarded the Meigs County Chamber of Commerce Community Pillar Award for all of his support and dedication to the people of Meigs County. Sadly, Jim passed away in February of 2021, the Meigs County Fair is privileged to have James L. "Jim" Ridenour and his family as supporters and we are honored that he is being inducted into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame posthumously.

**The Ohio Fair Managers Association is proud to induct Jim Ridenour, posthumously, for the support to The Meigs County Fair, Ohio Fairs Industry, and service to our country, community into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2022**

**James L. "Jim" Ridenour  
May 20, 1935 - February 10, 2021**



# Annual Meeting Presentations



President Elect Paul Harris presents retiring President Rod Arter with his Past Presidents Plaque and other gifts for his service to the OFMA Board of Directors. Rod's father was President of the OFMA 1990-1991 as the plaque acknowledges



President Rod Arter presents retiring District 2 Director Thomas Higbie with an appreciation for service Plaque for his over 14 years of service to District 2 and the OFMA Board of Directors



President Rod Arter presents retiring District 8 Director John Ackerman with an appreciation for service Plaque for his 14years of service to District 8 and the OFMA Board of Directors



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