



# OHIO FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



*February 2024  
Post Convention Issue*



## 99TH OFMA CONVENTION “CHANGE IS GOOD”

The 2024 OFMA Convention stretched those participation records yet again.

Total attendance by Fair Boards, Guests, Service Members, Queens and family members, tradeshow spaces, ODA Meeting, Sponsorship, Auction donations and sales, District Meeting attendance, Workshops were full to SRO, Awards Breakfast with the Communication Awards and 5 outstanding individuals introduced into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2024, Extravaganza Evening, attendance exceeded 3600 participants.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture Breakfast meeting with Ohio's County and Independent Fairs on Friday saw 680 fairs, elected officials, attend to hear Director Baldrige speak to the condition of Ohio's Ag industry, developments at ODA. Director Baldrige introduced Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Auditor of State Keith Faber and Treasurer of State Robert Sprague for their presentations to those attending. ODA then recognized nine Outstanding Fair Supporters. ODA held 7 workshops on ORC rules, animal industry items.

The Saturday General Session with Key Note Mark Mayfield and his address: “**Morph**” was attended by over 2500 Junior and Senior Fair and guests in the beautiful Battelle Hall. Mark delivered a powerful message on change and how it has effected his life.

Ohio Fairs Queen Rebekah Hardacre gave her final thoughts on her year as the 2023 Ohio Fairs' Queen. Concluding here remarks Rebekah Announced “The Envelope Please” and presented the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen and Court. Rebekah **introduced the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen, Leah Schuhart representing Muskingum County Fair.** (see the Queen Report page )

The Greater Ohio Showman held 5 workshops and their annual meeting and partnered with OFMA on the Extravaganza evening Reverse Raffle and annual auction fundraiser. DJ John spun the tunes for dancing and attendees enjoyed the photo booth sponsored by Variety Attractions.

The annual auction supported by the county fairs donation of items for sale, many very high value, saw a record sale supported by Breeders World Youth Auctions on line and live in the Regency Ballroom.

The Annual Meeting of the Ohio Fair Managers was attend by the 95 member fairs. President Paul Harris managed the Annual Meeting business and presented the nomination committee recommendations for the 2024-2025 OFMA Officers. Stanley Strode, Morgan County Fair was elected President; Thomas Stocksedale, Wayne County Fair, 1st Vice President; Paul Lease, Columbiana County Fair, 2nd Vice President and Robert Dawson, Lake County Fair continues as Treasurer. Tim Massie, Past President Gallia County Fair transitioned the 2023 and 2024 Queens thanking Rebekah and introducing Leah Schuhart as the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen.

**The OFMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS THANKS EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE 99TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF OHIO'S FAIRS.**



Mark Mayfield



Queen Leah Schuhart

### Contents

Pg 2	Presidents Report
Pg 4	Development Grant Info
Pg 5-8	Ohio Fairs Queen Info
Pg 9	Secretaries Session
Pg 10	Presidents Showcase Report
Pg 11	Market Place report
Pg 12	2024 Sponsors by activity
Pg 13	Director Baldrige Report
Pg 18	Guest Activities report
Pg 19-23	Hall of Fame Inductees

## PRESIDENT REPORT

### Stanley Strode OFMA President

We have another convention behind us and what an outstanding convention it was. Including a sold-out trade show, our hotel block was sold out after Friday morning, our largest attendance to the breakfast meeting with the Director of Agriculture Brian Baldrige, and our overall attendance was up for our events and sessions. So I would say our 99th convention was a success!

President Paul Harris did an amazing job and I find myself wondering how I am going to fill those shoes. I'm going to pull a play from Ronald Regan, he got into office and then put good people around him. I already have a great board around me, so it's just a matter of letting them go to work. I am honored to work with this amazing group of people and appreciate all the support.

The following Ohio Fair Managers at Board At Large positions I have appointed will be held by: **Kendra Von Lehmden-Wentz, Putman County; Greta Gray, Clinton County; Heath Ward, Vinton County Fair.**

One of the things I want to accomplish in the next two years is spending an afternoon or evening at each fair. I have 56 tentatively on my schedule for this year.

I am thrilled to have this opportunity and look forward to being your OFMA President.

If you have an event coming up or any questions please give me a call or send a note to Stanley Strode 4989 S State Route 555, Chesterhill, OH 43728, 740-818-4460, [shstrode74@gmail.com](mailto:shstrode74@gmail.com).

STANLEY



## EXTRAVAGANZA COMMITTEE REPORT

### Stanley Strode, Committee Chair

Each year when our extravaganza is over I think that will be hard to top. Then the next year rolls around and we top the year before. This year was no exception. All our tables were sold out, the 50/50 was one of the largest ever, we had 32 items in the live auction and 34 items in the silent auction for a record-breaking total of \$35,066. Overall, it was a very successful night.

Many thanks go out to Randy and Drew Kissel for their help, to the extravaganza committee, to the Queens, and to our two auctioneers. A big thank you to all our buyers and backup buyers.

A Special WOW THANK YOU to all of those who donated to the auction. We had some great items this year.

*A special thank you to our sponsors: Variety Attractions for their presenting sponsorship of the evening and for the photo booth, Bates Brothers Amusements and Otter's Concessions for the snack bar, DJ John for the wonderful entertainment, and our Diamond Level Sponsor- Talley Amusements for all the pizza.*



# TALLEY

## AMUSEMENTS, INC.

**Talley Amusements is Proud to provide the Amusement Midway at  
the Ohio State Fair July 24 - August 24, 2024**

**OVER 200 YEARS OF COMBINED FAMILY EXPERIENCE IN THE  
CARNIVAL AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY**

**TALLEY AMUSEMENTS, INC. P.O. Box 1319 Fort Worth, TX 76101-1319**

**Phone: (817) 847-0888 <https://talleyamusements.com>**

MAGIC • COMEDY • JUGGLING • ESCAPE

### THE MAGIC OF ELI

### VARIETY SHOWS

**STROLLING GROUNDS  
ENTERTAINMENT  
& STAGE SHOWS**

419.472.4333 • [MAGICWITHELL.COM](http://MAGICWITHELL.COM)  
[INFO@MAGICWITHELL.COM](mailto:INFO@MAGICWITHELL.COM)




**Specializing in Fireworks for  
all Occasions**

**Jerry's  
Fireworks Hamburg**  
fireworks display inc.

P.O. Box 887  
Lancaster Ohio 43130  
740-654-2666

**MEMBER:**

- APA
- OSPA
- GOSA
- OFEA
- OFMA

[www.hamburgfireworks.com](http://www.hamburgfireworks.com)

**Quality you can count on.**

We take great pride in using only high quality fireworks and display materials. At Hamburg, we do business by delivering value.

**Major event or small event.**

We've done shows for crowds of up to 50,000 and have performed for less than 100. In fact, many people are surprised at the kind of performance we can deliver on a tight budget.

**A commitment to safety.**

We provide the safest possible environment for each performance. Each show is individually insured and we work hard to monitor (with double and triple inspections) all of our work to ensure a safe outcome. At Hamburg, trust is important to you and it's important to us, too.

# Department of Development Fairs Grant Opportunity

by Bob Dawson, OFMA Treasurer

A packed room of over 150 fair officers and directors gathered on January 4<sup>th</sup> to hear details on a new County and Independent Fairs grant opportunity. The grants will be administered by the Department of Development.

Eric Lindner from Development's Strategic Investments Division provided insight into the steps being finalized on the grant process. Earlier in 2023, the State Budget set aside \$10.0 million for the advancement of fairs.

Tentative Grant Program Dates are:

Program Guidelines – posted later this month

- Webinar – Mid to late February
  - Application Open – March 1, 2024
  - Application Close – April 30, 2024
  - Award notification – End of May/Early June
- Project Period – Application Date through June 30, 2026

A special website has been set-up for the administration of this grant opportunity at: <[www.development.ohio.gov/countyfairs](http://www.development.ohio.gov/countyfairs)>.

## Lisko Family Midway Amusements

3911 Cooper Rd Lowellville, OH 44436

Phone: 724-674-2232

Email: [wendylisko@gmail.com](mailto:wendylisko@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.liskofamilyamusements.com>



Ohio Fair Managers Association  
P. O. Box 2625 Stow, Ohio 44224  
330 208 0372 ph/fax

[ohiofairs@att.net](mailto:ohiofairs@att.net)

<http://www.ohiofairs.org>

Servicing Ohio's Fairs and Related Members  
Interests for over 99 years

We Proudly support our  
95 Fairs and 195 Service Members

## Value Built

for soybean farmers by soybean farmers.



Todd Hesterman  
Henry County

Learn more at [soyohio.org](http://soyohio.org)  
Brought to you by Ohio soybean farmers and their checkoff.

# INTRODUCING LEAH SCHUHART 2024 OHIO FAIRS' QUEEN

The Ohio Fair Managers are pleased to announce the selection and crowning of the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen Leah Schuhart, Nashport, Ohio, representing Muskingum County Fair.

Leah was selected from a field of 78 county and independent fair queens and crowned on Saturday, Jan. 6 during the combined Senior and Junior Fair Board member general session. There were more than 2,500 Senior and Junior Fair Board members in the Battelle Ballroom, Columbus, Ohio.

Leah is the daughter of Michael and Brittany Schuhart of Nashport, Ohio. She currently is enrolled at the University of Akron Studying Prelaw.

Queen Leah Schuhart is joined on her court with Jillian Overmyer, Preble County Fair; Katherine Oestreich, Wood County Fair; Madeline Cain, Vinton County Fair; and Ava Knapke Mercer County Fair.

Schuhart will represent Ohio's State, County and Independent Agricultural Fairs for 2024 and will assist with the queen's selection process during the 2025 Ohio Fair Managers Convention in Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 2-5, 2025.



## **Queen Schuhart is joined on her court with:**

2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up Katherine Oestreich, Wood Co Fair

1<sup>st</sup> runner-up Jillian Overmyer, Preble Co Fair

2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen, Leah Schuhart, Muskingum County Fair

3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up Madeline Cain, Vinton Co Fair

4<sup>th</sup> runner-up Ava Knapke, Mercer Co Fair.

## **The top 15 Ohio Fair Queen selections were:**

Megan Ritter, Auglaize; Lydia Venvleet, Franklin; Sara Lynch, Hancock; Katherine Oestreich, Wood; Madeline Cain, Vinton; Kimberly Roxberry, Ashtabula; Madelynn Fannin, Jackson; Samatha Mayhugh, Pickaway; Adrienne Thompson, Carroll; Leah Schuhart, Muskingum; Adrienne Meyer, Henry; Ava Knapke, Mercer; Lillian Dennis, Fairfield; Natalie Pham, Summit; Jillian Overmyer, Preble



**THANK YOU TO ALL FAIRS FOR SPONSORING THEIR JUNIOR FAIR QUEEN**  
**The 2025 Ohio Fairs Queen Application will be available Mid July on**  
**[Ohiofairs.org](http://Ohiofairs.org)**



# Meet Ohio Fairs' Queen Leah Schuhart

This conference was a complete whirlwind. I was at the Convention Center bright and early Thursday morning with an interview time slot of 9:10. In planning, my goal was to make it to the Conference about an hour before my scheduled time, both to ensure I wouldn't be late and to provide myself with time to mingle with some of the other contestants. While waiting to be called, I got the chance to talk with several of the other queens, some of whom I had met in travels already and others who were new acquaintances. The room was absolutely buzzing with everyone's excitement as well as their nerves.

My interview was incredibly straight-forward. I had walked in prepared to be met with some of the more elaborate types of questions that I've experienced in interviews for FFA and camp counseling positions, but instead I was asked questions about myself and my values. The question that stood out most, however, was a question of what the largest issue facing agriculture is today. This question was by far my favorite, because I have an answer to it that I am quite passionate about: agricultural illiteracy. I was able to have a good discussion with the judges about examples of this we've seen and some of my ideas to help curb this issue.

After my interview I rejoined the other queens still waiting, as a few friends had yet to be called back and I wanted to be there to wish them luck. With each girl who left and returned, we settled into a deeper collective calm at our table. Something about completing our interviews made everyone feel a little lighter. Once the last of the group I was sitting with had gone, most of us dispersed to various activities. Many of the other girls went to rest in their hotel rooms, but my dad and I walked through the convention for a while just to get a better lay of the land before lunch.

Following lunch, it was time to grab my shoes to do the practice run for our onstage introductions. I had a really great time getting to hear everyone's introduction, as it allowed me to learn a little bit about all the girls that I hadn't yet had the opportunity to meet. It was also very interesting to hear everyone's personal twist on how they preferred to do their introductions. After we had all finished practicing, we headed to dinner.

Once we finished dinner, people slowly trickled out to go change their clothes and touch up their hair and makeup for the evening. By time we all got seated and introductions began happening the excitement in the air was almost palpable. Everyone was whispering their expressions of nerves and excitement to those sitting around them. Many girls even held hands with those next to them to just share the moment a little more. Hearing my name called for the top 15 was incredibly exciting.

As everyone began responding to their word prompts, I found myself feeling real nerves for the first time of the day. While listening to the words they pulled I found that I felt confident in my ability to answer some but others I was totally stumped on, and it made me feel very nervous about what word I would get. This nervousness was totally unnecessary however, as I had a response to the word I pulled that I felt fairly good about.

As the judges deliberated, I had a lot of fun answering and hearing the other young ladies' answers to our "just for fun" questions. Once the judges came back, the nerves of all the ladies on stage returned. Being announced in the top 5 was unreal. As was the rest of that whole evening. We took a big group photo and then the top 5 all went to have our second round of interviews, with some quick pictures taken of us in between.



Continued next page

The second round of interviews was much different from the first. Other than the obvious aspect of there being more judges in the room, the questions being asked this time were much more challenging and I found that these made me think harder and take the time to analyze what was being asked. The last question they asked me was along the lines of “Why should we choose you?” This was by far the most challenging question because I was there with four other incredibly deserving and accomplished girls. My answer was that I could not answer their question because any of the five of us would have done an amazing job and that they really could not have made a wrong choice with any of us.

Friday morning started bright and early with the directors breakfast. I really enjoyed getting to listen to everyone speak about their pride in agriculture as well as their goals and plans to help further the success of those involved in agriculture within Ohio. Following the breakfast, we had the opportunity to visit the district meetings and introduce ourselves. We also got to experience the trade show and had a lot of fun interacting with the various folks. We watched a brief magic show and we're even taught just a little bit about puppeteering.

After lunch we had some time to ourselves. My dad and I decided we wanted to see more of the trade show. This time around I got to meet “Abraham Lincoln” and hear some of his history stories.

We met with the rest of the top 5 for dinner at Agave and Rye. At dinner we got to really get to know each other better and chat about our experiences with our fairs and what our plans for the future are. After dinner we walked back across the street to attend the showcase. We all had a ton of fun seeing the different acts.

Despite a late night on Friday, we were all up bright and early Saturday for the crowning ceremony. By that point, the general consensus was that all our nerves were gone. However, once we were on stage, the wait for results made us all a little bit tense. Hearing the name of the first runner up being called and realizing that I was now the Ohio Fairs' Queen was a pretty intense moment. I was told after the fact that my jaw had actually dropped during the announcement.

Once all the pictures had been taken, I went and changed my clothes and grabbed some lunch before meeting up with Tim, Dan, Rebekah, and Jennifer to discuss the expectations for the day and the rest of the year in my new role. Following our brief meeting, Rebekah and I walked the tradeshow once more and made it a priority to visit the HomeTown Ticketing booth so I could thank them for sponsoring me this year. After we finished up at the trade show, we went up to see the ballroom so Rebekah could give me a rundown of what exactly we would be doing in the evening. We again had a little bit of downtime before the auction and reverse raffle evening .

Rebekah and I had a lot of fun helping out with the auction and reverse raffle. In particular we really enjoyed the opportunity to join some of the folks out on the dance floor. It was another late night, but wholly worth it for all the fun we had.

We had another early start on Sunday for the awards breakfast. I had the honor of announcing some of the awards being presented, including one presented to my home fair. Following breakfast, it was time to head down to the business meeting. In the transition of the queens, Rebekah gave a beautiful retiring address and I had the opportunity to introduce myself in my new role for the first time and officially begin my year as the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen.

Please contact me at: [ohiofairsqueen2024@gmail.com](mailto:ohiofairsqueen2024@gmail.com) and looking forward to visiting your fair.

Leah

## 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen Program

Congratulations to Leah Schuhart from the Muskingum County Fair who was crowned the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen at the Ohio Fairs Grand General Session! Also, congratulations to all the young ladies who participated in our Ohio Fair's Queen activities. Seventy-eight of Ohio's best young fair representatives applied for and all seventy-eight participated the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen title.

Our week began with an informal gathering on Wednesday evening. The girls 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 2023 Ohio Fairs' Queen Rebekah Hardacre lead the discussion and she was assisted by Maya Kidd, the 2022 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 Van Raaij, the 2021 Ohio Fairs' Queen along with 2021 Miss Ohio, Lora Current, who was also the 2019 Ohio Fairs' Queen! Later Thursday evening the Ohio Fairs' Queen Pageant was held and the fifteen semi-finalists were named. Each of the fifteen girls drew a word and were given one minute to respond. The judges met and selected the top five finalists who were announced on stage. Following the announcement, the five finalists were interviewed by all ten judges where the official final order was determined.

Thank you, Rebekah for your service as the 2023 Ohio Fairs' Queen. I've said this many times this past year, but it bears repeating again. What an outstanding and remarkable young lady!!! I hope many of you had the opportunity to have a conversation with her. What a story she has to tell! She was able to make quality visits to several fairs, and she made the best of her year. We wish Rebekah the very best in all her endeavors. I'm sure we will hear more from her in the future. She will always be a part of the OFMA family and on that note, we welcome Leah to the OFMA family! We look forward to hearing more about her throughout the upcoming year.

Thank you to the Eagle Golf Car Company, Bush Concessions-Susan Bush, Syngenta, BASF of Columbus and Linville Food Services, Bush's Fairway Concessions-Leeanne and Bill Bush, and Hometown Ticket 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 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 2025 contest! Have a great and successful fair season!



*Tim Massie, Chairman*



# Secretaries & Treasurers get “Organized”

Lori Firsdon, Founder and Owner of Forte Organizers

by Bob Dawson, OFMA Treasurer

Over 150 fair secretaries, treasurers and other staff spent Thursday morning, January 4<sup>th</sup> working on their organizational skills, *Ready for Action: Tackle Paperwork, Priorities and Projects*

On Friday Lori, Founder and Owner of Forte Organizers was the presenter for a session entitled “*Blue Ribbon Organizing*”.

Lori’s presentation focused on how to tackle paperwork, set priorities and gain the confidence needed to move forward on your most important projects. She shared several techniques and tips to lesson workload stress and increase productivity.

Participants received an OFMA Certificate of Continuing Education for their participation. Hospitality for the training was sponsored by **Lisko Family Amusements**.



Lori can be reached at: Forte Organizers, LLC

948 E. Franklin Street, Centerville, OH 45459 Phone: [937-619-3181](tel:937-619-3181)

Harness racing invested over  
**\$1,000,000**  
in grants to Ohio Fairs in 2023.

Adding improvements  
and excitement to  
fairgrounds across the  
Buckeye State.



2237 Sonora Drive | Grove City, OH 43123 | 614-221-3650

[www.OHHA.com](http://www.OHHA.com)



## ***Bob Dawson Lake County***

The 2024 President's Showcase had a packed house buoyed by the presale of 60 reserved tables. The 3 Redneck Tenors served as the opening act with their unique blend of country opera and comedy.

Early entrants to the ballroom were automatically entered in the door prize drawing and Bruce Layman, Erin Perry, Carol Thompson and Grace Radar all won \$100 Home Depot gift cards. The night's table raffle was won by the Jackson County Fair who took home a cool \$6,000 for their coffers.

Steve Cover from the Entertainment Resource Group produced the music portion of the evening. Steve received a special recognition award for attending his 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive OFMA convention and for assisting the OFMA with the Showcase for many years.

Aubrey Rey, Crush the Bon Jovi Concert Experience, Jake Hoot, Alex Miller, Adam Calvert and Recess all performed well for the audience.

The President's Showcase was made possible with the financial support of the Burnham & Flower Insurance Group who continued their tradition as the night's Presenting Sponsor. Stay tuned for next year's showcase which promises to be a special event with a national act in conjunction with the OFMA's 100th Anniversary event.



*Bob-*

**Burnham & Flower**  
INSURANCE GROUP

**We are proud to support the  
Ohio Fair Managers and their  
Members**

**Burnham & Flower Insurance  
Group 6500 Taylor Road  
Blacklick, Ohio 43004.**

**Ohio Office is 614.861.1478  
Fax number is 614.861.1486.**

**Director-Ohio Governmental Program**

**Thomas Welsh**

**E-mail to: [twelsh@bfgroup.com](mailto:twelsh@bfgroup.com)**

**Website: [www.bfgroup.com](http://www.bfgroup.com)**

**Nutrien**  
**Ag Solutions™**

*We recognize the value of community involvement  
and appreciate the dedication of volunteers.*

*We extend our best wishes  
for a safe and successful fair season.*

**DYNAGRO.**  
SEED

**ESN**  
SmartNitrogen

  
**Loveland**  
PRODUCTS

**echelon**  
THE NEXT LEVEL OF AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS



## 2024 MARKET PLACE TRADESHOW

Paul Lease 2nd VP & Chairman

The Annual Market Place sold out 7th year in a row. The 138 Vendor spaces were filled with the verbal alphabet soup of products.

The following Sponsors sponsored hospitality in the tradeshow, each afternoon with Free Keg Beer and snacks in the Franklin Rooms, County Hallway and the 1st Floor Taft Foyer snacks as well as Welcome to Columbus Hospitality in the Nationwide Foyer 1st Floor and more. *Linville Family Foods, Ego Amusements, COSI, Bates Brothers Amusements, Otter's Concessions, NTPA, BASF Corp, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Poor Jacks Amusements And Bayer Corporation.*

I encourage the Fairs to support those Vendors and Members who Support Ohio's Fairs by being a member of the OFMA

PAUL LEASE



# State Fair

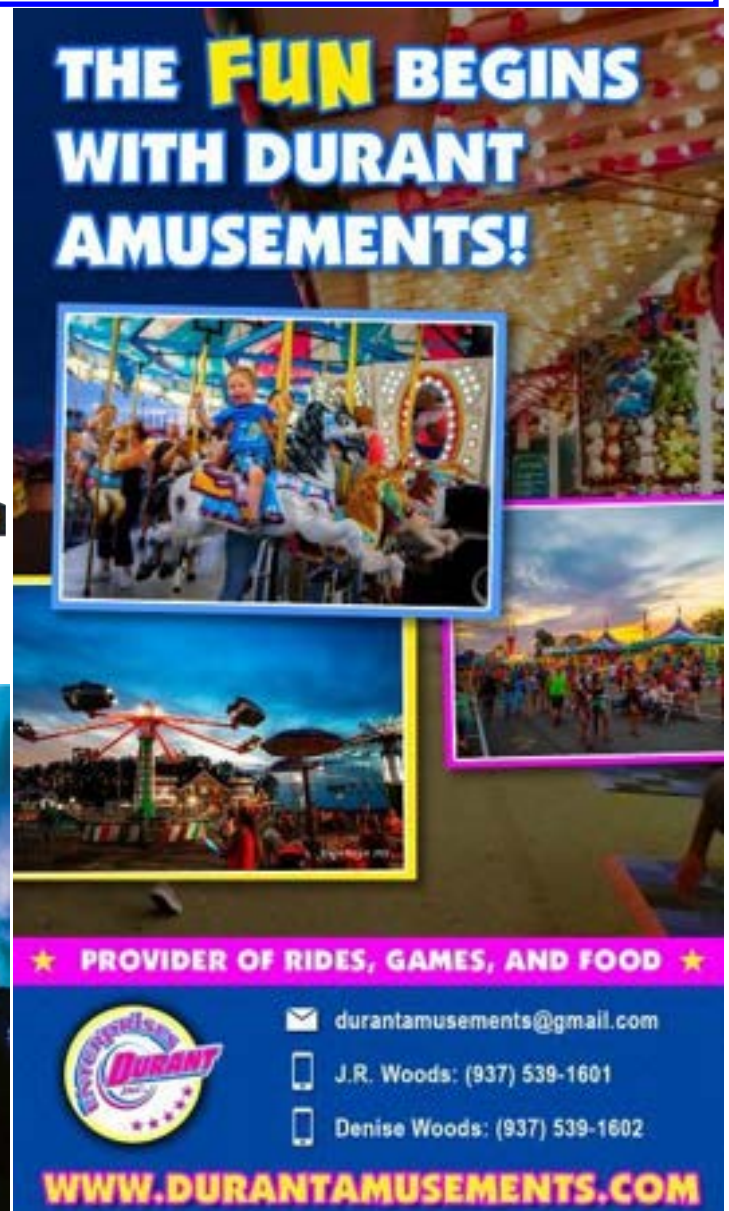
JULY 24 - AUGUST 4, 2024



**KLEIN'S ENTERTAINMENT, LLC.**


*The One Source For All Your Entertainment Needs Talent Buyers, Agents, Consultants & Production Since 1930*

815-943-9777 • [www.KleinsEntertainment.com](http://www.KleinsEntertainment.com)  
sales@KleinsEntertainment.com  
[www.facebook.com/kleinsentertainment](https://www.facebook.com/kleinsentertainment)  
P.O.Box 550 • Harvard, IL 60033-0550



**THE FUN BEGINS WITH DURANT AMUSEMENTS!**

★ PROVIDER OF RIDES, GAMES, AND FOOD ★

 [durantamusements@gmail.com](mailto:durantamusements@gmail.com)  
J.R. Woods: (937) 539-1601  
Denise Woods: (937) 539-1602

**WWW.DURANTAMUSEMENTS.COM**



# 2024 Convention Sponsors by Activity

*Junior Fair Battelle Hall General Session*  
**Ohio State Fair**

*Diamond Extravaganza Evening Pizza Blast*  
**Talley Amusements**

*99th Convention Presenting Sponsor*  
**Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association**

*Ohio Fairs' Buyer's Guide Publication*  
**Kissel Amusements**

*Ohio Fairs' Queen Contest*  
**Eagle Golf Car Company**

*Ohio Fairs Queen Summer Travels*  
**Hometown Ticketing**

*Showcase Production Light and Sound*  
**Live!tech of Columbus**

*Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Induction*  
**Durant Amusements**

*Officers and Training Meeting Hospitality*  
**Lisko Family Amusements**

*Annual Meeting Sponsor*  
**Prowant Specialty**

*First Time Attendee's Hospitality*  
**Ego Amusements**

*Hospitality Sponsor*  
**COSI**

*Junior & Senior Fair Meeting Expenses*  
**Willandale Golf Carts**

*Junior & Sr. Fair General Session Key Note Speaker*  
**Ohio Soybean Council**

*Extravaganza Entertainment*  
**Variety Attractions**

*Welcome to Columbus Hospitality*  
**Linville Family Foods**

**THE OFMA ENCOURAGES OUR MEMBER FAIRS TO UTILIZE THE SERVICE MEMBERS AND SPONSORS FOR THEIR FAIR NEEDS.**

**Promotional & Name Badge Materials**  
**The Fair Publishing Company**

**ODA Luncheon & Annual OFMA Tradeshow**  
**Concessions by COX**

**Communications Awards & Refreshment Break**  
**Nutrien Ag Solutions**

**Showcase Dessert Buffet Evening Burnham & Flower Agency, INC**

**Cornhole Evening and Extravaganza Snacks**  
**Bates Brothers Amusements**

**Extravaganza Snacks**  
**Bates Brothers Amusements**  
**Otter's Concessions**

**Spouse/Guest Activities**  
**Klein's Entertainment LLC**

**Entertainment Productions**  
**Entertainment Resource Group**

**99th Bourbon Barrel Support**  
**Bullen Food Services**

**Meeting Room Signes**  
**All-Win Electric**

**Queen Activity Support**  
**COSI**  
**Haas Wilkerson Insurance**

**Reithoffer Amusements**  
**Spectrum Insurance**  
**Wade Flory**  
**Bob Dawson**

**Queen Crown, Sash, Flowers**  
**Bush's Fairway Concessions**  
**Bush Concessions**

**Tradeshow Hospitality**  
**Poor Jacks Amusements**  
**NTPA**  
**BASF Corp**  
**Bayer Corporation**



## Ohio Department of Agriculture Brian Baldridge

It was a pleasure to address all of you at the 99<sup>th</sup> OFMA convention this past January! It is truly an exciting time in agriculture and for our fair industry as we move into the new year embracing the concept that "Change is Good."

I am confident that 2024 will be a year of growth and positive change. At ODA, we remain committed to assisting and supporting our county and independent fairs in any way that we can. From livestock exhibitions, to elections, to fair dates and amusement rides, and everywhere in between, know that we are here for you. We also pledge our commitment to keeping our lines of communication with our fair boards and OFMA leadership open and strong.

I will soon be mapping out my fair schedule for the upcoming fair season, where I will travel the state and visit as many fairs as possible. Last year, I was so impressed by the hospitality I was shown and seeing firsthand the great achievements of our next generation. I look forward to meeting many more of you starting this June.

A sincere thank you for all that you do. I look forward to seeing you at the fair!

Brian Baldridge, Director  
Ohio Department of Agriculture



**Radio Rentals**  
*Audio INNOVATORS INC.*  
**1-800-222-9929**  
KENWOOD MOTOROLA  
[www.audioinnovators.com](http://www.audioinnovators.com)

**Bob Abdou / Mr. Puppet**  
Comedy Ventriloquist  
**614-329-5399**  
Call/text  
[www.mrpuppet.org](http://www.mrpuppet.org)  
Miles the Turtle

**Sugar Mountain**  
NEIL YOUNG, EXPERIENCE  
**FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT**  
FESTIVALS, PRIVATE & CORP SHOWS  
1-877-330-5330  
[WWW.ILOVENEILYOUNG.COM](http://WWW.ILOVENEILYOUNG.COM)  
[BOOKINGS@ILOVENEILYOUNG.COM](mailto:BOOKINGS@ILOVENEILYOUNG.COM)





THE **Fair**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

Phone: 419.668.3746  
Fax: 800.340.9988  
orders@fairsupplies.com | www.fairpublishing.com  
Proudly Made in the USA

## Prowant Specialty Company



Family owned and operated for over  
50 years Anissa & Bill Prowant  
Suzannah Cushman  
PO Box 80 Dupont, OH 45837  
Day & Eve: (419) 596-3286  
Fax: (419) 596-3984  
E-mail: [prospecialty@gmail.com](mailto:prospecialty@gmail.com)

## Eagle Golf Cars

Sales - Service - Parts - Rentals



1-888-432-3059  
4270 Old Columbus Rd NW  
Carroll, OH 43112



PROUD SPONSOR OF THE QUEENS CONTEST

The Tradeshow Vendors wish to  
**THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING THE MARKET**  
**PLACE TRADE SHOW and BUYING FROM SER-**  
**VICE MEMBERS OF THE OFMA**





# Nostalgia

- “its delicate, but potent. In Greek nostalgia literally means ‘the pain from an old wound.’ It’s a twinge in your heart far more powerful than memory alone. This device isn’t a spaceship, it’s a time machine. It goes backwards, and forwards... 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”*





**Cox**

Now Booking Fairs & Special Events!

Large Inventory of Trailers, Equipment and Modern Carts For Sale

Visit our website at: [www.cbycox.com](http://www.cbycox.com)  
 Call 614.297.0735 or Email [ohio@cbycox.com](mailto:ohio@cbycox.com)  
 For more information



OFMA officers welcoming Governor Mike DeWine to the ODA Breakfast Meeting



2024 Grant workshop Presentation by Ohio Department of Development More info on page 4 of this newsletter



General Session Saturday January 6, Battelle Hall 2600 in attendance to hear Mark Mayfield Keynote: "MORPH"



2024 Market Place tradeshow



# WILLANDALE

## Golf Cart Sales

willandalegolfcartsales.com

SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS • PARTS & ACCESSORIES



Junior Fair Education  
Meeting Expenses Sponsor



111 N Wooster Ave • Strasburg, OH 44680  
330-417-7480



@DEVINHENRYMUSIC  
WWW.DEVINHENRY.LIVE  
17K FOLLOWERS • NEW ALBUM 2023

Quality Awards You Can Be Proud Of  
Service You Can Depend On!



**Regalia**  
MFG. CO.

1-800-798-7471

EARLY ORDER DISCOUNTS OFFERED ALL YEAR!

5% 2 Months	8% 4 Months	10% 6 Months
----------------	----------------	-----------------

BEFORE YOUR EVENT DATE!

Like Us On Facebook

Jennifer@regaliamfg.com

www.regaliamfg.com

# HOMETOWN

## Digital Ticketing Solutions

- All things ticketing
- Online sales
- Gates sales
- Reserved seating

## Registration Solutions

- Camping
- Concessions
- Vendors

## Fundraising Solutions

- Next generation fundraising

HomeTown Ticketing, Inc.

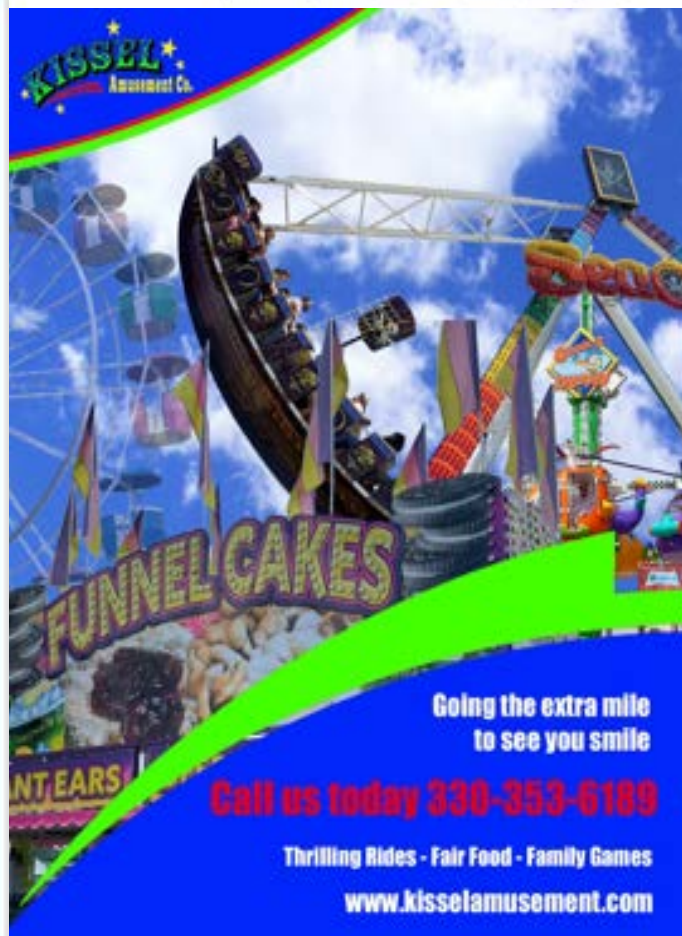
4305 W Granville Rd, Dublin, OH 43017

<https://www.hometownticketing.com/>

Jeff Cole - VP of Sales

Jeff.cole@hometownticketing.com

567-294-9000



Going the extra mile  
to see you smile

Call us today 330-353-6189

Thrilling Rides • Fair Food • Family Games

[www.kisselamusement.com](http://www.kisselamusement.com)



## Guest Activities Report

Tom Stocksdales 1st VP OFMA

On Thursday afternoon your OFMA provided a charter bus and nearly 30 directors and friends enjoyed a trip to our Ohio Department of Agriculture campus at Reynoldsburg, where we toured the facility and learned of the many faceted research, testing, curing, and place our own ODA had in Ohio and the entire USA. To top off the trip our new ODA Director Baldrige gave a short presentation prior to the tours of the facility. This was all culminated with a treat of ice cream novelties sponsored by our own **American Dairy Association Mideast.**

Your OFMA board was excited about providing some extra activities for our spouses and friends at the convention this year. First of all we had a sell out for the wine and BINGO activity with over 60 attending. Of special note is the fact each winner received not only a door prize but a ring of the original Trail Bologna from Trail, Ohio. Additionally we want to thank Sterling Farm Equipment and Lowe & Young Inc from Wooster Ohio for providing our grand prizes.... A pedal tractor from each which was awarded to the "full card" winners during the afternoon.

Finally the bourbon educational seminar and taste testing was a big hit as we nearly sold out 3 sessions. Your OFMA board sent a group of board members and other interested individuals to New RIFF in Kentucky and a bourbon barrel was selected for our 99<sup>th</sup> OFMA convention. The session was led by our past OFMA President Dan Bullen where we learned about how the production of bourbon was done and why it has become one of the current spirits of choice. All the while the participants were able to taste test 5 different types of bourbon and each was described in detail by Dan.

The bourbon barrel that was selected was later made available to any individuals who wanted to get a bottle and there were a few left that will be made available at our spring meetings later this spring.

What a great time we all had participating with others around the State at these events. Looking forward to next year, our 100<sup>th</sup> convention, we anticipate another bourbon tasting and educational activity, we will continue most likely with the Wine-Bingo and Bologna activity, and your spouse activity – entertainment committee is actively looking at other activities that will embrace the celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> year. We just thank all who participated, we thank the sponsors listed above, and look forward to our next special 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the OFMA Convention in January 2025.



Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stocksdales



**There are 45 remaining bottles of the limited edition and will be available with donation at the spring meetings**

**The 2024 Class of Ohio Fair Manager Hall of Fame, 5 Inductees who have demonstrated Leadership and Passion for their fairs are presented.**

**2024 Class of Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Inductee:  
Bev Fisher CFE, Mahoning County Fair**

Bev began her career at the Canfield Fair in 1991 as a secretary. It was quickly clear that Bev was an asset to the fair and became the fair manager just four short years later in 1995. Bev has built her career in a variety of roles for the Canfield Fair and its Board of Directors. She has been a gatekeeper, technology whiz, bookkeeper, and marketing guru. She wears many hats, and sincerely enjoys it.

She thrives in an environment where no two days are exactly the same. She is supportive of her Fairboard and her staff. If there is a broken water line, you will find her alongside the maintenance staff helping out. Bev is constantly onsite taking care of the rentals and any issue that arise. In addition to being flexible and responsive, she is a fanatic for details. She applies the same level of attention to, details for the fair board meetings and, as simple as, making sure the copier never runs out of paper. Bev has a love for fairs and the fair industry which is second to none. She has been a passionate supporter of the fair and is always excited to see the fair boards visions become reality. She is a part of the fair literally from the ground up.

Bev has a love for fairs and the fair industry which is second to none. Bev obtained her CFE designation from the IAFE in 2008. She has attended the Ohio Fair Managers Convention for over 25 years, the IAFE convention for 20 years and IAFE zone meetings for 10 years. She has been a presenter for OFMA and IAFE many times over the years. The late Robert Rose, treasurer Canfield Fair and Bev would take their morning exercise walk thru the convention center each morning of the convention and it was very clear that Robert was coach and Bev student.

She served for 16 years as a Director At Large on the OFMA Board, where she has also brought her many talents. Bev took much pride in managing the Ohio Fairs' Queen Program for 13 years and grew the program to the success it is today. She served as Chair of guest relations for 13 years, served on the Audit, Budget and Legislative Committee and was vice chair of the Program Committee. Bev worked to overhaul the program from the annual convention in 2014, that continues to be used today.

Bev also served on the ODA Fiscal Report committee working with the Auditor of State to streamline the annual reporting document. She was instrumental in the 2018 revision of the Law and Rules that govern Ohio Fairs in the Red Book, making the first successful upgrade since its inception in 1953. Bev served on the Political Action Committee for the OFMA and traveled to the statehouse to testify on Ohio fairs legislation many times. She has been called upon by the Governor of State several times to offer guidance and formulate ideas for the fair industry. Bev served on the Mahoning Board of Health for 19 years.

She has been married to Randy since 1987 and they both enjoy working on their family farm. Bev and Randy are avid bear hunters and yearly make the trip to Canada's Wilderness to hunt. Bev has been a great asset to so many fairs that have called upon her knowledge to help with bookkeeping, ideas and to help the many fairs get their 501-C3. She has traveled hours away to help a fair in need. She is truly a blessing to this state association.



**The Ohio Fair Managers Association is proud to induct Bev Fisher CFE for the support to The Mahoning County Fair, Ohio Fairs Industry, and service to our community into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2024**

## 2024 Class of Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Inductee: Cindy Woodman, Lake County Fair

The Ohio Fair Managers is proud to announce the induction Cindy Woodman, Lake County Fair. Cindy Woodman has provided outstanding service to the Lake County Fair for over 29 years. Since the time of her election as a director in 1994, Cindy has been an innovator and an enabler on the Lake County Fair Board and her hard work, out-of-the-box thinking, and countless contributions have helped the Lake County Fair to keep going and growing. Cindy had a very active 4-H career as a youth where she was heavily involved in Saddle Horse. Following that, she dedicated her adult life to raising her daughters Stephanie and Samantha, to successfully operating her concession business (The Pony Express) and to giving service to the Lake County Fair. Cindy served as Fair Board Vice-President for 6 years and as the Fair's Concession Manager for the past 20 years.



She has actively participated on the Audit, Concessions, Finance, Fine Arts, Gates, Historical, Horse, Marketing and Rent committees over the years. Cindy is a broad thinker and a visionary. Her creativity has led to the fair adding a number of popular exhibits such as the Mini-horses and the Donkey and Mule display. With Cindy's hard work and through her management and guidance as rent committee chair, Lake County's non-fair rentals have grown to a point where their non-fair revenue position is one of the strongest in the state. Cindy also drove the band wagon on changes in the concession and ticket areas which have led to continual growth of fair-time revenues and which have resulted in record profits over the past several fairs. While serving as Saddle Horse Chair, she brought in such popular events as Cutting and Roping which included a celebrity class of local public and elected officials, a very large and highly competitive open show and a locally designed and operated Wonderful World of Horses event which educated the public on different breeds of horses and their characteristics.

Cindy was also instrumental in bringing a nondenominational Sunday church service to the show ring through her membership and involvement in the Life-Brand Cowboy Church. Cindy is a very successful businesswoman, and she continually shares her business acumen with the Fair Board through her input on the annual budget and in consideration of capital improvements. She is someone who keeps a keen eye on expenses and always kept an eye out for cost containment, when she served on the Board's Internal Audit Committee.

Cindy is a regular participant in the Ohio Fair Managers Association District Nine Round Tables, OFMA Spring Meetings, OFMA Convention, IAFE Zone Meetings and she is an active member of the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association which keeps her up to date with the Concessions and Rides Business. She has participated in OFMA conventions for more than 25 years and has regularly presented on the topic of Beer Sales and an assortment of other concession related topics.

She is a past recipient of ODA's Outstanding Fair Supporter award, recognized by GOSA as Concession Manager of the Year and a member of the Lake County Fair Hall of Fame. Cindy is a true friend of all fairs, and she is someone who talks the talk and walks the walk for Ohio's Fair Industry. For all these reasons and more, Cindy Woodman is a deserving candidate for the Ohio Fair Managers Association Hall of Fame.

**The Ohio Fair Managers Association is proud to induct Cindy Woodman for the support to The Lake County Fair, Ohio Fairs Industry, and service to our community into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2024.**



## 2024 Class of Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Inductee: Candace Tripp, Marion County Fair

Candace “Candy” Sawyer Tripp, whose career at the Marion County Fairgrounds reaches back to 1990 has become a pillar of knowledge and history. Serving as Secretary/Manager and Treasurer for over 30 years she leaves a legacy that is hard to top. She has been married for 16 years and resides in Punta Gorda, Florida with her husband Dan and pup, Cooper. She has three beautiful daughters and 5 wonderful grandchildren. Since her daughters and now granddaughters have all worked with her in the office at one time or another, she says, “It is like a big, family reunion each year: celebrating our county’s history – and future – with friends and neighbors.

Candy worked diligently on bringing a diverse crowd to Marion over the years—on and off season—expanding off-season events from just four in 1990 to a combined total of 45 weeks of off-season events and fundraisers. While many of those events bring hundreds of visitors to Marion, many also enforce the Fairgrounds’ place as a significant gathering place for our community. The majority of those events are focused on students, such as the National Robotics Challenge, sports competitions, and graduations. The same goes for fair-time. With 4-H projects ranging from science and technology to showing livestock, the Marion County Fair offers an expansive list of opportunities for kids to learn, grow, and, most importantly, just have fun with those we care about. She has given a priceless amount of devotion to the Marion County Fairgrounds and to Marion County over the years. She was awarded the Marion Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau’s 2017 Tourism Ambassador Award. She was an officer on the Marion Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, member/treasurer and on the financial committee of Epworth United Methodist Church. She was a charter member of the Marion County Special Wish Foundation from 1983-1995. Candy attended 28 OFMA conventions as well as presented at a few round table discussions at the IAFE Convention. In 2000 the Marion County Agricultural Society placed a .3-million-dollar levy on the ballot for the purpose of capital improvements to the Coliseum and grounds. She served as treasurer and organized the promotional campaign, securing funds for advertising promotion and organizing committees.

With the passing of the levy, it secured an inside/outside total upgrade as well as securing a home office for the Marion County Veterans Services. She helped organize and promote grants for restroom renovations, new sheep pens, electrical upgrades with grant funds in the upwards of \$300,000.00. Candy retired in 2017 and found her love of sunshine in Punta Gorda, Florida. However, when she was needed to return in 2022 after her replacement had left, she never batted an eye. She came willingly to search for a new replacement. The Board made the decision to split the positions and she needed to find a Treasurer as well. She would handle day to day business, all while training a new Secretary and Treasurer successfully from Florida while still traveling monthly back to Ohio. Her dedication to the Marion County Fairgrounds is proof during this time of division between family and Fair. She was meticulous to every detail during her training, even with the obstacle of travel. Candy is small in stature but big in heart and has more heart for this Society, and everyone attributed to it than any other entity. Her amount of knowledge and detail she retains in her mind is astonishing. She can quickly revert to the past, spewing details, and conversations like no one before her. When an “issue” arises, she is quick with questions and answers to fix the obstacles. She was once a “city girl” and has become one of the most respected individuals on the grounds and within our community.

She has dedicated nearly her whole career for the promotion of the Fair, inter dwelling of the 47 acres, buildings, and people within the Marion County Fairgrounds and it would not be where it is if it were not for Candy Tripp. For that, the Marion County Fairgrounds are forever in her debt and ever so thankful to have had her on our side.

**The Ohio Fair Managers Association is proud to induct Candace Tripp for the support to The Marion County Fair, Ohio Fairs Industry, and service to our community into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2024**



## 2024 Class of Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Inductee: **Dan Kimmett, Allen County Fair**

The Ohio Fair Managers is proud to announce the induction of Dan Kimmett, Allen County Fair. Mr. Dan Kimmett has been an asset and has been instrumental in the growth of the Allen County Fair. He served as board vice president for 8 years and president for 13 years. His

commitment to the fair shined when he served on every committee that was established. He was the catalyst in acquiring land from



Walmart to increase the acreage of the Fairgrounds property. Dan's footprint on the state level included being a director of OFMA since 2004, director of the year in 2006, and president in 2012-2013. Dan Kimmett's love of the fair and passion for the education of youth is unmatched. Outside of the fairgrounds, Dan has left his mark on his community and was recently honored as an inductee to the Delphos St. Johns Hall of Fame.

Dan has been married to his wife Cindy for 41 years. He has two sons, Erik and Nathan, and 2 grandchildren. Dan was the facilitator of introducing the National Trappers, Motorcycle Races, and the 4-Wheel Jamboree as staple events year-round. He also left his mark by starting the super stakes races, the Dunlap-Renner Memorial, and Doc-Steiner Classic.

The late Fred Arnold, Past President OFMA, Ohio Fair's Hall of Fame inductee, took Dan under his wing in the harness racing industry and Dan led by example at Allen County with the Harness Program. The late OFMA President Paul Oechsle, Van Wert County Fair would relate that when Dan was driving semi hauling food products to Michigan, he would go past Paul's Farm at night and lay on the air horn waking him up. Paul would utter several choice words in the wake of Dan trucking down the road. The Allen County Fair is thankful to Dan, he has been the backbone to many of the Fair's successes over the years. Dan's dedication has escalated the Allen County Fair to be one of the best in the state of Ohio.

**The Ohio Fair Managers Association is proud to induct Dan Kimmett for the support to The Allen County Fair, Ohio Fairs Industry, and service to our community into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2024**



## **2024 Class of Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Inductee: Robert Buxton, Coshocton County Fair**

The Ohio Fair Managers is proud to announce the induction of Robert Buxton, Coshocton County Fair Robert “Bob” Buxton has served for 45-years as a Director of the Coshocton County Fair. Bob has seen and been involved in all aspects of his beloved fair. He has served on all the committees and been in every seat as a director and officer. He truly loves the fair and everything it has to offer. From the Art Hall to the livestock displays.

Bob has been involved in raising funds for all departments of the fair too numerous to list including paving, roofs, grandstand rehabilitation, animal pens, building additions, and anything that has to do with improving the patrons and exhibitors experience to the fair.

Bob travels to other fairs around the state and across the country to enjoy and bring back ideas to improve the fairs in Ohio. He is the first one to show up for workdays and help recruit and train new directors. He is a true inspiration on the board and is often looked to for advice and guidance. As a District Director Bob served with honor and represented his District 8 to the best of his ability.

Bob was married for 37 years to his late wife Beverly Buxton and has two children Emily and Jesse. He also has five grandchildren: Nathan, Julia, Beverly, Eliza and Jay. Bob enjoys spending time with his fiancé Christina Slaughter.

Bob is a Past President (2016-2017) of the OFMA and still helps anyone or any fair with pride and honor. His selfless service to the fair industry is unmatched and it is a true honor to serve on the board with him.

**The Ohio Fair Managers Association is proud to induct Robert Buxton for the support to The Coshocton County Fair, Ohio Fairs Industry, and service to our community into the Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Class of 2024**



### **Nominations for the 2025 Ohio Fair Managers Association Ohio Fair Hall of Fame**

**Due to the OFMA October 20, 2024**

**E-mail: [ofmaform@att.net](mailto:ofmaform@att.net)**

**Or via mail delivery to: Ohio Fairs/Howard Call 5205 Fishcreek Road Stow, OH 44224.**

The OFMA wishes to recognize those fair board members, fair supporters and those companies or individuals associated with our Ohio Fairs who have supported, contributed to the success of our Ohio State Fair, Ohio County & Independent Fairs.

**You don't just need entertainment.**



**You need the **right** entertainment.**

You can trust our consultants to match you with  
the right options **you need to be successful.**

Grandstand Concerts

**Educational Shows**

Ground Attractions

**Comedians**

Major League Eating  
Competitions

**Strolling Acts**

Wrestling

**Simulators**

Tribute Shows

**Media  
Personalities**

...and more!

Virtual Reality

**Extreme Sports**

Championship Rodeo

**Stunt Shows**

Monster Truck  
Spectaculars

**Scan the  
QR code  
to see  
more!**



**VARIETY ATTRACTIONS**  
SINCE 1961

**Call (740) 453-0394**  
info@varietyattractions.com