



# OHIO FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

**"Moving Forward" January 2-5, 2025**

100th Annual Convention of Ohio's Agricultural Fairs  
Hyatt Regency Hotel Columbus, Ohio



## Star Studded Lineup of Presenters and Entertainment

**Ian Hill** and *The Changing Point* have been dedicated to empowering communities, organizations, and individuals across the globe. **Thursday mid morning: Leadership in Changing Times.** Ian: *I believe with all my heart that every individual, every neighborhood, every organization, and every community -is just one thought, one idea, one voice, one action - away from being better tomorrow than it was yesterday. And YOU can be that person!* **Friday mid afternoon: Recruiting and retaining Volunteers in the 21st Century.**



**Jeff Cotner**, Texas State Fair Director of Security and a retired deputy chief of the Dallas Police Department. **Thursday mid morning: Focus is for Fair Managers/Presidents/Security Directors to assist in Planning for your fair: "Keeping your Event Safe".**



**Kathy Parry** from Malvern, Ohio is to bring her *Wellness Road trip: Fair Managers, Secretaries, Treasurers and Office Managers, OFMA Certification Program Session* **Thursday late afternoon: Rubber Band Resilience: Stretch without Snapping** and a second session **Friday: Joy Jolt: Ignite Your Culture.**



**Coty Back**, a past National FFA Office, shares the message "Leading with Humble Confidence" Saturday morning Key Note General Session in Hall A.

**FRIDAYEVENING "100th Anniversary Night at the Fair"**

Dinner 5-7PM, 3 Amusement rides, 3 Games with prizes, & more.

8PM **Jo Dee Messina** in concert, with opening act **Howard Mincone.**



### Contents

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# 100th Annual January 2-5 Convention Program Links

## Senior Fair Programming

<https://ohiofairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2025-ohio-fair-managers-program-11-5-24-revised-.pdf>

## Junior Fair Programing Schedule

[2025-ofma-jfc-session-schedule.pdf](#)



### IMPORTANT DATES

REGISTRATION PORTAL LINK: OPEN [ohiofairs.org](https://ohiofairs.org)

OFMA 100th Convention Registration Paid by November 30, 2024 Early Bird \$50

Ohio Fairs' Queen Applications November 30, 2024

Late Registration PAID after November 30, \$80

Junior Fair Registration December 1, 2024

First Timers Thursday Welcome to Columbus E-mail to [ofmaform@att.net](mailto:ofmaform@att.net) by December 15

Delegate Form December 15

Departed Fair Officials we have lost December 15th to [ofmaform@att.net](mailto:ofmaform@att.net)

ALL OFMA FORMS – ([ohiofairs.org/forms/](https://ohiofairs.org/forms/))

### OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DUE DATES

Fairs - 2024 Election Poll Books 10 days after the Election

2024 Annual Financial Annual Report January 3, 2025

## Lisko Family Midway Amusements

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# Fun, Networking and More in January

## PRESIDENT REPORT

### Keep Moving Forward

With our 2024 fair season behind us, I hope we all had a great fair. It's time to look forward to our 2025 Convention. The plans for our 100th convention are coming together nicely with many good sessions including the highly recommended educational sessions for secretaries and treasurers.

Please attend the opening breakfast on Friday morning. We would like to fill the room to show our appreciation for all the support we have received these past couple of years. Our working relationship with ODA and our elected officials is strong and truly the best.

Also please attend your district meetings so that your fair is represented. This is a great opportunity to share your ideas and pick up new ideas for your upcoming fairs. Your fair's Annual Financial Report is due on the 3rd of January. Let's set a record this year and have 100% of our reports submitted by this due date.

Friday night is going to be a spectacular show you do not want to miss! The evening includes a BBQ dinner, amusement rides, games, and wonderful entertainment from Jo Dee Messina. If you haven't made your plans yet for Friday night you should do so quickly as there are only a few tables and rooms left.

Our theme for this year is Moving Forward. We all have had good years behind us but we need to keep moving forward. Like any business, we cannot operate in the past and continue to stay vibrant. Keep moving forward.

See you in January.

**Stanley Strode**, OFMA President

[shstrode74@gmail.com](mailto:shstrode74@gmail.com)







## Preparation for 100-Year Anniversary Celebration is set.



Kim Meyers, Chairman Long Range Planning (440) 309-8729

If you like great entertainment, good food, and a venue within walking distance of the trade show and your hotels, then you will love the OFMA 100-Year Anniversary Celebration. What a great way to start the new year!

The marquee evening is set for Friday, January 3, 2025 in Exhibit Hall A at the Columbus Convention Center. Exhibit Hall A is one of the newest and largest venues in Columbus.

### The evening:

1. Doors Open a 5PM with a delicious Western BBQ dinner ending at 7PM. Included Ice tea, water, coffee, and Dessert Bar.
2. Amusement rides supplied by Kissel Amusements, Durant Amusements and Lisko Family Amusements will provide free rides 4-7:45PM and then after the concert till 11PM.
3. Midway games provided by Elizabeth and Matt Cappelle Concessions, Fun Time Arcade and Island Tyme Concessions for free games and prizes.
4. Kolar Concessions providing Popcorn and Cotton Candy.
5. Credit Card Bars with mixed drinks, beer, and soft drinks.



Opening Entertainment at 8PM will be Comedian, Juggler Howard Mincone and then country artist Jo Dee Messina will headline the evening. She has charted six number one singles on the Billboard Country Music Charts. She also has received honors from the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music. She has been nominated for several Grammy Awards. Her list of accomplishments also includes two platinum and three gold albums. She was the first female country artist to have three multiple-week number one songs from the same album. She is very well-known for her fantastic live shows.

Each convention registered person attending will be required to purchase a ticket "Cover Charge" for \$25. The ticket includes entertainment, BBQ buffet, amusement rides, free games, and prizes awarded to Fair Boards, Guests and Associate Members.

Anniversary merchandise that will be available for purchase includes Jack Daniels Whiskey in a specially designed 100-year anniversary commemorative bottle with 2 Anniversary Glasses. There will also be many clothing items available including polo shirts, t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and jackets.

Free commemorative merchandise to be given away includes color changing stadium cups, handbags, and draw-string sport backpacks.

Merchandise will be sold commemorating the 100-Year Anniversary in the Champaign Room on the 2nd floor of the meeting space (where fairs may exhibit Historical Exhibits).

Sponsorship opportunities for Friday's marquee event are also available. Please visit the OFMA website <https://ohiofairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2025-sponsor-information-1.pdf> for details. Should you have any suggestions or special requests, please forward these directly to me at [kim.meyers@protonmail.com](mailto:kim.meyers@protonmail.com) or (440) 309-8729.

## Kathy Parry to provide two dynamic sessions at this year's convention

**Robert Dawson Treasurer OFMA**

Kathy Parry from Malvern, Ohio is scheduled to bring her Wellness Road trip to this year's convention. At 4:30PM on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

Kathy will keynote the Annual Secretary/Treasurer Training with her session entitled Rubber Band Resilience: Stretch without Snapping. "Embrace change and thrive amidst disruption with this trans-formative session. You will learn how a disruption-friendly mindset is crucial for serving visitors, retaining personnel and meeting budgets."

"Through the 3-R method (React, Re-frame, Re-energize), gain tools to stretch without snapping leading to greater retention and productivity." This is the perfect training session to help Secretaries and Treasurers prepare you the hectic days leading up to the annual fair. Session participants will receive an OFMA Training Certificate for your professional portfolio and the auditors looking for your continuing education efforts.

At 1:00PM on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, participate in Kathy's second session...Joy Jolt: Ignite Your Culture, "Is your team drained and struggling to stay engaged? Discover how to elevate the motivator behind energy: Joy. In this address, Kathy provides a powerful jolt to ignite joy, fostering purpose and transforming your culture. Learn how joy increase team loyalty, engagement and the drive to serve at the highest level.



### ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Ian Hill Thursday mid morning Topic; Leadership in Changing Times Ian: I believe with all my heart that every individual, every neighborhood, every organization, and every community - is just one thought, one idea, one voice, one action - away from being better tomorrow than it was yesterday. And YOU can be that person! Friday afternoon: Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers in the 21st Century.

Jeff Cotner, Texas State Fair Thursday mid morning: Focus is for Fair Managers/Presidents/Security Directors to assist in Planning for your fair : "Keeping your Event Safe". Jeff Cotney is the director of security for the State Fair of Texas, and a retired deputy chief of the Dallas Police Department. Jeff Cotner is Sponsored by IAFE, OFMA is a member.

Coty Back Saturday Morning General Session Hall A Key Note: Coty is a past National FFA Officer, shares the message "Leading with Humble Confidence".

# REGISTRATION LINK: Fairs, Associate Member and GUESTS

[https://www.regpack.com/reg/templates/build/?g\\_id=100915442](https://www.regpack.com/reg/templates/build/?g_id=100915442)



Ohio Fair Managers Convention Registrant Portal

Ohio Fair Managers Inc. | Home | Settings | Logout

My Application 0%

Company Information

There are mandatory fields in this form that should be filled out. They are outlined in red below.



This is the first step of establishing your umbrella account.  
You will be able to register attendee(s) after completing all of the required forms for this account.

Registrant Type

☐ Associate Member

☐ Fair Member

☒ Guest

Company Name

Ohio Fair Managers Inc.

Editors note: For fairs who can not pay for guest activities on account they have alcohol involvement, your guests/directors/officers can purchase separately at any time. Cut off is sold out or December 15

## OFMA 100th Anniversary Merchandise and Clothing available NOW

<https://ofma2024.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Ladies and Men's Clothing, Ball caps and More





Friday, January 3, 2025 Entertainment in Hall A

Entertainment begins 8PM

Admission via your 2025 OFMA registrant badge & the  
\$25 cover charge ticket.

## JO DEE MESSINA IN CONCERT



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Opening Act: Comedian, Juggler Howard  
Mincone

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Ohio Office is 614.861.1478

Fax number is 614.861.1486.

Director-Ohio Governmental Program

Thomas Welsh

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

Website: [www.acrisure.com/greatlakes](http://www.acrisure.com/greatlakes)

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## New Fairboard Members & First Timers to Columbus Reception

Thursday, January 2 at 4:45PM in the Fairfield Room, 2nd Floor off of the Hyatt Lobby, President Stanly Strode, 2nd VP Paul Lease and Past President Rod Arter will meet and give an orientation of the OFMA Convention. Sponsor EGO Amusements from Kenton, Ohio will host this Reception with beer, soft drinks and snacks.

Each attendee First Timers will receive the **2022 Latest Edition of the Red Book ORC for Agricultural Fairs**. Please e-mail [ofmaform@att.net](mailto:ofmaform@att.net) to let us know whom is attending.



2025 Extravaganza Evening  
January 4, 2025 Regency Ballroom

Get ready to bid!

The Gala and Auction will be on Saturday night of the Convention, as usual. FIFTY FIVE Reserved tables @ \$200 can be reserved with the lucky table draw receiving \$5,000 (SORRY SOLD OUT) In addition 33 free tables are first come first grabbed in the balcony and on the Regency Ballroom Floor.

Get your reverse raffle tickets early as they went fast last year! The 2nd annual side board \$20 each will be offered, 50% payout on the big board last ticket drawn winner, at the Convention again this year see your district director, officer or the OFMA office in Nation-wide Rooms 1st floor.

We are asking each district to provide one large item for the auction again. It would work out nicely if each fair took your dollar amount or item to your fall meeting. This will provide time for the items to be purchased and a picture of the items taken to put online for early bidding. All items and monetary amounts will be greatly appreciated!

See you all in January!  
**Stanley**



# FINAL DRIVE YOUTH AUCTIONS

Ohio Fair Managers Association  
P. O. Box 2625 Stow, Ohio 44224  
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<http://www.ohiofairs.org>

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OF THE OFMA

2025 will see over 160 vendors on the First  
and second floors of the Hyatt Meeting  
space.

See you in January 3-4, 2025



**Brian Baldrige**  
Director Ohio Department of Agriculture

Congratulations on a successful 2024 fair season! Over the course of the summer and early fall, I was happy to be able to visit many of you in person, to see the great things you are doing at your fairs in support of agriculture and our next generation of responsible food producers.

As we gather together for the 100<sup>th</sup> OFMA convention in January, I look forward to celebrating this great milestone with all of you and talking about “Moving Forward.” Ohio’s strong agriculture industry that we know today, was built upon our local fairs and communities. And the Ohio Department of Agriculture was created back in 1846 to support the fairs. Although much has changed over the last two centuries, our gratitude and commitment to our fairs remains.

As we move forward into 2025, I am committed to strengthening our partnership, offering our assistance, and working together toward our common goals of safe and successful fairs.

Thank you for your knowledge, leadership, and for your commitment to your fairs which reflects proudly on Ohio agriculture. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Brian Baldrige, Director  
**Ohio Department of Agriculture**



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# Coty Back

## Saturday Morning General Session Hall A Key Note: “Leading with Humble Confidence”

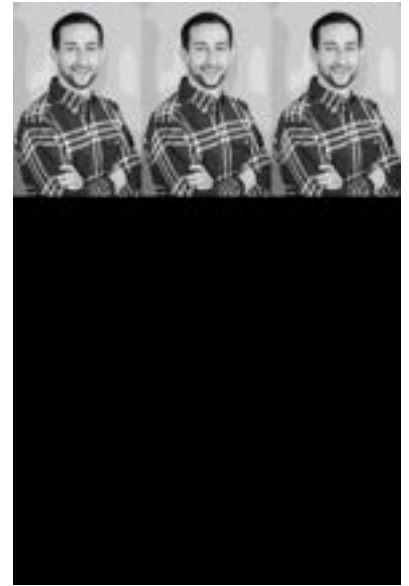
Coty believes passionately in the potential of people both as individuals and in their collective power as teams. For the past 6 years he has invested his life into developing leaders who develop leaders. He considers himself a leader multiplier, and through his efforts, those he has led have impacted more than 500,000 leaders directly and more than one million indirectly.

Coty has been responsible for the coaching and development of young people on a national stage. Through his coaching he has enabled young leaders to identify and set meaningful goals, establish rhythms to increase effectiveness, and learn how to successfully pursue their purpose and unleash their potential. Those young leaders have gone on to be named Rhodes Scholars, become collegiate mascots, landed dream jobs, but most importantly have transformed their patterns to be successful in life as well-balanced leaders.

An adept communicator, he has traveled the country entertaining audiences with humorous stories that have meaningful lessons. Whether it's a group of middle school students or professional adults, Coty uses his fun-loving personality to connect with the audience in order to deliver maximum impact. As a former sales representative, he used his gifts as a communicator and relationship builder to bring million-dollar growth to his territory.

Coty doesn't believe there is anything new in leadership, rather new ways of looking at basic truths which already exist. He believes leadership can be found all around us if we are willing to look for it and that every person is capable of being a leader who fulfills their greater potential.

**Note: Doors open at 9AM Hall A General Session at 9:30AM. The 2025 Ohio Fairs Queen will be announced following the Keynote. Junior Fair Registration will be in the Union County Hallway 2nd floor.**



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# OFMA

## 2025 CONVENTION MENU

### FAIR, ASSOCIATE & GUEST PRICING

**Fair Membership \$200.**

**Associate Membership \$115.**

Comes with one Business  
Category listing extra are \$20

**Attendee Registration \$50.**

**Attendee Registration \$80.**

Registration after December 1

**Trade Show Booths \$375 - \$400.**

**ODA Breakfast Friday \$27.**

**Awards Breakfast Sunday \$27.**

**Queens Lunch Thursday \$38.**

**Corn Hole Thursday \$15.**

**100th Anniversary Jack Daniels Bottle \$100.**

**Friday Presidents Receptions**

Celebrating our 100th year.  
Each attendee will need their  
registration badge and have  
paid the \$25. cover charge to  
attend this event.

**President Reception Tables**

see map layout on website

Only 16 tables available **\$2,500.**

Only 38 tables available **\$1,000.**

Only 31 tables available **\$300.**

Only 49 tables available **\$100.**

44 Free tables available

**Extravaganza Table \$200.**

**Bourbon Tasting \$50.**

Friday - session 1 at 1pm and  
session 2 at 2:30pm

**Bingo, Wine & Bolonga \$40.**

Saturday - at 2:30pm

**Reverse Raffle Ticket \$100.**

*Sold out*  
*Sold out*

*Sold out*





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# OFMA MARKET PLACE TRADESHOW OF SERVICE PROVIDERS 2025

Paul Lease Chairman & 2nd VP

The 2025 Market Place tradeshow is nearing a sellout with 151 spaces rented with a wide variety of artists, suppliers, technology and more.

Fairs.com a ticketing company has agreed to sponsor the Friday and Saturday afternoon drawings and Lisko Family Amusements is sponsoring the Guest/Spouse/Associate drawings. Each Afternoon 4 tickets will be drawn and Friday night at the BIG PARTY the winners will be announced. Saturday's tickets will be drawn at the end of the day and announced at the extravaganza. Be sure to put your name on the stub you drop in the barrels in the tradeshow.

Four gift cards will be given out for each of the two groups each day.

Hospitality will be offered each day in the afternoon with free keg beer, you must have a 2025 registration badge to be served along with snacks and ice tea and lemonade. A cash bar will be available.

See you in January!

Paul



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## 2024 OHIO FAIRS' QUEEN LEAH SCHUHART FAIRS REPORT

Hello Ohio Fairs and Service Members,

I have had such a fun and busy summer! I've been working hard to go on as many fair visits as possible and am happy to report that I've had the opportunity to visit over 55 different fairs this year!

I've had an incredible time getting to meet so many new people and see so many unique things at each fair I attended. I want to thank everyone who was so kind and welcoming to me as I traveled.

Out of all the fun things I have seen and gotten to do, the part about this experience I enjoyed the most is meeting and getting to know so many kind-hearted people who share my love of agriculture and the fair!

I would like to acknowledge and thank [fairs.com](https://fairs.com) for assisting with my summer travel expenses.

As for the Convention be sure to stop in for the Thursday Night Queen Evening Program where we will select 15 then 5 finalists for the final interviews.

Your 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen,

**Leah Schuhart**



## Extra Fun things at the 100th Annual Convention

Two Bourbon Educational Program led by Dan Bullen.

Friday, January 3rd at 1PM & 2:30PM in the Drury Atrium Room.

Ticketed Event \$50 per person, sampling and a complimentary 100th Glass.



**Bingo, Wine, and Bologna Saturday from 2-4PM, \$40 includes 2 glasses of wine & your dabber & Bingo cards. Prizes for each game.**

100th Anniversary Engraved Numbered Jack Daniels Bottle with 2 sipping Glasses \$100.

Saturday Night Extravaganza Evening Auction, Dueling Reverse Raffles of the OFMA and GOSA, Side Boards, 50/50 & dancing with DJ JOHN spinning the tunes. Free to participate, Carry in food is allowed but no carry in alcohol please. \$100 Reverse Raffle tickets available from the OFMA office.

Purchase all of the above on line:

[https://www.regpack.com/reg/templates/build/?g\\_id=100915442](https://www.regpack.com/reg/templates/build/?g_id=100915442)

Select **guest** after you setup your e-mail and password and you will move right to the function selection. **The Protection offer you can opt out of this charge if you wish to .**



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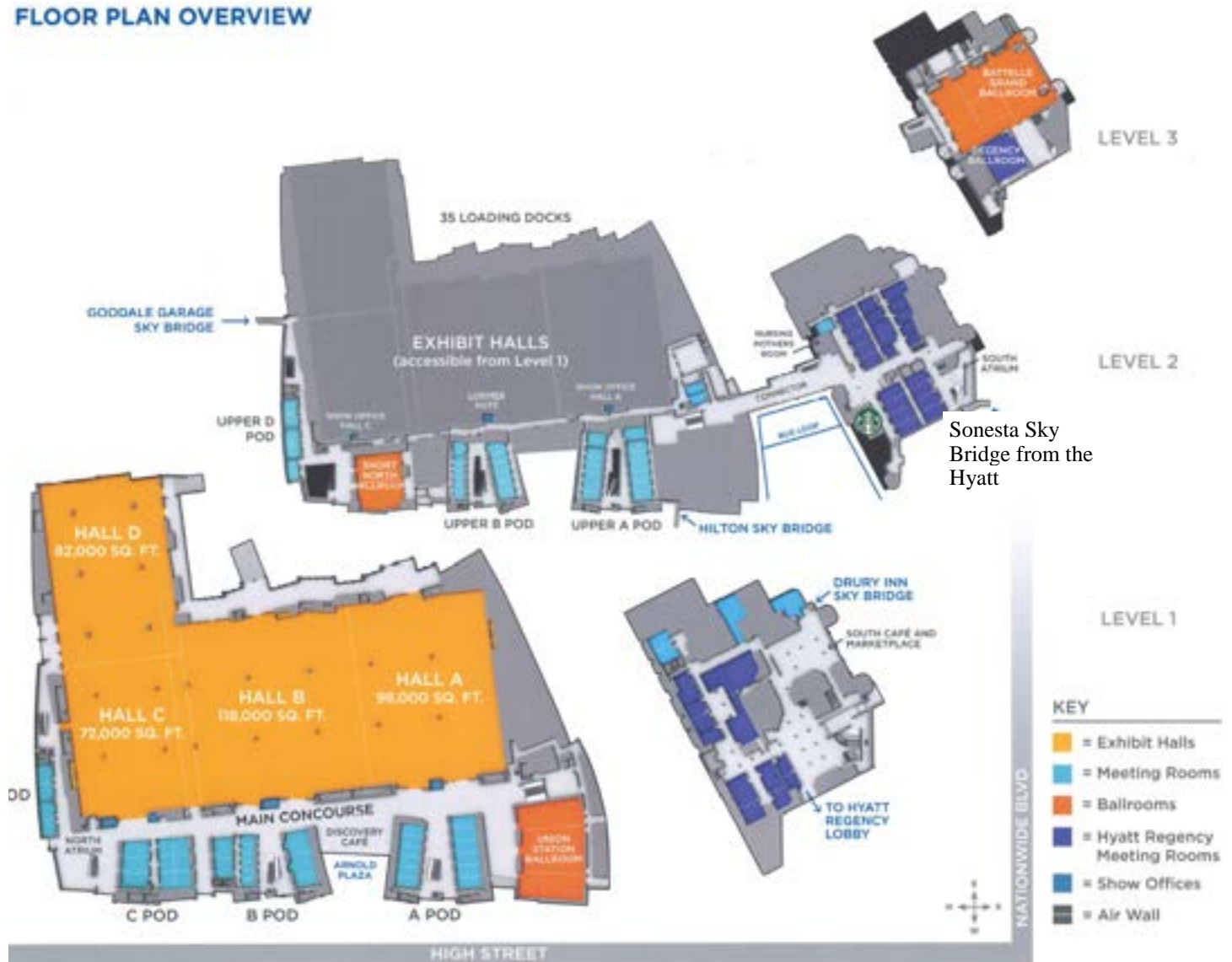
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# Floor Layouts for the Friday Evening 100th Anniversary Party & General Session Saturday Hall A

## FLOOR PLAN OVERVIEW



Sonesta Sky Bridge from the Hyatt

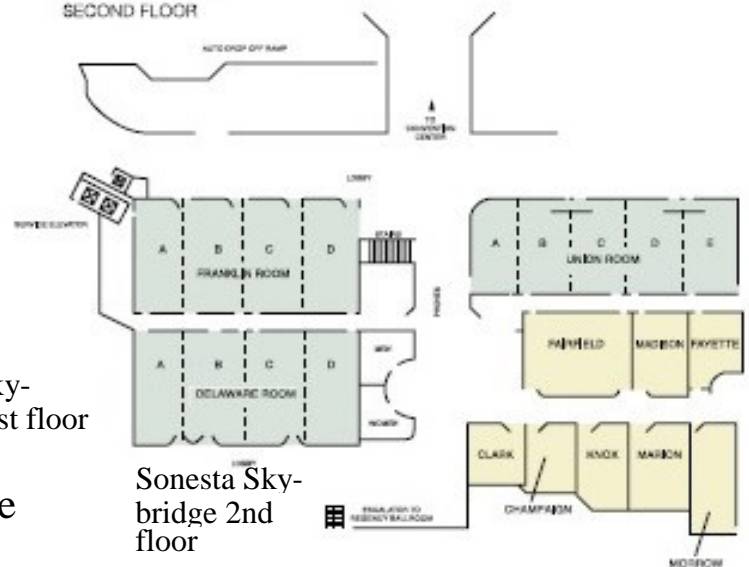
### MEETING ROOMS FIRST FLOOR



Hyatt

Drury sky-bridge 1st floor

### MEETING ROOMS SECOND FLOOR



Hilton

Sonesta Sky-bridge 2nd floor

Tradeshow, Meeting space attached to the Hyatt, Sonesta, Drury & Hilton Hotels

# You don't just need entertainment.



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

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the options you need to be successful.

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Championship Rodeo

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