

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENING



Supporting Sponsor:



ENCINO
Energy



100th Anniversary Celebration Evening

5-7 Presidents Western Barbeque Dinner

Custom Chef's Table

Cole Slaw • Mac & Cheese • Baked Beans

• Pulled Pork & Pulled Chicken with Brioche Bun

• Chef's Choice of Dessert

• Beverages Included - Decaffeinated Coffee- Iced Tea

Sponsorship Support: **Acrisure Insurance**

5-7:45 Free Play Amusement Rides, Games, Snacks

7:45 Master of Ceremonies Robert Dawson

OFMA Treasurer/Talent Chairman

Introductions Kim Meyers DD5

100th Committee Chairman

8pm Opening Act Comedian Howard Mincone

Presented by: Kleins Entertainment

Jo Dee Messina in Concert

Presented by: Variety Attractions

Conclusion of the Concert Winning Table Drawing \$5,000

Rides & Games till 11pm

Rides Sponsored by: Durant Amusements

Kissel Amusements & Lisko Family Shows

**Games Sponsored by: Cappella Concessions,
Fun Time Arcade & Island Tyme Concessions**

Popcorn/cotton candy sponsored by: Kolar Concessions

Hall A Decorations: Bush's Fairway Foods

Souvenir Cold Drink Cups Sponsored by: Berk Paper Supply

Game Plush Sponsored by:

Greater Ohio Showman Association & Classic Toy

Admission via Convention 2025 Name Badge & Cover Charge Ticket required to enter

DINNER, RIDES AND GAMES INCLUDED WITH COVER CHARGE

**100th Committee Kim Myers, Chairman, Dan Bullen, Stanley Strode, Tom Stocksdale,
Paul Lease, Robert Dawson, Howard Call, Rod Arter**

OFMA Past Officers & Hotels

Presidents

Myers Cooper Hamilton Co	1922-1929	Tom Jordan Mahoning Co	1978-1979
Judge I.L. Holderman Montgomery Co	1929-1939	Gage Van Horn Montgomery Co	1980-1981
Charles Gray Lake Co	1940-1941	Fred McVicker's Muskingum Co	1982-1983
Ralph C. Haines Montgomery Co	1942-1943	Fred Arnold Allen Co	1984-1985
N.E. Stuckey Van Wert Co	1944-1945	W.G. (Mike) Wharton	1986-1987
Walter J. Buss Wayne Co	1946-1947	Eddie Newlon Perry Co	1988-1989
E.W. Lampson Jefferson Co	1948-1949	William (Bill) Arter Hartford Independent	1990-1991
Lawrence P. Lake Hamilton Co	1950-1951	Al Rhonemus Brown Co	1992-1993
Clair L. Hill Lorain Co	1952-1953	Harold Crowe Montgomery Co	1994-1995
Russ Hull Sandusky Co	1954-1955	Howard L. Call, CFE Summit Co	1996-1997
Charles J. Betsch Ross Co	1956-1957	Doug Guinsler Muskingum Co	1998-1999
James D. Murray Henry Co	1958-1959	Jon Overmyer Ottawa Co	2000-2001
Russel Alt Fairfield Co	1960-1961	Dave Howard Hardin Co	2002-2003
Bryan P. Sandals Clark Co	1962-1963	Keith Sheridan Greene Co	2004-2005
Dr. Clyde W. Fields Putnam Co	1964-1965	Paul Oechsle Van Wert Co	2006-2007
L. Wm. Burns Scioto Co	1966-1967	Tim Massie Gallia Co	2008-2009
Henry Curtis Knox Co	1968-1969	Dan Martin Butler Co	2010-2011
Henry C. Thompson Delaware Co	1970-1971	Dan Kimmel Allen Co	2012-2013
Russel Tiery Clermont Co	1972-1973	Darrel Cubbison Muskingum Co	2014-2015
Dr. Kline Scioto Co	1974-1975	Robert Buxton Coshocton Co	2016-2017
Eddie Kirk Fayette Co	1976-1977	Dan Bullen Greene Co	2018-2019
		Rodney Arter Hartford Independent	2020-2021
		Paul Harris Geauga Co	2022-2023

Management Positions

Don Detrick Secretary	1929-1933
Mrs. Don Detrick Secretary	1934-1950
Goldie Sheible Secretary	1961-1964
David Ruby Secretary	1965-1969
Mrs. David S Ruby Secretary	1970
Merril Cowgill Executive Secretary	1971-1983
Ed Newlon Executive Secretary	1984
Mark List Executive Secretary	1985-1990
Andrew Stevens Secretary	1991
Mark List Executive Secretary	1992
Don Klingler, CFE Executive Secretary	1993
Howard Call, CFE Executive Director	2002-Present

Treasurers

Dick Huffman	1929-1933
W.B. Richmond	1934-1939
B. U. Bell	1940-1949
Henry Richards	1964-1973
Elizabeth Goddard	1976
Robert Rose Mahoning Co	1984-2002
Robert Dawson Lake Co	2002-Present

Columbus Hotels Hosting the OFMA

Neil House	1929-1933
Deshler Wallick Hotel	1934-1962
Plaza Hotel	1963-1965
Sheraton Hotel	1966-1981
Hyatt Hotels	1982-present



History of the Ohio Fair Managers Association

Alfred Putnam Sandals was Ohio's eleventh Secretary of Agriculture.

The Ohio State Fair helped organize the Ohio Fair Managers' Association (OFMA) around 1922 and **Myers Cooper** was the First President of the Ohio Fair Managers. During the early years, the OFMA's emphasis was largely on exhibitions of education and agriculture. Harness racing in Ohio began its growth in the late 1930s and after World War II the Ohio Harness industry grew rapidly and in the late 1950s the Ohio Fairs Fund was developed and approved by legislature to establish funding for racing and fairs.

The first convention took place in 1925 with convention programing expanding over two days with 12-15 workshops with several hundred in attendance, now fast forward to current day with the convention being four days, over 130 workshops, roundtables, and meetings with the attendance of over 3,500. The program ideas are generated from fellow fairs that demonstrate outstanding examples of how to enhance the experience we are all trying to achieve and have the fair goer experience. These programs are meant to help fair boards in attendance of the conference take back new and fresh ideas or give key tips to enhancing ideas already in place.

The Junior Fair participation which now averages 1,400 has grown over the years and educational programming is designed with the assistance of The Ohio State University Extension staff of specialists.

Over the years as the attendance continued to grow, it was in 1985, Executive Secretary Mark List introduced the tradeshow to the convention. It began in the Franklin Rooms growing to Union Rooms then finally to old Battelle Hall. In Battelle Hall there were game and food trailer manufacturers, an amusement ride, band performance stage trailer, and vendors selling out of their trailers along with tradeshow spaces. With renovations to Battelle Hall, the tradeshow was moved to the Franklin and Delaware Ballrooms and the hallways of the Hyatt meeting space. Mark started with roughly 30 spaces and has now grown into 165 spaces and the largest state association of fairs marketplace of tradeshow in the nation.

The conventions early on featured a grand ballroom banquet with a band for dancing, an extravagant plated served feast with the serving staff parade with faming Baked Alaska dessert. Howard Call noted that in the late 1970s at the Sheraton Ballroom, "the flamboyant tuxedo clad head waiter during the flaming Baked Alaska parade dropped the huge platter leading the parade. He picked himself up, and we never saw the head waiter again". As time has progressed the fair boards like to go out to dinner as Columbus offers many fine dining locations and these evening banquets have faded away.

Today, the Ohio Fair Managers is the largest stated association of fairs conventions representing the 95 Agricultural ORC organized fairs in Ohio, including the Ohio State Fair, and more than 240 associate service members from allied fields will hold the 100th Annual Convention January 2-5, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio. Throughout the years, the OFMA has remained true to its purpose of promoting and encouraging the development and improvement of agricultural fairs, shows, and expositions. The OFMA is actively engaged and supports the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) as well as the Federation of State and Provincial Association of Fairs.

The Organization Objectives are: 1. To represent and promote the general welfare of the County, Independent and State Fairs of the State of Ohio. 2. Encourage closer cooperation among Fairs of Ohio. 3. To promote Agriculture and its related fields to our fairs and their customers. 4. To provide for our annual meeting or convention of all Fairs, associated groups and businesses at least once a year. 5. To promote cooperation among all agricultural related educational and commodity organizations. 6. Follow the Established 990 Practice of the OFMA Board.



Myers Cooper

Ohio Fair Managers Association Officers Through The Years

The OFMA officers are a very integral part of the OFMA with their leadership and guidance. The point should be made that individual County and Independent fairs have groomed all these officers.

The first known president of the OFMA was the Honorable Myers Cooper in 1937. The fairs at that time had similar problems and the officers faced just as difficult decisions as they do presently. The officers of those early associations did not have the modern communication system that we have today. As a result, there were more district meetings to convey fair dates, new activities to be considered, and problems to be shared and solved.

During the early years of the OFMA, the emphasis was largely on education and agriculture. Harness racing was coming into its own. The officers at that time were very wise in guiding the OFMA and keeping it headed in the right direction to be followed today.

Then came World War II which put a hardship on all fairs and the officers and directors of the OFMA. The OFMA helped the local fairs to entertain the people and keep their spirits high. It was a difficult time in which community and family closeness was important. It was also an opportunity for the people to hear about and see the new ideas that were coming forth.

After the war there were many different avenues for the fairs to

take. The OFMA officers worked together with the Showmen of Ohio and the Harness Horsemen to bring better fairs to each county.

In the late fifties, the OFMA officers worked with the Ohio Harness Horsemen to pass "The Ohio Fair Fund" bill in the Ohio legislature. This bill has been opened and changed many times over the years.

The sixties were years of great strides to keep up with the fast changing times and make the fairs better. There was a change in philosophy among the officers and directors that incorporated business, farming, and harness racing backgrounds. This ultimately helped to upgrade the racing programs at the Ohio fairs and also increased the financial aspects.

The seventies were trying times for the OFMA officers and directors. There was a movement afoot to change the Ohio Fair Fund and take some assistance away from the fairs. In the time frame of the sixties and seventies, the OFMA officers and directors were having a two-day convention in the spring. At the regional meetings, they would break up into different groups for 45 minutes of discussion on various topics. In the eighties the OFMA officers were confronted with changing laws and new ride inspections under the auspices of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. A new unified accounting system was introduced throughout the state. There was a

trend toward larger entertainment and the emphasis on agriculture seemed to slip away a little each year. During these years, the officers worked very closely with the Greater Ohio Showmen's organization.

The nineties brought a cause for the officers to change the constitution in order to better run the business of the OFMA. This was also the time to help guide the fairs into correcting the cheating that was going on in the livestock departments.

In the late eighties up through the present, the OFMA has put together a tour each year to other states and their fine fairs along with many interesting side trips.

Very fine and capable officers have served the organization including those who are serving today. They have given much of their time and effort to help all fairs down through the years. This is a very brief history of the officers collectively since a brief history of the officers over the years is not available at this time. A listing of the known presidents follows on next page. One thing to be said - they are all a part of the great state of OHIO and OHIO's FAIRS!

Submitted by Fred Arnold,
Past President OFMA.

Note: Fred was the President of the OFMA 1984-1985 and was instrumental in the Ohio Fairs Fund Program.



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Showman of Showman Sponsor



Evening Sponsors

Diamond Level

In excess of \$4,000

Showman of Showman Level

In Excess of \$3,000



Pike County Fair

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In 1966, The Prowant Family purchased their 1st two carnival rides, setting the stage for an outdoor amusement company that would go on for decades.

This year is Durant Enterprises 59th year in business. On Durant Amusements 50th Anniversary in 2016, the Prowants made the decision to step away from the Amusement Ride business, and since J.R. and Denise Woods had worked with and provided all the games and a Funhouse to Durant for over 20 years, it seemed fitting for them to purchase the company.

J.R. is 4th generation in the carnival business. His family's business, Woods Family Concessions, has been providing games and concessions in Ohio since 1927.

J.R. and Denise have worked hard to keep things updated, painted, and have replaced and upgraded several rides.

Durant now owns 26 rides, and they work 11 county fairs and 10 festivals in Ohio.

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 durantamusements@gmail.com

 J.R. Woods: (937) 539-1601

 Denise Woods: (937) 539-1602

WWW.DURANTAMUSEMENTS.COM

Kissel Amusement Company

Supplying the SWING RIDE

Even though, Kissel Amusement Company is a newer company to the amusement industry, the Kissel Family still has a rich history that dates back to 1932. It started in Cincinnati, Ohio when Ralph and Russell Kissel started a pony ride business, and traveled from Greensburg, Indiana every Tuesday to attend horse sales. There, is when they became good acquaintances with the Cincinnati Zoo. Both, started to buy, and transport horses/ponies for the zoo's exhibit's and pony rides. After a few years, the Cincinnati Zoo decided to move in another direction from the ponies and offered Ralph and Russell if they would like to buy the pony rides, which they did. They started to do birthday parties, small festivals around the Cincinnati area. As the years went on they kept expanding the business, eventually adding 2 rides and crane game.

In 1947, Ralph and Russell decided to buy some land in Colerain Township (Cincinnati) and start the next chapter of their goals. Kissel Bros. Amusement Park opened up featuring a animal petting zoo, picnic area, 3 refreshment stands, Dance pavilion, and of course a midway with a vast assortment of rides and games. As they years went on they were thriving in success as being one of the first amusement parks in Cincinnati.

In 1970, Kings Island was brought to life in Cincinnati. Which made it hard to compete with because they had a lot more land, which meant more room for bigger rides, and more activities. The success of Kissel Bros. Amusement Park was dropping rapidly. So, they had to start coming up with new plans to prevent going out of business. The new plans lead them back to the traveling part of the industry, but this time with only amusement rides, food stands, and games.

Today, Kissel Amusement Company is still owned by owned and operated by Randy and Linda Kissel, following their children and wives Kyle (Vicky), Drew (Nichole), and Nick (Megan). Together they grew the company into Ohio leading amusement ride provider. Owning 30+ rides, 20+ food and games, 2 separate units supplying rides to over 35 County Fairs, Festivals, and other special events throughout Ohio.



(330) 353-6189

www.kisselamusement.com

Lisko Family Amusements

Supplying the SCAT RIDE

Steve Lisko, Senior In 1962, became the owner and operator of S&V Concessions and participated at many fairs and festivals throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania. Thirty-five years ago, he started Lisko & Sons Amusement Company, taking part in many events in Ohio and the southern part of the country. Over the years, Steve enjoyed meeting new people and making friends at the numerous fairs, carnivals and festivals he worked at.

Since the passing of Steve in 2022, Steve's sons, Tim and Richard Lisko and their family have advanced the show to a 40+ week operation working Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and fairs and Festivals in the south with over 40 rides plus games and food trailers.

Lisko Family Midways is a leading supplier of amusement rides, food trailers, food trucks, games of chance, and games of skill. Our team is dedicated to providing high-quality attractions and exceptional service to make every event a memorable experience.

We are proud to be invited to participate in the 100th Anniversary of the Ohio Fair Managers Conventions and working with Ohio's outstanding County and Independent Fairs.



Lisko Family Amusements

3911 Cooper Rd Lowellville, OH 44436

Phone: 330-233-1615 (Tim)

724-333-4854 (Richard)

Email: info@liskofamilymidway.com



Website: www.liskofamilyamusements.com

1934 Ohio Fair Managers Association Convention

Deshler-Wallick Hotel Columbus, Ohio



1958 Ohio Fair Managers Association Convention

NEIL HOUSE HOTEL COLUMBUS, OHIO



100th Annual Ohio Fair Managers Convention

Variety Attractions

Friday Night Celebration Presenting Sponsor

Extravaganza-Gala

Ohio State Fair

Saturday Junior Fair Sessions

Fairs.com

Officers and Directors Drawing

Ohio Fairs' Queen Summer Travel

Vendor Presentation

Klein's Entertainment, LLC

Friday Night Celebration Opening Act

Spouse and Guest Activities

Encino Energy

Junior Fair Friday Evening Food and Games

Junior Fair Education

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

Convention Presenting Sponsor

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Communication Awards

Convention Catalog

Special Event Hospitality Cups

Greater Ohio Showmen's Association

Friday Night Celebration Game Prizes Sponsor

Durant Amusements

Hall of Fame Awards

Friday Night Celebration Amusement Rides

Kissel Amusements

Buyers Guide of Service Members

Friday Night Celebration Amusement Rides

Lisko Family Amusements

Associates, Guests, and Spouse Drawing

Market Place Tradeshow

Friday Night Celebration Amusement Rides

Berk Paper Supply

Friday Night Celebration Souvenir Cups

Classic Toy

Friday Night Celebration Game Prizes Support

Hyatt Regency Hotel - Columbus

Saturday Coffee Breaks

Otter's Concessions Dippin' Dots

Extravaganza Snacks

Officers and Directors Coffee Breaks

Ohio Fairs' Queen Contest Supporting Sponsor

Ohio Fairs' Queen Summer Travel

The Ohio Fair Managers Association is a voluntary, not-for-profit corporation serving state, independent and county agricultural fairs, shows, exhibitions and festivals. Associate members of the OFMA are engaged in providing products and services to its members.

The OFMA represents 95 fairs promoting general welfare, encouraging cooperation among fairs in Ohio, educational opportunities, legislative support, and assistance with ODA requirements.

The OFMA hosts an annual convention offering educational and networking sessions our fairs and junior fairboards. Also, district meetings are held each spring.





Sponsors

Thank you for your support!

Kolar Concessions

Friday Night Celebration Snacks

Ohio Soybean Council

Jr. and Sr. Fair General Session Speaker

ACRISURE

Friday Night Celebration President's Dinner

BASF

Special Events Hospitality

Bates Brothers Amusements

Corn Hole Tournament and Snacks

Extravaganza Snacks

Talley Amusements, Inc.

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First Time Attendees' Meeting

ETIX

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Vendor Presentation

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Ohio Fairs' Queen Contestants' Gifts

All-Win Electric, LLC

Convention Signs for Sessions

Audio Innovators

Convention OFMA Board Radios

Bush Concessions

Ohio Fairs' Queen Crown and Sash

Fairway Concessions

Friday Night Celebration Decorations

Reithoffer Shows

Special Events Hospitality

The OFMA encourages our member fairs to please utilize these sponsors and our service members for their fair needs.





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Regency Ballroom



Extravaganza Evening No ticket Required
Auction Silent Bidding 6pm 50/50 Drawing
GOSA & OFMA Reverse Raffle Drawing starts
7pm –10:30
Live & On Line Auction, Dancing to DJ John
spinning the tunes



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Bates Amusements & Otters Concessions



The Ohio Fair Managers Board of
Directors and Management Staff Thank
You for Your Participation in this
Milestone Year 2025



Spring Meeting Dates 2025

District 1&2 Saturday March 29 Putman County
Fairgrounds

District 5&9 Sunday March 30 Wayne County Fair Event Center Lunch

District 7-8 Saturday April 5 Zanesville Fairgrounds Dinner

District 3-4-6 Sunday April 6 Washington Courthouse Lunch

Future Conventions (Thurs-Sun)

January 14-18, 2026 January 7-10, 2027 January 5-9, 2028

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