



OHIO FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

February 2025 Newsletter Post Convention Wrap-up



Ohio's Fairs, Member Festivals, Service Members Celebrate 100 years

As the snow melts and all who attended returned home the 100th Convention is in the books and the OFMA will begin meeting to plan the 101st annual gathering in Columbus January 14-18, 2026.

Wow, Great, Spectacular are several comments out of the survey results as the staff gathers comments and suggestions looking forward to the future conventions.

Fairs attendance capped 1998 attendee's, Associate Members 660, **Ohio Fairs' Queens** and families 224, Junior Fair 958 and 227 Speakers and Guests of OFMA for a **grand total of 4067**, by far the **largest Convention in the 100 year history**.

As the 100th opened the **Ohio Fairs Queen** programming kicked off with **81 County and Independent Fairs Queens** registered to compete for the 2025 Ohio Fairs Queen position. The Thursday Evening Queen Selection to 5 finalists in the Ballroom was attended by over 800 fairs, families and past OFMA queens and more details are in this publication.

Thursday workshops featured 3 speakers presenting focused topics in 5 sessions to near capacity attendance for all. Treasure Bob Dawson provides more thoughts in this publicization in addition workshops were held on a wide range of topics Thursday, Friday and Saturday, reports are, these were well attended all in total see **Program Chair Deb Hukill** notes in this Newsletter.

Friday and Saturday the **Market Place Tradeshow** featuring 165 booth spaces, a sellout, saw good traffic and participants reported good contacts and sales/bookings.

Friday Morning ODA meeting hosted by **Director of Agriculture Brian Baldrige** was attended by over 770 fair members, the US Senate Installation was the same day so a lot of state officials were in WDC to participate in the swearing in of **US Ohio Senator Bernie Marino**. Ohio Treasurer of State Robert Sprague spoke to the gathered fair officials along with past ODA Directors of Agriculture. **Director Baldrige** spoke to the History of Ohio's Fairs and working with ODA and the support provided by Governor DeWine and the Legislature to support Ohio's Fairs and the continued updating of the facilitated in Reynoldsburg to ensure that ODA can continue to monitor the safety of Ohio's food supply. **House of Representatives 95th District Rep Don Jones** presented a **Resolution from the Ohio House** recognizing the Ohio Fair Managers 100 years of supporting Ohio's Fair Industry.

Friday Night the **"BIG PARTY"** to Celebrate 100 years of Annual Conventions in Hall A was attended by over 1900 members of the OFMA families. This Celebration was heavily supported by those Fairs who Sponsored the 150 tables for reserved seating and we **THANK YOU**.

Saturday Morning over 2300 attended the General Session in Hall A to hear **KeyNote Coty Back present "Leading with Humble Confidence"**. **2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen Leah Schuhart** introduced the final 5 Ohio Fairs' Queens finalist and announced **Fayette County Fair Queen Amberly Szczerbiak** as the 2025 Ohio Fairs Queen. More Queen news in the newsletter. Saturday Evening over 900 packed into the Ballroom for a fun night of DJ Music, Auction, Reverse Raffles, and fun. The auction brought in over \$31,000 and Greene County Fair won the \$5,000 table raffle. **Rod Arter** and **Garret Wiseman** won the OFMA Reverse Raffle.

Sunday Morning the Awards Breakfast saw 490 attend to honor the 5 Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame Inductee's installed and Ohio's Fairs Communication Awards, The Annual Meeting of Ohio's Fairs convened and all departed for home by 11:45.

Much more inside this edition and on the OFMA Website ohofairs.org are the queen pictures, the awards program pictures and more.

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Executive Directors Corner

Howard Call CFE

As I look back at my attendance to the Ohio Fair Managers Conventions since 1976, then at the Sheraton Hotel and to 2025 the growth and changes are colossal as the Ohio Fair Managers Leadership over the last period of time, the largest Gathering of Fairs by any state association of fairs. What makes it BIG??

Where do I start, Junior Fairs in Ohio are the largest in the US, the participation at the local level that leads to the Ohio State Fair is the largest in the US. The number of educational sessions driven by the attendance and thirst to learn is incredible. Networking, stealing ideas from your neighboring fair to improve your fair is just what we do to improve our fair. What makes this convention appealing? Market Place Tradeshow for shopping and booking talent, Suites with Vendors to entice them to come to your fair with their rides, show and more. Fun nights with music, food, drawings, auctions, dancing and more. The Ohio Fairs' Queen event to select among Ohio's Finest young ladies one to represent Ohio's State, County, and Independent Fairs.

Looking back to the 70's and 80's Conventions the names I recall most are Eddie Kirk, Fayette County; William Arter, Hartford Independent; Eddie Newlon, Perry County; Bob Rose, Canfield Fair; Al Rhonemus, Brown County; Henry Curtis, Knox County. Those conventions were a lot of fun for a young guy from the farm and small junior fair as you got to rub elbows with the big fair managers, big ride companies like Gooding Million Dollar Midways, Megerle Shows, Deggeller Amusements, Nolan Shows, Durant Amusements/ Ray Prowant, onto Pugh Shows, Bates Brothers, Kissel Amusements and entertainment providers like George Moffit. What these Showmen, leaders in the industry in Ohio did to pave the way for us kids hanging out back in the 70's and 80's was tremendous and supported the growth of Ohio's Fairs.

The old days at the Sheraton the attendance would be around six hundred and finish with a formal dinner in the Sheraton Ballroom with Prime Rib, Flaming Baked Alaska parade by the wait staff.

Jumping forward to current years that Theresa and I have managed the day-to-day affairs of the OFMA with the Leadership team and Board, the growth, yearning for information, education, networking, and renewing acquaintances has grown steadily to 2025 seeing over 4000 attendees. Working alongside Robert "Bob" Dawson, Treasurer of your Association has been a working partnership in receiving and accounting for the funds generated. The staffing in 2025 to support the board of directors and their duties there were eight staff working in the office and on the convention floors.

As I looked over the membership assembled on Sunday for the Annual Meeting and I did not see three recent past presidents who we have lost in 2023-2024 it struck me the loss of experience, sounding boards, those daily or weekly "CHECKING IN" calls. Succession planning has been on my mind with the loss of Doug Guinsler, Paul Harris and Paul Oechsle, Stanley reminding me of all those lost this past year really got in my head. As your operating leadership team we have added LeeAnne Bush to the in office staff several years ago, LeeAnne brings a wealth of Food and Midway Games operation and this past year we added Cathy Cunningham, Executive Fair Manager Summit County Fair to work with the new website, registrations system, Social Media platforms and technical floor support at the Convention. Both of these young ladies were on the fairgrounds before they could walk, worked food sales standing on a milk crate and raised their children at the county fair. Adding these to the mix will ensure the backup staffing supports the Ohio Fair Managers Board of Directors. I would be remiss if I did not call out Cheyne Oechsle who has for the last 5 years assisted in the OFMA office with the Meeting Rooms sets and AV support to the presenters. This year her grandmother Joyce who I have known since the early 60's in 4-H came to assist the Registration Desks. THANK YOU!

The growth of your Ohio Fair Managers Association to the largest in the US among the 44 State Associations is the result of the Fairs, Service Members willing to take time to come to Columbus to Network, Learn, Shop and have some fun. See you January 14-18, 2026.

Theresa and Howard Call and Team Staff

Ohio Fairs Queen Group Pics & 15 Semi-Finalists



**Emma Puckett, Butler Co.; Aidra Preston, Hardin Co.;
Sophia Preston, Fairfield Co.; Mackensie Specht, Clermont Co.;
Chloe Shellenberger, Miami Co.; Gracie Sprague, Ottawa Co.;
Jenna Sheldon, Holmes Co.; Cora Wines, Stark Co.;
Melinda Wesley, Hartford Independent; Ema Collins, Warren Co.;
Amberley Szczerbiuk, Fayette Co.; Ingrid Hoffman, Williams Co.;
Gracie Rodman, Richland Co.; Elaine Rhoades, Preble Co.;
Madelyne Lee, Wood Co.**

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***The Family congratulates
the Ohio Fair Managers Association
on their 100th year Anniversary!***



2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen Program

Tim Massie Queen Committee Chair

Congratulations to Amberly Szczerbiak from the Fayette County Fair who was crowned the 2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen at the Grand General Session! Also, congratulations to all the young ladies who participated in our Ohio Fairs' Queen activities. Eighty-one of Ohio's best young fair representatives applied for the 2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen title and seventy-nine, which I believe is the most ever, were able to participate.

Our activities began with an informal gathering on Wednesday evening, where 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. Leah Schuhart, 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen, lead the discussion and she was assisted by Rebekah Hardacre the 2023 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 ladies were assisted by Leah and Rebekah. 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 was given one minute to respond. The judges met and named the top five finalists who were announced on the stage. Following this announcement, the five finalists were interviewed by all ten judges where the official final order was determined.

As part of the 100th Annual OFMA Convention, nine of our past Ohio Fairs' Queens were able to attend. Each was invited to the stage where they introduced themselves and spoke briefly.

Thank you, Leah, for an outstanding year as the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen. Leah represented the OFMA and our fairs in grand fashion and was able to visit over half of Ohio's great fairs. We wish Leah the very best in all her endeavors. She will always be a part of the OFMA family and on that note, we welcome Amberly to the OFMA family!

Thank you to the Eagle Golf Car Company, Bush Concessions, Syngenta, Otter's Concessions, Haas Wilkerson Insurance, Hacker Livestock, Fairs.com for your financial support and sponsorship of this program. Thank you to each young lady who participated in our queen event and thank you to each fair who allowed your candidate to attend and for supporting them.

Thank you to my fellow queen committee members and to Bev Fisher for all their 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 all the way through 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. As always, 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 2026 contest! Have a great and successful 2025 fair season!



Tim Massie

2025 Ohio Fairs Queen Amberly Szczerbiak Representing Fayette County Fair

The entire Ohio Fairs Managers Association convention was an incredible and unforgettable experience. I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of my Senior Fairboard, who were consistently available to assist and guide me throughout the competition. The first day was both exhilarating and rewarding, as it provided me with the chance to forge new friendships, participate in interviews, and introduce myself on stage.

Hearing my name announced as a member of the top 15 was a dream come true, and to then be named among the top 5 is a memory I will treasure forever.

The following day, I had the distinct privilege of spending time with the 2024 Clermont County Queen, Mackenzie Specht; the 2024 Miami Queen, Chloe Shellenberger; the 2024 Hardin County Queen, Aidra Preston; and the 2024 Wood County Queen, Madelayne Lee. Together, we had the opportunity to join the 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen, Leah Schuhart, for a variety of events, including the district meeting, trade show, Junior Fairboard gathering, and the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Ohio Fair Managers Association.

When the time came for the announcement of the final placements, I was overwhelmed with gratitude and joy. Being crowned the 2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen was a truly indescribable moment—a realization of a lifelong dream that I will cherish forever.

Throughout the remainder of the convention, I had the honor of assisting Queen Leah at several events, including raffles at the Extravaganza, award presentations, and sponsor acknowledgments. As I began my own duties as the newly crowned Ohio Fairs' Queen, I also helped with Queen Leah's remaining responsibilities. The entire weekend was filled with unforgettable memories, and I am both excited and deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve as the 2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meetings.

Amberly Szczerbiak



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Ohio Fair Managers General Session Saturday January 4, 2025

Key Note Speaker **Coty Back** delivering his presentation “**Leading with Humble Confidence**” to 2300 attending. Following Coty **2024 Ohio Fairs’ Queen Leah Schuhart** introducing the **2025 Ohio Fairs’ Queen Amberly Szczerbiak, Fayette Co. Fair & her court.**



Celebrating a Milestone: A Recap of the OFMA's Historic Convention

Presidents Report

We recently celebrated the 100th convention for the Ohio Fair Managers Association (OFMA), and what a spectacular event it was! This year, we set a new attendance record, with more participants than ever before. All our hotel rooms were sold out, and the ODA breakfast hosted the largest crowd I can remember. ODA Director, Mr. Baldrige, even commented on how packed the room was—thank you to everyone who attended and made this event a success!

The convention sessions were well attended and packed with valuable insights for fair organizers to take back to their local events. Our trade show floor was also a hit, with all spots sold out, featuring a wide range of vendors from insurance to bull riding, providing important resources for fairs of all sizes.

A special thanks to the Long-Term Planning Committee and the Convention Committee for their incredible efforts over the past two years in planning a fantastic Friday night event. For just \$25, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, rides, games, cotton candy, popcorn, and an unforgettable concert by Jo Dee Messina. Jo Dee performed a fantastic hour-long show and even stayed to autograph items for every fan who approached the stage. Huge thanks to our sponsor, Variety Attractions, for making this special evening possible.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors—without your support, we could not host a convention of this caliber. I encourage all fairs to make a point to work with the sponsors who back us; it's important that we support those who support us.

A big thank you to everyone who submitted their Annual financial reports on time. While we didn't reach 100%, we came closer than ever before, and I'm confident that next year we can hit that goal.

The theme of this year's convention, "Moving Forward," reflects the direction your board of directors is taking. We will be meeting in March to continue our forward momentum as we prepare for the spring meetings and begin planning for the 101st convention.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe 2025!

Stanley Strobe, OFMA President

shstrobe74@gmail.com



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Convention Sessions and Speakers receive high marks

By Bob Dawson, OFMA Treasurer

Jeff Cotner, Ian Hill, Kathy Parry and Coty Back were some of the speakers who provided professional messages to large crowds as part of this year's convention program. Starting on Thursday morning Jeff Cotner, sponsored by IAFE, provided valuable insight on Keeping your Event Safe. His experience as director of security at the State Fair of Texas, offered a unique perspective on this critical aspect of fair management.

Ian Hill, CEO of The Changing Point, provided a hard charging session on how each of us can be the leader that makes the difference in these changing times. Ian returned on Friday to an overfilled room with tips on recruiting and engaging volunteers in today's challenging environment.

Kathy Parry, known author and speaker on adaptation and change, helped a room full of secretaries and treasurers, understand how to React, Reframe and Re-energize their staffs for greater retention and productivity. Participants of this session received an OFMA Training Certificate for their professional portfolios.

At Saturday's Junior/Senior Fair Session a huge crowd welcomed Key Note Speaker Coty Back, presented "**Leading with Humble Confidence**" Koty was presented by the Ohio Soybean Council. Coty shared his passionate belief in the potential of young people and the power of teams.

If you know of speakers that you think would enhance the convention program, please share the information with your district director for consideration next year.



Bob



2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen Amberly is joined on her court with 1st Runner-up Mackensie Specht, Clermont County Fair; 2nd runner up Chloe Shellenberger, Miami County Fair; 3rd Runner up Aidra Preston, Hardin County Fair; 4th Runner up Madelayne Lee, Wood County Fair. 2024 Ohio Fairs' Queen Leah Schuhart far right.

A promotional poster for COSI Science Live. It features the text "COSI connects 2YOU" at the top, followed by "SCIENCE IS EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE". Below this, it describes the event as "COSI's high energy and interactive COSI Science Live is full of over-the-top large scale science demonstrations & hands-on activities sure to entertain and educate audiences of all ages." and encourages bringing the event to fairs, festivals, schools, or special events. A list of options is provided: "Live Show Only (30 min show)", "Hands-On Only (2-4 hours)", "Live Show & Hands-On (2-4 hours)", "Full School Assembly (45-Minute Show)", and "The COSI VR Experience (2 hours)". A box for "Booking Inquiries" with the email "curbsidecosi@cosi.org" is at the bottom left. The poster is decorated with orange circles and images of people at COSI events. The COSI logo is at the bottom right.



The 100-Year Anniversary Celebration Report

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



Greetings everyone. The 100th OFMA Convention is in the books. It was a great convention that set an attendance record and had a record number of exhibitors at the trade show. The educational sessions and seminars were excellent and well attended, and many sessions were standing room only. The Friday night party and celebration was sold out, and everyone reported having a good time and a lot of fun.

The amusement rides and games at the celebration were awakened from their normal winter storage slumber, cleaned, set up, and inspected to provide everyone with a good time.

On behalf of the OFMA, a special thanks is extended to Durant Amusements (Three Abreast Merry-Go-Round), Kissel Amusement Company (Swing Ride), and Lisko Family Amusements (Scat Ride) for the amusement rides. A big thanks to Albanese Island Tyme Concessions, Cappella Concessions, and Fun Time Arcade for providing the games. Additional thanks go out to Kolar Concessions for sponsoring the popcorn/cotton candy, Bush's Fairway Concessions for Hall A decorations, Berk Paper Supply for souvenir cold drink cups, and the Greater Ohio Showman's Association and Classic Toy for game prizes. A very special thanks goes out to Variety Attractions for Friday evening entertainment presenting Jo Dee Messina in concert and Klein's Entertainment for presenting Comedian Howard Mincone.

The planning and preparation for the 100th Anniversary Celebration and Friday evening party began two years ago. The 100th year planning committee, OFMA executive committee, entire Board of Directors, and past presidents worked extremely hard in planning and preparation. The goal we set early on was to put on the best convention ever done by the OFMA and for all of those attending to have fun and a good time. It took a small army of workers and volunteers to make the 100th Anniversary Celebration happen. I would like to extend a special thanks to my fellow OFMA Directors, the OFMA executive committee, past presidents, spouses, family members, volunteers, sponsors, fairs, and of course Howard, Theresa, and their family who worked so hard to make this celebration possible.

It should not go without mentioning that it was reported that many of you had cold food at the dinner. Several of you brought this to our attention during the dinner. On at least 3-4 occasions I brought this to the attention of the Director of Banquets, Servers, and Kitchen Staff. Unfortunately, this problem was not taken care of in a prompt manner. I extend my apologies to anyone that received food that was not warm.

The OFMA will continue to celebrate our special 100th year at the spring and fall meetings this year. A small amount of 100-year merchandise and several engraved bottles of Jack Daniels are still available and can be purchased through the OFMA website or at the spring meetings.

Many of you had asked if we could make the Friday night party an annual event. The board will discuss this at its March meeting and will keep you informed when any decisions are made.

Thank you to all the directors and fair managers from all over the state that make up the OFMA and for the opportunity to serve you!



Kim

The 100-Year Anniversary Celebration



100th Anniversary Evening is a special night for all....

by Bob Dawson, Talent Chairman

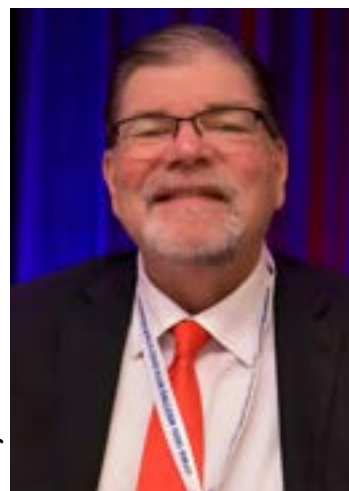
Over 1900 directors, sponsors, and guests participated in the OFMA 100th anniversary Friday evening celebration held in the Columbus Convention Center. More than two years of planning by the OFMA Board led by 100th anniversary chairman Kim Meyers from Lorain County and his committee, and with strong financial support of our member fairs, sponsors and other stakeholders, resulted in the largest single event in OFMA history and a memorable event in all ways.

The BBQ dinner, rides, games, prizes provided an atmosphere we typically hold at our fairs and provide for our communities. It set the stage for the evening's main event; the Jo Dee Messina concert made possible by Variety Attractions. Jo Dee was outstanding singing not only many of her own songs but covering on several rock and pop songs she mixed in.

She stayed after the concert to greet fans and sign autographs. The Vinton County Fair won the evening's \$5,000 table game making their evening extra special.

Special thanks go out to Variety Attractions, Klein Entertainment, Durant Amusements, Kissel Amusements and Lisko Family Amusements. Games were provided by Fun Time Arcade, Island Tyme Concession and Cappella Concessions. Popcorn & Cotton Candy was sponsored by Kolar Concessions, Game Plush by Classic Toy and Greater Ohio Showman and the color changing Cups were sponsored by Berk Paper Company and along with the GOSA and their members that participated in the evening.

Bob



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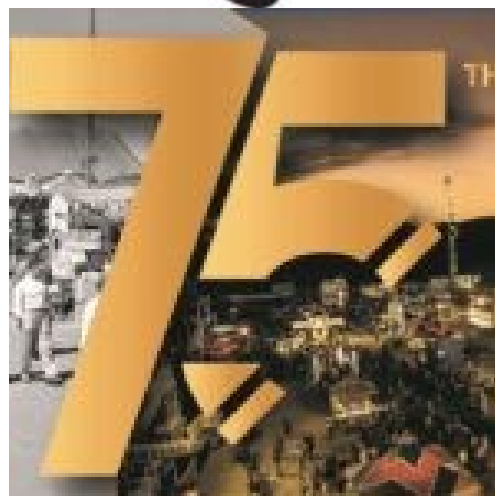
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SPOUCES & GUEST ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES

2025 100th Convention

Thomas Stocksdale 1st VP Chairman

Your OFMA board was excited about providing some extra activities for our spouses and friends at the convention this year. First of all, on Saturday afternoon.... we had a sell out for the wine and BINGO activity with over 88 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. The committee will be discussing soon the possibility of maybe having a 2nd Wine-Bingo and trail bologna session possibly on Thursday next year Please get your thoughts and recommendations to me or a committee member as we will need to be making this decision soon.



The bourbon educational seminar and taste testing was a big hit as we sold out 2 sessions with over 70 attending. Your OFMA board sent a group of board members and other interested individuals to Jack Daniels in Tennessee and a Jack Daniels barrel was selected for our 100th Anniversary Celebratory 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 Jack Daniels 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 available for purchase at the 2025 spring meetings. We have thoughts of continuing this activity in the future, but with some changes to enhance the time you spend with us. Again, please share any comments as we currently are anticipating continuing this project but with another distiller in mind.



What a great time we all had participating with others around the State at these events. Looking forward to next year, our 101st 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 101st year.



We just thank all who participated, we thank the sponsors listed above, and look forward to our next special 101st edition of the OFMA Convention in January 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Stocksdale

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THANK YOU!



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

Spring Meeting Dates 2025

**Each fair is required
attendance at 1 meeting,**

**District 1&2 Saturday March 29
Putman County Fairgrounds Lunch**

**District 5&9 Sunday March 30
Wayne Co. Fair 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

2025 Ohio Fair Managers Convention—Sponsorship Committee Report

Greta Gray Sponsorship Committee

When Howard asked me to prepare this report, I said “Wow, where do I start”. My hope is everyone who reads this insert and attended the convention or visited with someone who attended the convention, feels the same as I – great memories, enthusiasm, and smiles - all built from the educational sessions and activities at the convention.

What we experienced and thoroughly enjoyed would not be possible without our valued sponsors and with much gratitude and respect, on behalf of the Ohio Fair Managers Assn

THANK YOU!

So many times, when we hear the word ‘sponsorship’, we directly associate sponsorship as monetary funding. Who wouldn’t agree, cash is awesome, but I would like to take a step back and think about our OFMA Sponsors and their history in supporting our organization as well as how we were able to **CELEBRATE the OFMA 100th ANNIVERSARY**.



Relationships are essential in our fair and agricultural industries. Our OFMA sponsors are trusted partners.

Collaboration will lead you to solutions. When we asked our sponsors, our fairs and our partners for assistance to allow for the 100th Anniversary Celebration activities, EVERY-ONE delivered.

Community is our OFMA Fair Family. Consisting of a strong network of business and like-minded individuals who promote agriculture, inspire our youth, create educational opportunities, and provide family friendly events where lifelong memories are created.

Value is described in many ways, and many times expressed as *priceless*. This includes cash, in-kind (services, equipment, supplies), knowledge, and time was supplied by all involved.

Coming out of the convention, please continue to support the OFMA Sponsors as you plan your county and independent fairs. I challenge each of you to take the time to consider the value of your local sponsors as you engage with your supporters in the upcoming year.

Also, please do not forget **YOUR VALUE** as a dedicated director, fair manager, volunteer, employee, contractor, supporter of our great **FAIR INDUSTRY and YOUTH in OHIO**.

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but the seeds you plant.”
~ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



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Fairway Concessions

Reithoffer Shows



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





A Night to Remember Highlights from the Extravaganza Auction

Stanley Strode Auction Committee Chair

Our Saturday Night Extravaganza was another fantastic success this year! A heartfelt thank you to all the districts for their generous donations of large items. We had an impressive selection of items for the auction, and it was no easy task deciding which ones to feature in the silent auction.

This year, the silent auction raised \$9,433, while the live auction brought in \$22,560, for a grand total of \$31,993. While this total is slightly down from our record-breaking \$35,000 in 2024, it's still a significant increase from \$21,700 in 2023, showing continued growth and support for this important event.

Special thanks to Breeders World for managing the online auction and clerking, and to our auctioneers for keeping the excitement going throughout the evening. A big shout-out as well to our buyers, backup bidders, the Queens, Susie Bush for working the donations check in and getting them to the auction website, Bill Sterling and the GOSA Staff, all of whom played a crucial role in making the night a success.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the wonderful items donated by our fairs and individuals. We truly appreciate your generosity, and thanks to everyone involved, another successful auction is now in the books!

Thank you once again for making this event a memorable one!

Stanley Strode, OFMA President

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2025 Program Committee Report

Deb Hukill Chairwoman

Celebrating 100 Years!

This convention will be remembered as one of the best in the history of the OFMA. It took the hard work of many to plan and execute.

The sessions offered this year were based on the old and new. The need for re-playing basics year after year is for the benefit of new members. In looking around this convention, there were many new faces. Educating them is our duty. We, also, have a duty to offer new ideas.

We reached out to our board of directors and members to solicit these new topics for the 2025 sessions. The feed back from our members has been mostly positive. We want to continue this trend.

Please do not hesitate to submit any ideas or suggestions that could benefit our members.

I would like to thank the OFMA Directors and County Fair Directors who graciously stepped up to present and moderate sessions. The success of our Convention depends on everyone's participation.

After the Spring Meetings we will poll the fairs for topics for the officers and fair duties topics.



DEB

A promotional graphic for the 2025 Ohio State Fair. On the left, a young child is hugging a large, white, fluffy mascot that looks like a stylized 'O' with a face. The background is blue. A large green speech bubble on the right contains the text 'HEY OHIO!'. Below this, the text 'DON'T MISS THE 2025 OHIO STATE FAIR' is written in white, followed by 'JULY 23 - AUGUST 3!' in green. At the bottom, there are two logos: the 'Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL.' logo on the left and the 'OHIO State Fair' logo on the right.

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OFMA MARKET PLACE TRADESHOW

Paul Lease Chairman & 2nd VP

Thank you to the 165 Market Place Tradeshow exhibitors and to all who shopped the Tradeshow. We drew out 16 Names over the 2 day show and awarded \$1600 in Gift Certificates for participating by dropping your drawing tickets off. Yes we made it challenging to find the drums, but that's the fun part. Thank you for participating in the 100th Annual gather of Ohio's Fairs. Lets have a great and safe fair Season.



Paul



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