

OHIO FAIR MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

101st Annual Convention January 15-18, 2026 Convention News & Program starts page 21



Highlighting the 2026 Ohio Fairs Convention

Brian Baldridge

Director of
Agriculture Meeting
with Ohio Fairs
Friday Regency
Ballroom
Door open
7:45 am Breakfast
Meeting 8:15 am

Ian Hill
The Changing Point
Thursday 12:30
"Leadership in
Changing Times."
Reserve a seat with
your registration
2026 Name Badge

Required

Amberly Szczerbiak 2025 Ohio Fairs' Queen

Hosting all 2026 Queen Activities



Dan Clark,
Key Note Address
Speaker
"Decisive
Motivation"
Saturday Battelle
Hall

9:30 am

Cledus Judd

Friday Regency
Ballroom
7:30pm

Showcase of Acts

8 pm

2026 Name Badge required for entry to the Ballroom Doors open 7 pm, desserts & cold beverages Cash Bar

Tiger Schmittendorf

IAFE Speaker Thursday 3:30

"Security Public Safety:

A Fair Approach"

Notification of the Annual Meeting of Ohio's Fairs

Sunday, January 18, 2026, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 North High Street Columbus, Ohio 10:45 a.m., located in the Delaware Rooms on the 2nd floor.

Notice of Election of Officers of the Ohio Fair Managers Associaton Inc. for 2026-2027.

Slate of Officers from the Nominating Committee 10-28-25 Chaired by Rod Arter (IPP)

For President Thomas Stocksdale - Wayne County Fair, current 1st VP

For 1st Vice President Paul Lease - Columbiana County Fair, current 2nd VP

For 2nd Vice President 2 nominated for consideration;

Alan Aichholz - Treasurer, Attica Independent Fair Current District 1 Director

Roger Smith - Fair Secretary Manager, Hartford Independent Fair, Current District 6 Director

For Treasurer Robert Dawson - Lake County Fair, current OFMA Treasurer

District elections will occur in District 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 on **Friday, January 16** during the morning District Meetings.

Bio's have been mailed to the 95 Member Fairs officers, the bios are on Pages 6, 7 of this newsletter

OFMA THURSDAY BUS TOUR, WATERSHED DISTILLERY &

THE "OSU SHOE" IN 1ST CLASS COACH \$40 PER PERSON JOIN US ON A BEHIND-THE-CURTAIN JOURNEY THROUGH WHERE YOU WILL LEARN THE MYSTERY, HISTORY, AND STORY OF THE DISTILLERY AND THE "SHOE"

Each Watershed tour covers our diverse family of products, easy to understand chats about distillation, and the exciting world of barrel aging. Tours last approximately one hour. Each tour includes a try-before-you-buy sampling of select spirits and a visit to the Watershed Distillery Bottle shop filled with bottles.

The second stop of the tour will be the Ohio State Stadium behind the scenes tour which is about a 90-minute VIP Tour to get special access to the Band Center and the Home Locker Room! Purchase with your registration or separately at https://ohiofairs.org/register/





2026 Convention Thoughts

Welcome to your Ohio Fair Managers Association 101st annual convention. I would like to share a few thoughts with you.... "Volunteers don't just give their time; they preserve traditions, inspire youth, and strengthen communities."

And there is one statement many of us have come to realize sometimes to late in our careers... "If you always do what you have always done, you will always be what you have always been."

Your OFMA Board is challenging you to be a 'Difference Maker'. A Difference Maker understands they are a steward of tradition, heritage, and the future – serving their fair board and ag society with an irrational passion.

They know that progress demands change, and today, change happens through trusting relationships – first with each other, then with their volunteers, and finally with the community they serve.

They think in systems because systems are force multipliers – the key to doing more with less. They act as catalysts and connectors aligning people to purpose and marshaling the time talent, and

ors, aligning people to purpose and marshaling the time, talent, and treasure of others to make a significant impact.

They take responsibility for their corner of the world, knowing their actions leave a mark on eternity – and they commit themselves to leaving their community better than they found it.

Hats off to your OFMA Board who has gone above and beyond to make your 101st annual convention a 'Difference Maker'. Please look me up during the convention... we are counting on you all to be 'Difference Makers' in 2026 and beyond.... And we want to hear your challenges and success stories.

Tom Stocksdale, Interim President Ohio Fair Managers Association

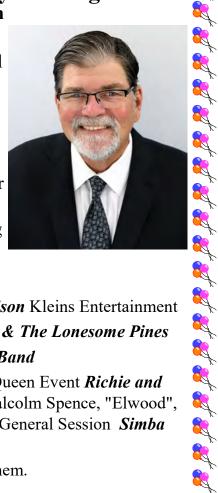




Traditional Showcase to return on Friday Evening By Bob Dawson, Talent Chairman

The traditional live music showcase will return to this year's convention. The OFMA Officers Welcome Reception Evening will be sponsored by **Acrisure** and will include six live music acts that will perform on Friday evening in the Hyatt Ballroom. The production will include multiple stages and top-notch sound and lights supplied by *Above Sound and Lighting*.

Doors will open at 7:00 PM to a selection of desserts and coffee. Everyone through the doors by 7:30 PM will receive a door prize ticket to be drawn in advance of the show. Well known country comedian Cledus T. Judd will be the opening act starting at 7:30 PM. Door prizes and the table drawing will take place at approximately 8:00 PM immediately followed by six musical acts.



The 2026 acts are: Karissa Ella Variety Attractions

Ian Harrison Kleins Entertainment

Silver Stallion, The Highwaymen Experience ERG Talent Tege Holt & The Lonesome Pines

Julia Neville Artists& Attractions

Michael Christopher Band

The Following Bands are Presenting the National Anthem; Thursday Queen Event Richie and the High Street Rockers, Yugar Productions, Friday ODA Breakfast Malcolm Spence, "Elwood", Lonnie Freeman "Jake" from The Sensational Soul Brothers, Saturday General Session Simba Jordan of Simba Jordan Music.

All of these Bands are in the tradeshow and please stop and visit with them.

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"Leadership in Changing Times" Ian Hill The Changing Point Thursday 12:30 pm.

Reserve a seat with your registration 2026 Name Badge Required This session is focused on the Leadership team of the county fair including the Secretary & 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!

> Sponsored by fairs.com Sponsored By fairs.com



OFMA MARKET PLACE TRADESHOW **OF SERVICE PROVIDERS 2026**

Paul Lease Chairman & 2nd VP

The 2026 Market Place tradeshow is nearing a sellout with 148 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 ESL TECHOLOGIES SPACE #430 is sponsoring the Fair Board Member/office drawing.

Each Afternoon 2 tickets will be drawn and Friday Night at the Showcase Evening 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. Two 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 and snacks, you must have a 2026 Registration

Badge to be served along with snacks and Ice tea and Lemonade. A cash bar will be available.

See you in January



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

Acrisure

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@acrisure.com

Website: www.acrisure.com/greatlakes

OFMA THURSDAY BUS TOUR,

\$40 PER PERSON

JOIN US ON A BEHIND-THE-CURTAIN JOURNEY THROUGH WHERE YOU WILL LEARN THE MYSTERY, HISTO-RY, AND STORY OF THE DISTILLERY AND THE "SHOE" Each tour covers our diverse family of products, easy to understand chats about distillation, and the exciting world of barrel aging. Tours last approximately one hour. Each tour includes a try-before-you-buy sampling of select spirits and a visit to the Watershed Distillery Bottle shop filled with bottles. The second stop of the tour will be the Ohio State Stadium behind the scenes tour which is about a 90-minute VIP Tour to get special access to the Band Center and the Home Locker Room! year. Purchase with your registration or separately at https:// ohiofairs.org/register/

Annual Meeting January 18, 10:45am Officer Candidate Bio's

Candidate For President 2026-2027

Thomas R Stocksdale of Wayne County Fair Nominee for President

Thomas R Stocksdale of Wayne County Fair has skill as a manager and with his keen insight has empowered many successful endeavors during his 49-year banking career (now retired). His efforts include leadership within the Wayne County Fair Board 38 years, The OFMA District 5 Director for 13 years with oversight of 12 county and independent fairs in North Central Ohio, your OFMA 2nd and 1st Vice President the past 4 years, Director/Treasurer of the Buckeye Agricultural Museum, President Wayne-Ashland Dairy Service Unit, Chairman Wayne County Ag Leaders, Wayne County Ag Success Team, Director/Treasurer Friends of Wayne County Fair, Wayne County Rural Youth, Ohio 4-H Foundation Board, OSU 4-H & Extension Advisory Committees, and 4-H advisor.

Tom continues to clerk the Wayne County Jr Fair Sale now 38 years, is a member and past President of the Kiwanis Club of Wooster, past President and member Shreve Business and Community Association, Valley College & National Grange, and Ripley Church of Christ (immediate past Deacon).

He and his wife Connie continue to operate their family farm. They have three children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Tom holds a BS degree in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University during which he played four years of football and currently schedules in time to watch his grandson, a recent graduate of OSU and the Ohio State National Championship Football team, now playing at Bowling Green State University.... And enjoying his other grand kids in their sporting activities and especially their involvement in 4-H and other fair activities.

Candidate 1st VP Candidate 2026-2027

Paul Lease of Columbiana County Fair for 1st Vice President

Paul Lease of Columbiana County. I have always had a love of agriculture. Growing up on the family farm, working in the fields with my family and harvesting a variety of row crops, raising hogs, and beef cows.

My professional career with Columbia Gas of Ohio lasted 42 years. I retired as a Meter and Regulation specialist in 2021.

I have been a Columbiana County Fair Board director since 1993, and have been a District 9 director for the Ohio Fair Managers Association for 6 years, and am currently serving as 2nd V.P., for the past 2 years.

Locally I have been a Butler Township Trustee for the past 14 years, a member of Winona Ruritans for 20 years, a member of the Columbiana County Planning Commission for 7 years, the Columbiana County Transportation Improvement District for 9 years, OMEGA for 11 years, One Ohio Recovery Foundation for 4 years, and the Township Association for 14 years serving 5 of those years as President.

When I have time, I spend some of it with my wife Sue of 44 years. We have a son Eric, daughter-in-law Christie, and two beautiful granddaughters.

Two Candidates' 2nd VP Candidates

Alan Aichholz of Attica Independent Fair for 2nd Vice President

Alan Aichholz and I am the OFMA District 1 Director from the Attica Independent Fair. I work full time at Lakeside Book Company along with farming 500 acres of corn, wheat, soybeans, barley and hay along with raising around 100 head of cattle with my wife Aimee, who is a Chemo Infusion Nurse.

I am starting my 36th year as an Attica Fair Director with 13 years served as President and have been serving as the Treasurer since 2013. My Duties on the OFMA board have been logistics, and Market Place Trade Show committee.

Roger Smith of Hartford Independent Fair for 2nd Vice President

Roger Smith, Member of the Hartford Independent Fair Senior Fair Board for 24 years where he has held the offices of President, V. President, and Treasurer. Currently the Interim Manager of the fair. Presently District 6 Director on the OFMA board, a position that he has held for 10 years. Chairman of the Junor Fair Conference Committee for most of that time.

I retired from a forty-year career in Agricultural Finance. Member and past officer of several civic organizations. Attend a local church. Married to wife Debbie for 50 years. Three adult daughters and seven grand-children.

Annual Meeting January 18, 10:45am Officer Candidate Bio's

Bob Dawson Lake County Nominee for Treasurer

Bob Dawson has been affiliated with the Lake County Fair for the past forty-eight years. Bob started his fair career when he was hired to be Concession Manager at the age of twenty-six, a position he held for twenty-two years. When the Lake County Agricultural Society voted to increase the size of their Fair Board in 1991, Bob was appointed as Director at Large. The following year, Bob was elected President of the Board, a position he held for twelve consecutive years.

Bob was elected to the position of OFMA District Nine Director in 1999. He has served on the Long-Range Planning, Nominating, Grievance, Convention, Credentials, Budget, Registration, Showcase and Trade Show Committees. In 2002, Bob was appointed Treasurer when past Treasurer Bob Rose became ill. He was elected Treasurer of the OFMA in January 2004 and has held the position for the past twenty-two years. Bob serves as chairman of the OFMA Budget Committee and as Treasurer for the OFMA/GOSA PAC where he is active on the political front on behalf of the Fairs Industry.

In 2003, Bob retired early after twenty-four years in management with the RW Sidley Company of Painesville, finishing his career as their Group President. He then started a new public sector career serving as the Lake County Workforce Director for seventeen years. Bob is currently serving his 3rd four-year term as a Perry Township Trustee.

Bob is a member of the Lake County Fair and the OFMA Hall of Fame. He and his wife Dawn live in Perry Township. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren.



2026 CREDENTIAL NAME BADGE MUST BE WORN TO ALL ACTIVITIES

2026 Program Committee Planning

Deb Hukill Chairwoman

Hope everyone had a great fair! Fair season is over and you are getting ready to close your books. It's time to plan for your 2026 fair.

The OFMA board has been working on the sessions for convention since early spring. We try to offer topics for everyone. Small Fairs, Large Fairs, Office Staff, Animal Committees, Ethics, New Members, and everything in between.

The Program committee with the approval of the Board of Directors has created 12 Best Practices workshop topics for Fair Board officers, Managers, Treasurers and Secretaries (Page 6&7). These topics all are expanded education classes with Certificates of Participation and Door prizes to be awarded as well as the top 3 fairs will receive gift cards for the most attendance in these 12 sessions at the Spring Meetings. Morris Beverage III, Prin-



ciple of M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio located in Lake Co., is the presenting sponsor of this year's Best Practice series.

We have learned that all fairs are different but with a lot in common. It's important that we take the feed back we receive from all our counties and have topics that will interest the majority.

Our board does not have all the answers but the Ohio Fairs are made up of directors who do! We rely on you to answer the call to lead sessions that relate to topics in your expertise. You should all be proud of the programs presented and encourage your members to attend and report back to your fairs the knowledge they have gained from others. The sharing that goes on at convention is well worth the trip.

Look forward to seeing all of you in January.

DEB

debhukill@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

OFMA 101st Convention Registration
Paid in Full November 30, 2025 Early Bird \$75

REGISTRATION PORTAL LINK: https://ohiofairs.org/register/

Late Registration Entered or received November 30, \$100

Junior Fair Registration December 1, 2025

ALL OFMA FORMS – (ohiofairs.org/forms/)

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DUE DATES

Fairs - 2025 Election Poll Books 10 days after the Election

2025 Annual Financial Annual Report January 16, 2026

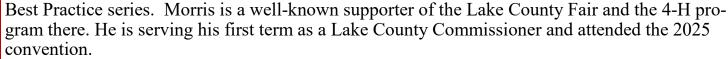
Best Practice Sessions are sure to broaden your knowledge

By Bob Dawson, OFMA Treasurer

This year's convention will feature Twelve Best Practice sessions designed to broaden and freshen your skill set on topics critical to operating and accounting for the business of County and Independent fairs. Sessions will include timely topics such as public safety, annual financial reporting, cyber security, marketing and ticketing and secretarial and fiscal skills. Session presenters will include familiar names from Ohio's fairs who are practitioners known for being on top of their professions.

Sessions will be spread across the convention program for ease of attending. Invest some of your convention time into this twelve-session tract and you can be assured of moving forward with a fresh skill set for the 2026 fair season.

Morris Beverage III, Principle of M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio located in Lake Co., is the presenting sponsor of this year's



Attendees participating in each best practice session will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Three fairs will be awarded a \$1,000 for most participation in these sessions which will be presented at the Spring Meetings.



Fair Board Officers & Staffs 12 Focused Topic Training Workshops

Thursday	10:30- 12:00	Fairfield	#1 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasurers/Secretary/ Managers Topic: Training Secretary/Managers 101 The Basics of an Agricultural Society Secretary Certificate Class Sponsored by:	Panel: Tara Sheldon Holmes Co., Amy Franklin Co., Amanda Shenberger, Medina Co. Fair
Thursday		UNION A B C	#2 Best Practices Fair/Society OFFICER Topic: Training Worksite Safety Focusing OSHA Top 10's, and Written Programs	Gary A, David Vandergrift Safety Consultant Region 5, Office of Safety Services Columbus
Thursday	1-2:45	UNION ABC	#3 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Training Treasurer Certificate Class Quick Books, Chart of accounts. Lets talk about using the chart of accounts all the way thru the Fiscal year instead of hav- ing to figure out what matches our bookkeeping categories into the annual report chart of accounts.	
Thursday	3:30- 4:30		#4 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Auditor of State what issues are we seeing and audit issues, what's coming, the future of audits and why	Stacie Scholl, CPA, Chief Auditor, Auditor of State Keith Faber

Continued on page 4

Fair Board Officers & Staffs 12 Focused Topic Training Workshops continued

Thursday	3:00- 4:30	Union ABC	This interactive workshop shares principles of how to take a 'Fair' approach to public safety at high-profile/high-	Tiger Schmittendorf Erie Co. Fair NY Director of Security Tiger shares more than 25 years of experience as a specialist in the field of volunteer recruitment and retention, leadership and organizational
Friday	1:00- 2:00	Champaign	#6 Best Practices Fair/Society Officer Topic: <i>HB 96 Cyber Security Requirements:</i> Ohio House Bill 96, Operating Budget established Ohio Rev. Code § 9.64, which sets new standards for how political subdivisions handle cybersecurity and ransomware incidents. Each political subdivision will be required to adopt a cybersecurity program that safeguards the entity's data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity.	Torri Sholl from the Ohio Auditor of State's Office; Lexie Meade, CyberOhio
Friday	1:00- 2:00	Fairfield	#7 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasurer/Secretary Topic: Chart of accounts Auditor of State what's coming, the future of audits and why	Richard Cunnigham, Quality Assurance Ohio from State of Ohio Auditor; Bev Fisher, CFE
Friday	2:15- 3:15	Fairfield	#8 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Annual Reports, biggest stumbling blocks and what can we do to comply with the Ohio Law Consider brining in Richard from State Auditor office to explain chart of accounts	Bev Fisher, CFE; David Miran, ODA
Friday	3:30- 4:30	Fairfield	#9 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Redbook Provisions on Selling Memberships Elec- tion Notifications, Petitions, testing of the Signed Peti- tion, Running Elections	David Miran, ODA
Friday	3:30- 4:30	Hayes	#10 Best Practices Fair/Society OFFICER Topic: <i>The Sunshine Laws Manual – also known as the "Yellow Book" –</i> is a guidebook to Ohio's Public Records and Open Meetings laws. Focus on your Agricultural Society's responsibility under the law and the items you can stumble over and be in violation	State Official Amanda Sines to check with state Agency
Saturday	11:30- 12:30	Marion Room	#11 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: New Secretaries 3 years or less Round Table	Bev Fisher, CFE & OFMA Educational Coordinator
Saturday	2:00- 3:00	Fairfield	#12 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Annual Reports, getting it together, meeting deadlines and importance of getting it done	David Miran, ODA

2026 Junior Fair Conference

Roger Smith Chairman

Are you making plans to bring your junior fair board members to Columbus on January 17, 2026? This is an exciting day for the junior fair board members around the state. Gathering with other teens from different fairs in Ohio. Participating in groups that allow them to learn more about the inside of a fair and gaining skills to make their interactions with their peers and other fairgoers more productive. These are all the goals of the OFMA Junior Fair Conference.

This gathering is the largest in the nation and the team working on the program is putting together a day that will be helpful to the teens coming in for the conference. The opening session on Saturday morning includes a keynote speaker and the crowning of the 2026 Ohio Fairs' Queen. The lucky young lady is selected from Co.& Independent Fair Queens from around the state.

Following the opening session, there will be roughly 30 sessions spread out through the middle of the day for the JFB members to attend. And if they are lucky enough to have a little down time, there is a trade show for them to browse through and possibly pick up ideas for their local fairs.

If your Junior Fair Board is planning to attend and is coming in on Friday evening, there will be a get acquainted mixer for any group or individuals who would like to attend. Food and activities will be on tap, coordinated by several extension personnel from around the state. Those who have attended in the past have enjoyed themselves and there is always enough food to go around. I would encourage you to work with your junior fair boards and put this on their radar. See you in January.



THE OTTERBACHER FAMILY

Providing Food, Games and Rides at Ohio's County Fairs for over 90 years.

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

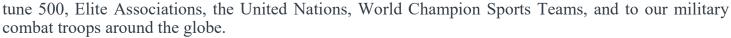


Saturday General Session Key Note Address **Speaker Dan Clark**"**Decisive Motivation**" Saturday Battelle Hall **9:30 am**

Dan Clark – Educated in Sports Psychology, founder of a multimillion-dollar international communications firm, New York Times bestselling Author of 37 books - and a primary contributing author to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, university professor, American Patriot, podcast host, gold record songwriter, film maker, and an award winning athlete who fought his way back from a paralyzing injury that cut short his football career.

Dan was inducted into the Professional Speakers Hall of Fame - named one of the Top Ten motivational speakers in the world - has been featured on Oprah, Glenn Beck, and Jimmy Fallon – and in the Mayo Clinic Journal, Sports Illustrated, Forbes, Inc., Entrepreneur, Millionaire, and Selling Power Magazines.

As a master storyteller, Dan has been published in more than 50 million books in 40 languages worldwide, and has delivered more than 5500 speeches, to millions of people, in 77 countries, to most of the For-





Dan's extraordinary life includes battling throat cancer at eight years old; being named an Outstanding Young Man of America; becoming a Golden Gloves Boxing Champion; alpine ski racing champion; and motocross champion; soaring to the edge of space in a U2 reconnaissance aircraft; flying fighter jets with the Air Force Thunderbirds; racing automobiles at Nürburgring; serving on the Olympic Committee and carrying the torch in the Winter Games; and being named Utah Father of the Year! Dan has received America's three highest civilian awards from the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Air Force - and currently serves on the U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors!



OFMA 2026 CONVENTION MENU

FAIR, ASSOCIATE & GUEST PRICING

Fair Membership \$200.

Associate Membership \$115.

Comes with one Business
Catagorgy listing extra are \$20

Attendee Registration \$75.

Attendee Registration \$100.

Registration after November 29

Trade Show \$375 - \$430.
Booths

ODA Breakfast Friday \$27.

Awards Breakfast \$27.
Sunday

Queens Lunch Thursday \$38.

Corn Hole Thursday \$15.

Bourbon Bottle \$100.

Reverse Raffle Ticket \$100.

Friday Presidents Receptions

& Showcase of Bands

President Reception Reserved Tables

Extravaganza Saturday Table

Bingo, Wine & Bolonga

Saturday - at 1:00pm

Bourbon Tasting

Friday - session 1 at 1pm \$50.

Bourbon Tasting

Friday - session 2 at 2:30pm \$50.

Bourbon Distillery Tour #1

Thursday 1pm Includes
Transportation to 1 Distiller & OSU Shoe sampling and tour. \$50

Bourbon Distillery Tour #2

Thursday 2:30pm Includes
Transportation to 1 Distiller & OSU Shoe sampling and tour. \$50

OFMA THURSDAY BUS TOUR, WATERSHED DISTILLERY & THE OSU SHOE IN 1ST CLASS COACH \$40 PER PERSON

JOIN US ON A BEHIND-THE-CURTAIN JOURNEY THROUGH 'WHERE YOU WILL LEARN THE MYSTERY, HISTORY, AND STORY OF THE DIS-

TILLERY. Each tour covers our diverse family of products, easy to understand chats about distillation, and the exciting world of barrel aging. Tours last approximately one hour and involve a brief (and we mean, brief) walk between our distillery space and barrel warehouse. Each tour includes a try-before-you-buy sampling of select spirits and a visit to the Watershed Distillery Bottle shop filled with bottles (including bottle shop exclusives), glassware, and wearables. Don't just tell your friends you went to Watershed. Show 'em!

The second stop of the tour will be the Ohio State Stadium behind the scenes tour which is about a 90-minute VIP Tour to get special access to the Band Center and the Home Locker Room! Every tour participant will receive a commemorative Ohio Stadium Tour challenge

coin, while supplies last each year.





Prowant Specialty Company



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3911 Cooper Rd Lowellville, OH 44436

Phone: 724-674-2232

Email: wendylisko@gmail.com

Website: http://www.liskofamilyamusements.com





The official 2026 101st Selection of Yellowstone Kentucky Straight Bourbon Single Barrel can be ordered in advanced, each bottle will receive 2 commemorative rocks glasses. Bottles will be in the OFMA office and available until sold out.

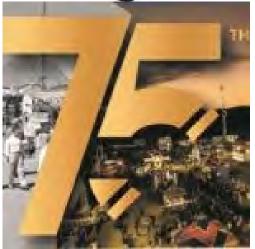


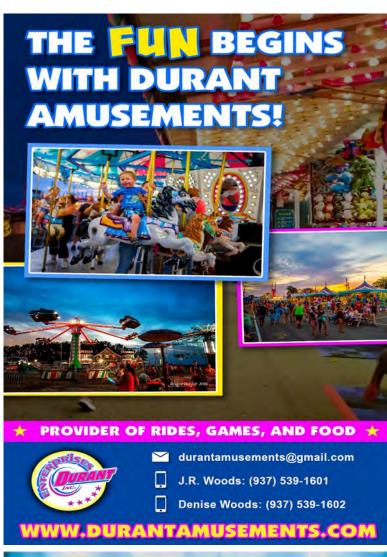




Talley Amusements is Proud to provide the Amusement Midway at the Ohio State Fair July 29 - August 9, 2026 **OVER 200 YEARS OF COMBINED** FAMILY EXPIERIENCE IN THE CARNIVAL AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY TALLEY AMUSEMENTS, INC. P.O. Box 1319 Fort Worth, TX 76101-1319 Phone: (817) 847-0888 https:// talleyamusements.com













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Quality you can count or

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Mega event or mini event

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EXTRAVAGANZA COMMITTEE REPORT Saturday January 17, 2026 Evening GOSA & OFMA Fundraiser Wade Flory Co-Chair

The committee has made the following plans with Greater Ohio Showman

- 1. Items for the Auction accepted in the OFMA Office 1st floor off of the Hyatt Lobby .
- 2. Doors open for preview and networking
- 3. 300 reverse raffle tickets @\$100 each available NOW. https://ohiofairs.org/register/
- 4. Auction both live and silent will be held.
- 5. DJ John will spin the tunes with the photo booth for those Memories.
- 6. **Sold out** 65 tables seating 10 will be available to reserve \$200 each and will be \$5,000 payout to the lucky pull. You can order on your fair account, service member account.
- 7. Side boards sold out of the OFMA Office Thursday January 15 until sold 300 total @ \$20.
- 8. Food can be brought in, no alcohol can be brought in. Cash Bars available with snacks.
- 9. GOSA will run the 50/50 portion of the proceeds to the OFMA/GOSA PAC fund.

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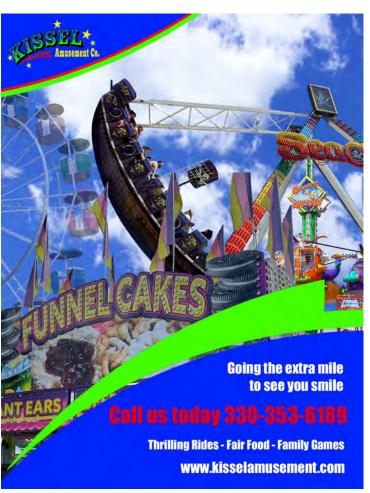


1-888-432-3059 4270 Old Columbus Rd NW Carroll, OH 43112



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Note: Lodging available at the Marriott 3 blocks southwest of the Hyatt https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1761161648950&key=GRP&app=resvlink&dtt=true











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2026 Ohio Fair Managers Program Wednesday January 14 TOPIC:

<u>Time</u>	ROOM:	TOPIC: Wednesday January 14	Presenter:	Moderator:
6:00 pm -9	Taft AB	2025 Queen Parents Social gathering for those in- bound Wednesday Evening Sponsored by: Eagle Golf Car, Hacker Farms		Tim Massie – Chairman
6:00 pm -9	Taft CD	2025 Queen informal social gathering for those inbound Wednesday Evening Queen Gift Bag sponsored by Eagle Golf Car & Hacker Farms		Tim Massie – Chairman
		Thursday January 15		
<u>Time</u>	ROOM:	TOPIC:	Presenter:	Moderator:
8:00-5:00	Nationwide AB	OFMA-ODA Office		
8:00-10		Welcome to Columbus Hospitality Sponsored by Adams-Endsley Concessions		
8:00-Noon	Hayes Foyer	Queen Registration in the Hayes Foyer Sponsored by: Fairway Foods, Bush Concessions		
8:00-Noon	Hayes	Queen Hospitality Sponsored by: Queen Gift Bag sponsored by Eagle Golf Car & Hacker Livestock		
8:00-5:00	Nationwide Hallway Foyer	Convention Registration Sponsored by Fair Publishing Company		Wade Flory- Chairman
8:00	Nationwide Hallway Foyer	Welcome to Columbus Hospitality Coffee Sponsored by Lisko Family Amusements		
9:00am 1pm	Queen Interviews	Ohio Fairs' Queen Contest Interview Sponsored by: Eagle Golf Car Company		
9 am to 6	Fayette Room	Open Meeting Room - Networking		
9 am to 6	Champaign Room	Open Meeting Room - Networking		
9:00-5:00	Clark Room	GOSA Office Bill Sterling GOSA President		
10:30-12:00	Fairfield	#1 Best Practices Fair/Society Secretary & Fair Managers Topic: Training Secretary & Fair Managers 101 The Basics Certificate Class Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio Presenters: Tara Sheldon Holmes Co. Fair, Amy Fleshman, Franklin Co. Fair, Amanda Shenberger, Medina Co. Fair		Robert Dawson Treasurer OFMA
10:30-12:00	UNION A B C	#2 Best Practices Fair/Society Officer/Grounds Manager Topic: Training Worksite Safety Focusing OSHA Top 10's, and Written Programs Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio Presenter Gary A, David Vandergrift Safety Consultant Region 5, Office of Safety Services Columbus Office	_	Heath Ward District 7 Di- rector OFMA
12:30- 4pm	Morrow	Leadership in Changing Times Reserve a seat in the registration system no cost Sponsored by: Fairs.com Beverage snack Break at 2pm Sponsored by Fairs.com Presenter: Ian Hill Chief Executive Officer, The Changing Point, Thechangingpoint.life		Paul Lease OFMA 2nd VP

Thursday January 15

		Thursday January 15		
1:00-5:30	Out of Hotel	Guest/spouse tour Departs from Starbucks Franklin Foyer Watershed Distillery, Ohio State stadiums VIP Tour, ticket required. 2 tours Sponsored by: Klein's Entertainment		Dan Bullen, Past President OFMA
1:00-4:00	Marion	Person in Charge Training for food operations Presented by GOSA Register with GOSA	Mike Tedrick Greater Ohio Show- man Trustee	Mike Tedrick Greater Ohio Showman Trustee
1:00-2:00	Fairfield	Campgrounds Management, Back flows and Permanent Camping spaces possibilities discussion	Medina Co. Fair- Chris Sulzener Columbiana Co. Fair-Katie McCoy	Kerry Taylor OFMA at Large Director
<u>1-2:45 pm</u>	UNION ABC	#3 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/ Secretary Topic: Training Treasures Certificate Class Quick Books, Chart of accounts. Lets talk about using the chart of accounts all the way thru the Financil year instead of having to figure out what matches our bookkeeping categories into the annual report chart of accounts. Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	Bev Fisher CFE, Christy Lucas Brown Co. Fair Secretary Linda Kisamore Portage Co. Fair	Robert Dawson Treasurer OFMA
2-4:30	Union D	Annual Financial Report. An opportunity for fair boards to have their reports reviewed by ODA and ask any clarifying questions.	ODA OFFICE STAFF	David Miran Deputy Chief ODA
2:15-3:15	Madison	Tickets Sold Here: Smarter Marketing for Fairs Description: From Meta, Google, and Tik Tok ads, to Email, and SMS campaigns, today's marketing toolbox is bigger than ever. In this session, we'll walk through best practices across multiple platforms, share tips for creating effective campaigns, and explain how to review your analytics with confidence. You'll leave with practical strategies to make smarter marketing decisions and sell more tickets. ETIX Vendor Ticketing Workshop	Marketing Special-	Vendor Presentation
2:00	Nationwide Foyer 1st Floor	Welcome to Columbus Hospitality Sponsored by Kolar Food Concessions		
2:15-3:15	Fairfield	Presidents Round table	Von K. Cremeans President Pickaway Co. Fair, Howard Call CFE OFMA Past President	Howard Call CFE OFMA Past Presi- dent
2:30 PM	Regency Ball- room	-Dress Rehearsal Queens Audio/ Video Production by: Above Sound and Lighting Plain City, Ohio 614-991-0676		Tim Massie – Chairman
3-9pm	McKinley Room	Queens storage and Changing Room		Tim Massie – Chairman
3:30	Hayes	Queen Dinner Each Queen applicant receives 1 ticket, additional tickets ordered from the OFMA office Sponsored by: Otters Concessions Jeff and Paulina Otterbacher		Tim Massie – Chairman
22		VIOLO VOLI MIM I MUIIIM VIOLOMONOI		

Thursday January 15

		Thursday January 15		
3:30-4:30	Fairfield	#4 Best Practices Fair/Society Office & Officer Topic: Auditor of State what issues are we seeing and audit issues, what's coming, the future of audits and Why Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	Stacie Scholl, CPA, Chief Auditor, Au- ditor of State Keith Faber	Government Ad-
3:30-4:30	Madison	Showing Value of your Fair to your community	Allison Bell	Deb Hukill OF- MA District 8 Di- rector
3:30-4:30	Union E	Fair Manager how do you facilitate the move from the Fair Secretary or strong President to a Fair Manager who manages the Facility and Fair	Troy Elwer, Promotions Operations Manager and Fair Manager Allen Co. Fair, Amy Fleshman, Franklin Co. Fairgrounds Manager	Kim Meyers District 5 Director
3:00-4:30	Union A B C	#5 Best Practices Fair/Society OFFICER Topic: IAFE Speaker Security Public Safety: A Fair Approach This interactive workshop shares principles of how to take a 'Fair' approach to public safety at high-profile/high-occupancy events like fairs and expositions. Based on four decades of experience and training in homeland security, emergency services, and planned event emergency management, this program takes a comprehensive look at fairgrounds fear factors, organizational attitudes towards safety, and the value and importance of emergency planning, and offers a proven frame- work for change management and large-scale event and emergency management. (Workshop) Sponsored by: IAFE & Spon- sored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	Tiger Schmittendorf shares more than 25 years of experience as a specialist in the field of volunteer recruitment and retention, leadership and organizational	
4:45-5:30	Fairfield	First Time Attendees Reception and meeting for Thursday arrival attendees Hospitality Sponsored by: Lisko Family Amusements		Tom Stocksdale, Deb Hukill Conven- tion Chairman, Rod Arter OFMA Past President
Doors open 6pm Pro- gram starts at 6:30pm	Ballroom	Ohio Fairs' Queen Pageant National Anthem Richie and the High Street Rockers, Blessing Thomas Stocksdale, Evening Hosts Amberly Szczerbiak & Tim Massie Presenting Sponsor Eagle Golf Car Flowers Sponsored by: Queens Gift bag sponsored by Eagle Golf Car & Hacker Livestock, Crown & Sashes Sponsored by Susie Bush Bush Concessions, Flowers Sponsored by Bush Fairway Concessions.		Tim Massie – Chairman
7:00	Regency Ballroom Foyer	Corn Hole Tickets available On line and OFMA Office \$15 per player Cash Prizes Sponsored by Bates Brothers Shows		OFMA and GO- SA
72				

		Friday January 16		
<u>Time</u>	ROOM:	TOPIC:	Presenter:	Moderator:
7:00-5:00	Nationwide Foyer	Convention Registration Sponsored by Fair Publishing Company		
8:00-5:00		OFMA-ODA Office		
7am	Nationwide Foyer	Welcome to Columbus Hospitality Sponsored by: Otterbacher Concessions Curt and Amy Otterbacher		
7:45:00 am	Regency Ballroom	Doors Open ODA Breakfast Plated Meal Ticket required, your fair orders this ticket on your fairs registration form with your registration		
8:15am -9:4: am	⁵ Regency Ballroom	ODA Meeting and Breakfast Each Co. Agricultural Society is required by the Ohio Revised Code to attend. Regency Ballroom National Anthem By Malcolm Spence, "Elwood", Lonnie Freeman "Jake" from The Sensational Soul Brothers Sponsored by: Tally Amusements Mary Tally Two Ticketed Guests will be drawn for \$400 each Gift certificates Sponsored by: Talley Amusements Provider of the Ohio State Fair Midway. A drawing for 2 Gift certificates for Ticket Holders.	Director Brian Baldridge	
9:00-Noon	Clark Room	GOSA Office Bill Sterling President		
9 am to 6 pm	Garfield Room	Open Meeting Room - Networking		
9 am to 6 pm	Grant Room	Open Meeting Room - Networking		
9:30-10:30 am	Knox Room	GOSA session Fire Suppression rules for food trailers – Update on the Fire Safety Code	David Drake GOSA Past President	GOSA Presentation
10 5 PM	1st and 2nd Floor of the Hyatt Hotel Meeting Space	Grand Opening of the Market Place Tradeshow Sponsored by: ESL TECHOLOGIES SPACE #430	Paul Lease OFMA 2nd VP – Chair- man Alan Aichholz Dis- trict 1 Director – Vice Chairman	
10:45 to noon	Knox Room	Working with your local food inspector - Food inspectors will discuss their inspection process and answer questions.	Mike Tedrick Rachel Moresea, Fairfield Co. Health Dept	GOSA Presentation
10:45 to noon	Taft AB Room	District 1 Meeting Alan Aichholz Presiding		
10:45 to noon	Morrow Room	District 2 Meeting Thomas Higbie District Director Election Rod Arter Moderator		
10:45 to noon	Fayette Room	District 3 Meeting Wade Flory Presiding		
10:45 to noon	McKinley Room	District 4 Meeting Doug Marine Presiding		
10:45 to noon	Union ABC Room	District 5 Meeting Kim Meyers Presiding District Director Election Bob Buxton Moderator		
10:45 to noon	Hayes Room	District 6 Meeting Roger Smith Presiding		
10:45 to noon	Marion Room	District 7 Meeting Heath Ward Presiding District Election Dan Bullen Election Moderator		

10:45 to noon	Taft CD Room	District 8 Deb Hukill Presiding District Election Dan Martin Election Moderator		
10:45 to noon	Fairfield	District 9 Meeting Tracey Koszalka Presiding District Election Dan Kimmett Election Moderator		
1pm to 3pm	Taft AB	Greater Ohio Showman Annual Meeting Clover / GOSA Partnership - Benefits for GOSA members using the Clover payment system. Lower fees and more!	Bill Sterling, President	
1-3pm	Taft CD Room	Ohio Harness Horseman Meeting with Ohio's Racing Fairs	Frank Fraus Executive Director OHHA	Wade Flory Classroom
1-2pm	Union ABC Room	County Fairs Meetings with ODA Vetenerarian Meeting A-K Fairs	Dr. Dennis Summers, DVM and Staff	Tim Massie, OFMA Past President
1-2:00 PM	Champaign	Growth Strategies for Fairs Backed by Ticketing & Marketing Analytics Join Scott Hillyer, CEO of Fairs.com, the fastest-growing marketing and ticketing company in the fair industry, for a data-driven look at what really fuels fair success. With over 150 fairs and fairground events on the platform, Fairs.com has gathered insights from ticketing transactions, social media marketing performance, and direct customer surveys. This session will dig into the questions fair leaders ask most often: What really draws the crowds in? How do we stretch our marketing budget in smart ways? How can we get the most out of limited staff and resources? Backed by real data and experience serving fairs nationwide, Scott will share practical strategies that turn analytics into actionable growth. Fairs.Com Vendor Presentation		Fairs.Com Vendor Presentation
1:00-2:00	Morrow	#6 Best Practices Fair/Society Office & Officer Topic: HB 96 Cyber Security Requirements Ohio House Bill 96, Operating Budget established Ohio Rev. Code § 9.64, which sets new standards for how political subdivisions handle cybersecurity and ransomware incidents. Each political subdivision will be required to adopt a cybersecurity program that safeguards the entity's data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity. Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	the Ohio Auditor of State's Office, and Lexie Meade from CyberOhio	
1:00-2:00	Marion MOVED FROM SAT- URDAY	Planning and Implementing Social Media	Co. General Man-	Tom Higbie, OFMA District 2 Director

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1:00-2:00	Union E	Benefits of joining International Association of Fairs & Expos. New impact study of the Fairs Industry And especially with the zone meeting, Upcoming IAFE Convention Kentucky November 2026	Kate Turner CMP* *Vice Presi- dent of Mem- ber Engage- ment	Doug Marine, OFMA Dis- trict 4 Direc- tor
1:00-2:00	Fairfield	#7 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Chart of accounts Auditor of State what's coming, the future of audits and Why Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	Richard Cunningham, Quality As- surance Ohio from State of Ohio Audi- tor, Bev Fisher CFE	Director, Bev Fisher
1:00-2:00	McKinley	Large Fair Round Table	Kim Meyers OFMA District 5 Director	Kim Meyers OFMA District 5 Director
1:00-2:00	Harrison	Concessions Management, Software, contracts and what is the correct ratio. Certification Program	Judy Conley, Hardin Co. Fair, Jeff Cole Fairs.com, Kelsey Sed- lak Summit Co. Fair	Dan Kim- met, OFMA Past Presi- dent
1:00-2:00	Union D	Small Fair Round Table	Heath Ward OFMA Dis- trict 7 Direc- tor	OFMA Dis-
1:00-2:00	Hayes	Medium Fair Round Table	Stephen Heppe, Todd Neff, Dave Kentzman Portage Co. Fair Directors	Tracey Koszalka, OFMA Dis- trict 9 Direc- tor
1:00-2:00	Fayette	Policies Constitution and By Laws		Koszalka,
1:00-2:00	Union ABC	Fair Manager Position: how do you facilitate the move from the Fair Secretary or strong President to a Fair Manager who manages the Facility and Fair	Fair-Roger Boring	Kerry Taylor, OFMA Director at Large

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1 -2:15 pm	Drury Hotel Atrium	Bourbon Production and the Agricultural Impacts with Educational Session Presenter: Stephan Fante Brand Ambassador, Limestone Branch Distillery, Ticket Required Sponsored by: Klein's Entertainment, LLC.\$50 per person and limited to 50 Must have a 2026 OFMA Registration Badge		Dan Bullen OFMA Past President
2:15 PM	Tradeshow Rooms Dela- ware, Frank- lin, Hallway 1st Floor	Keg Beer, and snacks Attendee must have 2026 OFMA Convention Name Tag to be served. Servers reserve the right to verify legal age for alcoholic service Sponsored by: The Cincinnati Circus Company,		
2:30 AM	Nationwide Foyer 1st Floor	Welcome to Columbus Hospitality Sponsored by Otter-bacher Concessions		
2:15-3:15	Union ABC Room 280	Co. Fairs Meetings with ODA Vetenerarian Meeting L-W Fairs	Dr. Dennis Summers, DVM and Staff	Tim Massie, OFMA Past President
2:15-3:15	McKinley	Junior Fair Coordinator Why, Scope, Compensation?? Supporting the senior Fair Boards vision on ensuring the Junior Fair exhibits and exhibitors have the tools and showplaces to showcase our Youth	Gwen Geauga and Kate Wise Ran- dolph	Tom Stocks- dale 1st Vice President OF- MA
2:15-3:15	Marion	Saffire Vendor Presentation On ticketing and more		
2:15-3:15	Harrison	Fund Raising and Sponsorships. What events can be legally held in Ohio and is the balance of cash in to the perks is it right, fair and more. Crystal Ott, Director, Ohio 4-H Foundation Amy Jo Baughman, Executive Director, Ohio FFA Foundation, Kelly Burns, Executive Director, Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation		Greta Gray, OFMA Direc- tor at Large
2:15-3:15	Morrow	Maintain the Fairgrounds, what equipment is necessary, what is the breakpoint in using a 72 inch zero turn verses a large deck mower, Skid steers verses tractors, what's the mix	ren Han-	Tom Higbie, OFMA District 2 Director,
2:15-3:15	Union D	Co. Fair Auction Best Practices: A Roundtable Discussion, Is your fair struggling with the length of your auction, buyer retention, or choosing the right technology? Wondering if addons could increase revenue or if multiple buyer sheets are causing you headaches? Join us for an engaging 60-minute roundtable where Ohio fair managers share real solutions to real challenges. This isn't a sales pitch—it's a practical peer-to-peer discussion featuring fairs using different auction formats, from traditional live auctions to champions-only to add-on models. Featuring roundtable participants from Greene Co., Clinton Co., Union Co., and Geauga Co.—each with different approaches and valuable lessons learned	Presented by Roger Hunker, BW Final Drive .	Roger Smith OFMA District 6 Director

		Triday bandary 10		
2:15-3:15	Fairfield	#8 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Annual Reports, biggest stumbling blocks and what can we do to comply with the Ohio Law Consider brining in Richard from State Auditor office to explain chart of ac- counts. Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	CFE David Miran	Heath Ward, OFMA Director
2:15-3:15	Hayes	Fairs, Agritourism & business entities. Competition or Collaboration	Attorney Susan McDonald	Kim Meyers OFMA District 5 Director
2:30 -3:45	Drury Hotel Atrium	Bourbon Production and the Agricultural Impacts with Educational Session Presenter: Stephan Fante Brand Ambassador, Limestone Branch Distillery, Ticket Required Sponsored by: Klein's Entertainment, LLC.\$50 per person and limited to 50 Must have a 2026 OFMA Registration Badge		Dan Bullen CO-Chair
3:30-4:30	Union ABC Room 280	Time Management for Fair Directors: Maximalizing Efficiency During the Fair Season	Heather Merkel, Jefferson Co. Board Director	Deb Hukill, OFMA District 8 Director
3:30-4:30	Union D	Director Orientation- The laws; the does and don'ts Duties and Requirements to Qualify	Lucas Brown Co. Fair	Kerry Taylor OFMSA at Large Direc- tor
3:30-4:30	Union E	How do you motivate or eliminate non-working board directors Engage or eliminate Directors, Backing up Board Decisions	Heath Ward, OFMA Director At Large	Heath Ward, OFMA Direc- tor At Large
3:30-4:30	Fayette	Master Planning For Growth & Business opportunities"	Adam Hef- fron, Gen- eral Man- ager Ohio State Fair & Expo Center	Adam Heffron, OF- MA At Large Director
3:30-4:30	Fairfield	#9 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Redbook Provisions on Selling Memberships Election Notifications, Petitions, testing of the Signed Petition, Running Elections, Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	David Miran, ODA	Doug Marine, OFMA District 4 Director

3:30-4:30	McKinley	Panel Discussion: Price Increases What's Right, what's the cost include IS "POP" still viable Discussions When you add Insurance, Security, Fire, EMS, Gates, Parking, Trash, Water, Electric Costs: DON'T BE AFRAID YOUR SURVIVAL IS AT RISK	Secretary Great	holz, OFMA
3:30-4:30	Champaign	Event safety and emergency planning template introduction. Review of event safety issues involving large crowds, grandstand events and emergency planning best practices. This session will also review and provide a fair specific emergency planning template for use.	Acrisure Risk Con- trol team Diana Woolf OFE, FSI, CPSI	Roger Smith, OFMA Dis- trict 6 Direc- tor
3:30-4:30	Harrison	Working Together Across Generations: Communication, Collaboration, and Respect Janessa R Hill Extension Agricultural and Natural Re- sources Educator, Holmes Co., Travis West Youth Devel- opment Vinton Co.		
3:30-4:30	Taft CD	"How to make your Fair more inclusive" Paul Perry Wood Co. Fair President Laura Westgate Wood Co. Fair Manager Amanda Barndt Coordinator Wood Co. Fair Ring of Dreams Show		Deb Hukill OFMA Dis- trict 8 Direc- tor
3:30-4:30	Hayes	#10 Best Practices Fair/Society OFFICER Topic: The Sunshine Laws Manual – also known as the "Yellow Book" – is a guidebook to Ohio's Public Records and Open Meetings laws. Focus on your Agricultural Society's responsibility under the law and the items you can stumble over and be in violation Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio		Tracey Koszalka, OF- MA District 9 Director
4:00-5:00	Marion	First Time Attendees Reception and meeting for Friday arrival attendees Hospitality Sponsored by: EGO AMUSEMENTS Dan Egbert	7	OFMA Staff

7:30 pm to10+-	Hayes	Hayes Rooms 1st floor for Junior Fair activities for these arriving Friday Fairs Must place a Junior fair and Advisor count with OFMA By December 15, no charge Sponsored by: Kolar Concessions		Roger Smith – Chairman
7:00 PM	Hyatt Regency Ballroom	OFMA Officers Welcome Reception Evening Sponsored by: Acrisure Doors open For Showcase evening 7pm -7:30 tickets handed out for Gift Card drawing till 7:30 7:30 Cletus Judd Special Performance Prior to the showcase Evening Drawing at 7:55pm Name Badge required for entry		Robert Dawon MC
8pm	Hyatt Regency Ballroom	Showcase Evening \$200 reserved tables drawing on the reserved tables for \$5,000 Name Badge required for entry Production Sponsored by: Above Sound and		Robert Dawon MC
		Saturday January 17		
<u>Time</u>	ROOM:	TOPIC:	Presenter:	Moderator:
8:00-5:00	Nationwide AB	OFMA-ODA Office		
8:00-5:00	Nationwide Foyer 1st Floor	Convention Registration Sponsored by: Fair Publishing Company		
7:30 -10	Nationwide Foyer	Welcome to Columbus Hospitality Sponsored by: Sponsored by Adams-Endsley Concessions		
8:00-9:30	Regency Ball- room Foyer	Junior Fair Registration and Coffee/Juice service Provided by Hyatt Regency Staff		Roger Smith OFMA Dis- trict 6 Direc- tor
8:00-8:45	Madison	990 & Conflict of Interest		Robert Dawson Treasurer OFMA
8:00-8:45	Taft AB	Secretary and Treasurer Round table	Bev Fisher CFE	Dan Kimmet, OFMA Past President
8:00-8:45	Taft CD Rounds Max	Grant Applications Cara Muhlenkamp Mercer Co. Fair Manager, John Wolfe Columbiana Co. Fair President		Doug Marine, OFMA District 4 Director
8:00-8:45	Knox	Gates and Parking, who will do it, what is the cost	George Less & Dave Dickey Canfield Fair	Paul Lease, OFMA 2nd Vice Presi- dent
8:00-8:45	Fairfield	Executive Sessions, how do we do this, what can be done in X session and more	ers, OF-	Kim Meyers, OFMA Dis- trict 5 Direc- tor

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8:00-8:45	Union ABC	The fairs After glow, Now how do we get the grounds cleaned and what about those fly's	Tom Higbie, OFMA District 2 Director
8:30-9:15	Union E	JR FAIR Repping the Red Jacket You're on the Board, fair is coming, now what? In this session, discover roles and responsibilities for fair week as a Junior Fair Board Member. Learn how to prepare yourself as a	
8:30-9:15	Morrow	This session will provide a unique insight to online	Brian Phillips - United States Secret Service, Southern Ohio District
8:30-9:15	Union D		Jenna Hoyt - Extension Educator (Ashtabula Co.)
8:30-9:15	McKinley	JR FAIR Road Trip Adventures: Absolutely Priceless Traveling together to visit other fairs in small groups or as part of an organized bus trip helps Junior and Senior Fair Boards develop stronger relationships while gathering new ideas. Learn about different formats and ways to incorporate road trips into your Fair Board experience.	- Licking Co.
8:30-9:15	Hayes	The value of the words "Thank You" can go a long way	Frances Foos – Extension Educator (State 4-H Older Youth and Civic Engagement)
9:00	Battelle Hall	Doors Open Battelle Ballroom 9:30 Singing the National Anthem Simba Jordan of Simba Jordan Music Tradeshow Space 16	
9:30	Battelle Hall	General Opening General Session Keynote Dan Clark, C Motivation" and announcement of the 2026 Ohio Fairs Ohio State Fair, Ohio Soybean, Willandale Golf Cart	Queen Sponsored by:
9:00-5:00	Clark	GOSA Office Bill Sterling President	
9am -Noon 2-5pm	Garfield	Open Meeting Room - Networking	
		TRADE SHOW Sponsored by: Sponsored by: ESL TECHOLOGIES SPACE #430	Paul Lease – Chairman Alan Aich- holz – Vice Chairman

		Saturday surraing 17		
10:00-5:00		TRADE SHOW Sponsored by: Sponsored by: ESL TECHOLOGIES SPACE #430		Paul Lease – Chairman Alan Aich- holz – Vice Chairman
11:30-12:30	Union ABC	Dream Building Project Our FAIRBOARD has a dream and a need to build; what's the trips, and land mines. Cara Muhlenkamp Mercer Co. Fair Manager, Howard Call CFE, Summit Co. Fai		Alan Aichholz, OFMA District 1 Director
11:30-12:30	Marion	#11 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: New Secretaries 3 years or less Round Table Sponsored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio		Dan Bullen OFMA Past President
11:30-12:30	Knox	On Line Payments beyond Ticket sales, campgrounds, concessions, Merchants, Sponsors, and more	Kelsey Sedlack, Summit Co. Fair & Kelly Bentley, Fulton Co. Fair	Tracey Koszalka, OFMA Dis- trict 9 Direc- tor
11:30-12:30	Fairfield	Round table bring your Topics, Horse track Maintenance, and open Harness discussions	OFMA	Rod Arter, OFMA Imm. Past President
11:30-12:30	Harrison	Fair Presidents Round Table. Ray Hilderbrand President Jefferson Co. Fair Richie Eberhart, Harrison Co. Fair		Heath Ward, OFMA District 8 Director
11:30-12:30	Morrow	JR FAIR NETSMARTZ Online Safety for Teens. Participants will be empowered to engage online in a much safer manner.	State Secre	lips - United et Service, Dhio District
11:30-12:30	Union D	JR FAIR All About the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Board Serving on the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Board (JFB) is an experience of a lifetime. It's a fun and exciting opportunity to work alongside many different people, as well as network with youth and adults from across Ohio. JFB members have a variety of responsibilities throughout the Fair that may include giving show welcomes, ushering concerts, working at ODNR Park, assisting with special events, and much more. This session will help you understand the roles and responsibilities of a JFB member, as well as the qualifications and process to become a member. We hope that YOU will be inspired to be part of the Ohio State Junior Fair Board!	Fair Board	Fair Junior Members

11:30-12:30 Union E

JR FAIR Mastering the Market Sale To better under- Jenna Hoyt - Extension stand the preferences of individuals who support the junior fair youth at the Ashtabula Co. Market Animal Sale, in 2017 and 2021 the Extension Office conducted Cooksey - Extension Eda survey of 465 buyers. Information was collected to better understand their reasons for attending the sale, as well as sale logistics, and the importance of buyer recognition. This session will focus on highlighting and sharing information from the buyer survey to be used as a part of the Mastering the Market Sale Program for Jr. Fair youth to aid them in finding and better communicating with buyers. Attendees will leave with a helpful handout to assist you with inviting buyers to your livestock sale!

Educator (Ashtabula Co.) and Leslie ucator (Fairfield Co.)

11:30-12:30 Fayette

JR FAIR Lead, Listen, Learn: Growing as a Junior Fair Board Team. Junior Fair Board members will engage in a teambuilding session focused on leadership, communication, and collaboration. Through interactive Adrienne Anderson – activities, they'll strengthen group dynamics, problemsolve, and build teamwork skills to support their roles and responsibilities.

Lydia (Ulry) Thomas -**Extension Educator** (Fayette Co.) and Extension Program Assistant (Licking Co.)

11:30-12:30 Hayes

JR FAIR From Barn to Browser: Your Leadership Brand at the Fair and Beyond

Discover how to shape your leadership identity during fair week—both in person and online. Learn to build a positive personal brand, practice responsible digital citizenship, and represent your fair with confidence and integrity.

Frances Foos – Extension Educator (State 4-H Older Youth and Civic Engagement)

11:30-12:30 Taft AB

JR FAIR Cloverbud Mini Project - Getting Our Youngest Members Involved in the Fair

While older siblings may have 4-H projects at the fair, Cloverbuds don't typically have a lot to do... until now! Sloan – Extension Pro-Prepared with their "mini project book" they explore a topic and bring it to the fair to share with Royalty mem- County) and Butler bers who interview them. There are no official placings, County Fair Royalty only interactive interviews and an opportunity to put the Members mini project on display. It could be Legos or flowers from the garden! It all adds up for a beneficial practice opportunity until Cloverbuds become true 4-H age. They enjoy the experience, and Royalty members do, too!

Emily Masters – Extension Educator (Butler County), Erin Simplsongram Assistant (Butler

11:30-12:30 McKinley

JR FAIR Junior and Senior Fair Boards: Making Partnership a Priority During this session, participants will learn how building friendships and respect between Lisa McCutcheon - Exthe JFB and SFB can bring great benefits. Junior and Senior Fair Board members of the Hartford Independent (Licking County) Fair will explain the ways that they have worked together to make for a successful fair season. Through joint meetings, trainings, a bi-annual road trip and simple name games and mixers, these two boards have learned to work together so that each of them reaps rewards. If you are looking for new opportunities and are willing to make the effort to create them, this is your session.

Hartford Junior & Senior Fair Board Members & tension Educator

		Saturday January 17		
12:45-1:45	Grant	Amusement Ride Safety Discussion, Attendees can bring there questions and any concerns to this workshop).	ODA Amusement Ride Staff, David Miran, Chief ODA Fairs and Rides Division
12:45-1:4:	5 Fairfield	Facilities Management Fairs with a Race track, fairs without a race track	Zak Avers Ottawa County Fair, Allen County Fair Board Member	
12:45-1:45	UNION A B C	Employee Hiring, Management of staff and records that must be Kept How do you discipline Staff and Board Members.	Albanese,	Adam Heffron, OFMA At Large Director
12:45-1:45	Knox	Policing your contract - What should be included in your event contracts.	Jennifer Ramsey, Annie Bair	GOSA Presentation
12:45-1:45	Harrison	Requesting Funds from the State Budget. How do we put in a capital request for our fairgrounds project.	Amanda Sines, Govern- ment Ad- vantage Group	Rod Arter, OFMA Imm. Past President
12:45-1:45	Champagne	Emergency Planning and executing the plan if something goes wrong. Jason Troyer, Holmes County Emergency Management Director. We will have printed copies of our formal plan so no AV needed.		Kerry Taylor OFMA at Large Direc- tor
12:45-1:45	Morrow	JR FAIR Building Partnerships to Create an Accessible Livestock Show: You Belong Here! Start a disability-friendly, community-focused livestock show at your fair! Learn to plan, promote, and hold an inclusive event. We cover building partnerships (Extension, 4-H, Fair Board, Stakeholders) and recruiting participants and sponsors to make showing an animal accessible for all. Kara Colvin - Extension Educator (Warren County), Tracie Montague - Extension Educator (Clinton County), Laura Akgerman - Ohio AgrAbility Program and Disability Services Coordinator, Angie Allison - Extension Educator (Jefferson County), Amelia Ault - Jefferson Amelia Ault - Jefferson County 4-H Member, Kaytlyn Graver - Extension Program Assistant (Sandusky County) and Dee Jepsen - Director of Ohio AgrAbility Project		

		Saturday January 17	
12:45-1:45	Union D	JR FAIR Running The Show Session covers the who, what, when, where, and why of behind the scenes at livestock shows. Topics for success include the staffing, positions, and procedura steps.	
12:45-1:45	Union E	JR FAIR I can do that! What do you need as a Junior Fair Board Member? Do you need to know where things are if a fair-goer stops you on the midway? Are you asked to give a radio interview on a whim? How about the last-minute fair tour when another county's JFB shows up?! In this session, learn how you can help plan and prepare your peers for the extra things outside of running shows and judging events.	Leslie Cooksey - Extension Educator (Fairfield County)
12:45-1:45	Fayette	JR FAIR Swapping Dust Collectors for WOW Getters Looking to swap out the same old trophies for more exciting Jr Fair awards? Learn how to work with your fair boards, committees, and volunteers to bring a little pizzazz to your awards table. From class winners to champions, give awards that WOW at every level.	Extension Educator (Adams County), Jo Williams - Extension Educator (Scioto County), and Barb Howser, Brown County 4-H Volunteer
12:45-1:45	Hayes	JR FAIR Getting Rest to Maximize Performance Fair Week County Fair can leave us exhausted and negative. Sleep is not the only type of rest that we need to recharge our batteries, come learn tips for getting all 7 types of rest needed for top performance.	tension Educator
12:45-1:45	McKinley	JR FAIR Difficult People: Should I Run or Meet the Challenge? Participants will learn a practical approach to understanding, preparing for and dealing with exhibitors, parents, observers, volunteers and other people who pose difficult situations for the Junior Fair. Session will include role-playing and discussion of various Junior Fair program situations.	Judy Villard Overocker - Extension Educator (Richland County)
12:45-1:45	Taft AB	JR FAIR Roundtable Round Up! Using Roundtable Leadership Theory, Butler County Junior Fair Board members will facilitate roundtable discussions with other JFB members from various counties. Each table will offer insights and solutions to common challenges. Topics and questions to answer include: fundraising (how and how much?); do members do anything prior to fair for team building; do members help other departments (outside of their own) during fair; how does the JFB office run (or if there isn't an office, how does the group organize?); how do different departments collaborate; how do members recruit; how do members work with adult advisors? Come ready to learn and share!	members
12:45-1:45	Garfield	JR FAIR Let's Talk All Things Fair Royalty From expectations to attire, we want to share Jr. Fair Royalty experiences and everything it involves. We want to hear from you as well! Through group discussion, let's brainstorm about engaging Royalty into county programs, building up courts, and any challenges your counties have overcome.	Allison Cooper – Extension Educator (Crawford County), Leah Hartschuh, Levi Hartschuh and Brianna Farns- worth

		Saturday January 17		
2pm - 4pm	Taft CD Rounds	Wine, Bingo and a Trail Bologna Fling, Prizes and Two glass of Wine with each ticket 100 tickets available \$50 per ticket, includes Bingo Sheets, Dobers Must have a 2026 OFMA Registration Badge		Dan Bullen Chairman
2:00-3:00	Harding	Off Season Grounds Rentals and What Can the Fairboard do to promote their own off fair events.	Pickaway Co. Fair, Summit Co. Fair, Medina County Fair	Doug Marine, OFMA District 4 Director
2:00-3:00	UNION A B C Moved from Friday	Is it easier to Do it yourself?? Or Delegate Power Point		Deb Hukill OFMA Dis- trict 8 Direc- tor
2:00-3:00	Madison	How do we Integrate New Board members and officers in with the OLD GANG?	Speaker Needed	Heath Ward OFMA Dis- trict 7 Direc- tor
2:00-3:00	Fairfield	#12 Best Practices Fair/Society Treasure/Secretary Topic: Annual Reports, getting it together, meeting deadlines and importance of getting it done. Spon- sored by: M. W. Beverage Inc. Perry, Ohio	David Miran, ODA	Roger Smith OFMA Dis- trict 6 Direc- tor
2:00-3:00	Knox	Fair & Concession Communications – How fairs and concessionaires can communicate more effectively		GOSA Presentation
2:00-3:00	Marion	Handling the new Marijuana Laws on your fairgrounds Hemp vs Cannabis Amanda Sines Government Advantage		Bob Dawson, OFMA Treasurer
2:00-3:00	Morrow	JR FAIR You've Won the Crown & SashNow What? Congratulations! You have been named to your county Junior Fair Extension Ed-Royalty. Now what? From shows, to luncheons, to county fair vis-ucator its, attend this session to learn about the responsibilities of serving (Pickaway in a Royalty or Ambassador role. County Royalty Coordinators County) are also invited to learn what they should be sharing with new royalty as they represent their fair.		
2:00-3:00	Union D	JR FAIR Your Digital Footprint Your digital footprint shapes your future. Though not altrollable, it reflects your public image. Use it to highligh strengths, values, and professionalism, turning your onlinence into a powerful tool for personal and future success	ways con- t ne pres-	Andrea Rees - Extension Ed- ucator (Knox County)
2:00-3:00	Union E	JR FAIR It's Show Time! "Now entering the ring, Mar Class 1." It's time for the show to begin and you are ask up to the microphone. Are you ready? Learn more about develop skills to enhance your public speaking and recorskills to be an effective youth member of your Show Co that adults can trust and depend upon to get the job done how to effectively coach your peers to enrich their public ing experiences while understanding the process for ann Junior Fair Show.	ed to step you can rdkeeping mmittee e. Learn c speak-	Cooksey - Ex- tension Educa-

2:00-3:00	FAYETTE	JR FAIR Divide and Conquer: Sharing the Workload Fair is a monumental task that runs much smoother when we know the expectations, play to our strengths, and share the workload. Learn how our Junior Fair Board members divide duties, work within committees, and willingly take on responsibilities.	County) & Adams County Junior Fair
2:00-3:00	HARRISON	JR FAIR Beyond the Ring: Special Events That Build Community at Your Fair Fairs are more than ribbons and shows — they're about people, stories, and connections. This session will showcase the value of special events that engage your broader community: from Adult Showman of Showmen to Pee Wee Showmanship, to inclusive shows like Breaking Boundaries for youth with disabilities.	Lindsey Gallik – Morrow County Junior Fair Coordinator and Ashley Huffine – Extension Educator (Morrow County)
2:00-3:00	TAFT AB	JR FAIR Implementing Fun STEM Activities at Your Fair Join us to learn how to add interactive, inexpensive, and fun STEM activities at your fair. These activities can be led by teens or adults and allow junior fair participants and the general public to participate.	Jo Williams – Extension Educator (Scioto County)
2:00:3:00	MCKINLEY	JR FAIR Prince & Princess for a Day Program Come learn about giving 4-H Cloverbuds the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a royalty member and shadow their role models. Our goal is to give them a way to flourish as future leaders and 4-H members, much like the Pee Wee showmanship classes!	Morgan (McCutcheon) Lanning – Hartford Royalty Coordinator and Hartford Junior Fair Board Members
2:00:3:00	BALLROOM FOYER***	JR FAIR Get Up, Get Moving, Get to Know Others! Looking for a chance to get up, move around and meet Junior Fair Board members from other counties? This is your chance! Hartford Junior Fair Board members will share a few of their favorite mixers and name games for you to enjoy and then take them back to use in your county! We look forward to meeting you!	Board Members & Adrienne Anderson – Extension Program As-
2:30 AM		Keg Beer, and snacks Attendee must have 2026 OFMA Convention Name Tag to be served Servers reserve the right to verify legal age for alcoholic service Sponsored by: The Cincinnati Circus Company ,	:
3:15-4:30	Knox	Save Ohio Fairs – How carnivals, concession companies and fairs can work together to solve the labor issue.	Nick Blois GOSA Jr, Presentation McGinnis Amuse- ments
3:15-4:30	Madison	Car Shows ORC Rules forms 4445 form 4446	Mike Roger Smith, Buchholz, OFMA Dis- Director trict 6 Direc- Wayne tor County Fair

		Saturday bandary 17		
3:15-4:30	Harding	Code of Conduct Forms, process, Policy development	Scott Hunter Risk Man- agement Canfield Fair	Paul Lease 2nd VP OF- MA
3:15-4:30	Fairfield	Dealing with conflicts and grievances at the county fair	ers, OF-	OFMA District 5 Direction
3:15-4:30	UNION A B C	New Fair Treasurers 3 years or less, Lets share and learn	Campbell	Bev Fisher Director of Education CFE
3:15-4:30	Garfield	Enticing Fair Volunteers today and the benefits, it's not 1980 now	Buxton,	Robert Bux- ton, OFMA Past President
3:15-4:30	Morrow	Convention Wrap-Up OFMA Ex team & Program Chair		
6:00 PM	Doors open 6pm auction registra- tion, preview	Dual reverse Raffle, Auction Review, Registration Dual reverse Raffle, Auction and more with DJ John Hobdy For Music and Dancing PLUS the Ole Photo Booth to capture those great Pics \$200 reserved tables \$5,000 drawing on the table RESERVED Extravaganza Sponsored by: Variety Attractions, Snacks Sponsored by Bated Brothers Amusements Audio/ Video Production by: Above Sound and		

Audio/ Video Production by: Above Sound and Lighting Plain City, Ohio 614-991-0676
Auction to include: 4 OSU Football tickets, Columbus Blue Jackets Suite 12 seats & food, Clippers tickets 4 seats, 4 Crew tickets



Sunday January 17

TIME: ROOM: TOPIC:

8:00-10:00 Nationwide OFMA-ODA Office

Rooms

8:00-10:00 Nationwide Convention Registration

Rooms 1st floor Sponsored by Fair Publishing Company

8-8:45 Delaware A-D Church Services Ralph Thomas

Hospitality Sponsored by: Otterbacher Concessions Eichel- Stocksdale

Hospitality Sponsored by: Otterbacher Concessions Eichel-The Praise Team from Ripley Church of Christ. Collec-berger,

tion for the Stephanie Spielman cancer research founda- Ashland tion.

County

Jail Inmate Chaplin..

9:00-10:15 Ballroom Ohio Fairs Hall of Fame And Communications Awards

Breakfast

Hall of Fame Awards Sponsored by Durant Amuse-

Communication Awards Sponsored by Nutrien Ag Solu-

tions

Delaware A-D Annual Meeting, **Sponsored by: Prowant Specialties**

Food Service



This 2026 Convention will feature:

More than 130 presenters

168 room setups

Over 3500 Name badges produced

OFMA office staff of 8

Over 1400 meals served

Expecting 145 Tradeshow Exhibitors

Expecting 3800 room nights in 6 hotels

A lot of fun, networking and more



Doug Marine

Awards com-

Chairman

mittee