



NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS

Newsletter

July

2012

Several honored at convention

Several individuals and the entire staff and board of the North Dakota State Fair were recognized at the 2011 Dakota Fairs and Celebrations Convention in Rapid City.

Fair/Event Person of the Year-This individual was selected from the District Fair/Event Person of the Year winners on a ballot of the board members of the North Dakota Association of Fairs. The 2011 Fair/Event Person of the Year was Keith Egg! from the Greater Grand Forks Fair.



District I director Mark Landa (left) presents Keith Egg! with the Fair/Event Person of the Year Award at the 2011 convention in Rapid City.

North Dakota State Fair and Staff -The board of the NDAF felt special recognition needed to be paid to the staff and board of directors of the North Dakota State Fair after their gallant effort in fighting the flood waters that devastated much of Minot and left at as much as 10 feet of water covering the fairgrounds in some places.

The board and staff at first tried to put together a condensed version of the fair, but continued rainfall in the Minot area soon washed those plans away.

Even though the fair for 2011 was canceled, the staff worked around the clock to keep the flood waters out of the two most important buildings-the State Fair Center and the Grandstand that was first used in 2010.

Everyone is looking forward to a great State Fair in 2012!

Associate of the Year-Tim Kohlmeyer of Theatrical Media Services (TMS) was named Associate of the Year for the many years of dedicated service he has provided to the fairs and events in North Dakota and to the North & South Dakota Associations.



Tim Kohlmeyer (left) accepts the Associate of the Year Award from outgoing NDAF President Dean Clott at the Dakota Fairs and Celebrations Convention in Rapid City.



From the President's Desk

I hope everyone enjoyed the extra mild winter, or was it a very early spring? Anyway, summer is here and fair and event time again.

I've attended the IAFE convention in Las Vegas as well as the Zone IV experience in Wausau, WI since our last state convention. There are a multitude of new ideas and procedures out there to make your event more exciting and probably easier to accomplish.

In the planning of our next convention that will be in Bismarck in November, some of these new ideas and procedures will be discussed whether it be in a presentation or a topic for a round table.

I urge you to talk with your board members to encourage them to attend our convention in November. By attending, you will network with other board members from other events or associates for many different venues. The networking usually helps you understand issues that you are experiencing with your event and also may enable you to try something new for your event. Other events have tried things, some work and some don't; use their experience to help you decide if you should try something different.

The other advantage of having your board members at the convention, it allows your event to book entertainment at the convention. This lets your event have your schedule of events prepared a lot earlier and my help to avoid juggling dates with entertainment or entertainment agencies. Our entertainment associates attend the convention to show you what they have to offer, but more importantly, to book dates for your event. Please consider doing more of your scheduling of entertainment during our convention in Bismarck.

Best wishes for all of you in your upcoming events and I'll see you at the convention!

NDAF Board Members

- ✚ Ron Rasmussen, President
District III-Ellendale
- ✚ Diane Schell, President Elect
District VII-Underwood
- ✚ Mark Landa
District I-Grand Forks
- ✚ Bryan Schulz
District II-West Fargo
- ✚ Frank Hockridge
District IV-Fessenden
- ✚ Kent Warren
District V-Jamestown
- ✚ Craig Rudland
District VI-Minot
- ✚ Ron Bingeman
District VIII-Williston
- ✚ Alicia Redich
District IX-Mott
- ✚ Dean Clott
Associate-Minot
- ✚ Corey Heiser
Associate-Fargo
- ✚ Dale Hildebrant, Sec.-Treas.
Valley City

District Fair/Event Persons of the Year

District I –Keith Ettl, Greater Grand Forks Fair

District II-Tom Nix, North Dakota Winter Show

District III-Wendy Bobbe-Dickey County Fair

District IV-Rodney Brown-Ramsey County Fair

District VII-Ed & Dellora Schmidt-McLean County Fair

District IX-Suzie Reuther-Adams County Fair

Fair Tales

From the Secretary



It's hard to believe we are already right in the middle of the fair season! Time certainly has a way of flying by.

With that in mind-it's not too soon to start planning for the year's Dakota Fairs and Celebrations Convention, which will be held in Bismarck at the Ramkota Hotel on Nov. 15-17. Your board of directors has spent many hours already planning for this event, and we will be meeting once again in Minot, during the State Fair, for another planning session.

Speaking of the State Fair, I hope all of you get a chance to attend the State Fair this year. Their comeback from last year's devastating is nothing short of a miracle. The efforts put forth by manager Renae Korslien and her staff to get the fair back up and running are appreciated by all in the state. Look for Renae's article in this issue of the newsletter for a preview of what's happening at this year's State Fair.

As you have your event this year, please look for an individual or two who went beyond the call of duty in their efforts. And then remember to nominate them for your district's Fair/Event Person of the Year Award. We would like to see each district have a Person of the Year and they will be honored at the convention this fall. But, more importantly, it's from those district winners that the overall Fair/Event Person of the Year Award is selected. Every fair or event has someone in their organization that puts all of their effort into making it a success and we want to hear those success stories!

Also, remember to take lots of photos during your event and enter them in the annual photo contest. More information will be sent out on that closer to convention time.

Finally, we have had a couple of fairs that already requested a visitation under our Fair Visitation Program. If you are interested in this helpful program that provided at no cost to our member fairs, please contact me at least two weeks before your event so we can line up a two-person visitation team to call on your fair.

If I don't see you at your event this summer-I hope to see you at the convention in November!

Business from the last annual meeting

Three new board members were elected to the North Dakota Association of Fairs Board of Directors during elections at last November's annual meeting. They included two new members representing fair and events and one new representative from our Associate members.

District III-Ron Rasmussen, the Dickey County Fair, was re-elected to another three-year term.

District VI-Craig Rudland from the N.D. State Fair took Bette Ferguson place on the board.

District IX-Alicia Redich from Mott was elected to replace Wade Blend.

Associates Representative-Corey Heiser from Games Galore was elected to take Brian Carlson's place during the Associates annual meeting at the convention.

Term limits remain in place-Although several By-Law items were amended at the annual meeting, the delegates turned down a proposal to eliminate term limits for District Representatives. A limit of two consecutive three-year terms still remains in place.

Fair Spirit Photo Winner



The winning Fair Spirit photo for the 2011 Photo Contest was submitted by the Red River Valley Fair, and received a \$50 prize for first place.

The Ransom County Fair placed second and the North Dakota State Fair third in the Fair Spirit Division.

In the Best Use of Color category, the Morton County Fair placed first and is awarded a free membership next year for their efforts. Second place in this division went to the Mercer County Fair and the third place winner was the N.D. State Fair.

Important dates to remember

Nov. 7-10 Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs Convention-Boise, ID

Nov. 15-17 Dakota Fairs & Celebrations-Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck

Nov. 25-29 IAFE Convention & Tradeshow-Paris Hotel in Las Vegas

March 25-27 Zone IV Meeting-Ramada Inn in Rochester, MN.



ND State Fair is back...and ready for action!

From July 20 through the 28, Minot will be ready for action with the North Dakota State Fair. The Fair is anxiously awaiting the arrival of all those smiling 4-H and FFA folks who have been working so hard on each of their exhibits, according to manager Renae Korslien.

The buildings have all been cleaned and restored and we are just waiting for the arrival of all the 2012 guests. We will feature rides for all ages, the fair food everyone loves to indulge in and free entertainment that will appeal to any guest.

One of the biggest draws, however, is the grandstand lineup, which includes Kid Rock, Zac Brown Band, Luke Bryan, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Chris Young, Blake Shelton and Foreigner. Other grandstand entertainment includes an Enduro Race and IMCA Modified and Stock Car races. Four nights of rodeo action take place in the All Seasons arena-two filled with bull riding and two featuring ranch rodeo action.

Plus there will be over 600 commercial displays, free stage shows and other exciting and fun action! More information is available on the website: www.ndstatefair.com.

