

**Arkansas Fair Managers Association
Newsletter
April 2024**

**AFMA ---Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue
2025 Convention Dates: January 15-18, 2025
Hot Springs Convention Center**

Plans are well underway for the 2025 AFMA Convention. We want to share some of the details with you as President or Fair Manager of your fair. Please advise fairboard members that the newsletter will be posted on our website: www.arkansasfairmanagers.com

We need everyone to start making plans to attend. We will be at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The Hotel Hot Springs and Embassy Suites will be blocking off rooms for the AFMA delegates. We do suggest that you get your rooms early prior to cut off date in December. **REMEMBER this year all registration will be done online. You can find the registration form on the AFMA website. We will activate in November.**

WE ARE OPEN FOR SUGGESTIONS. If you have suggestions for seminars or convention activities, please contact a member of the AFMA Board prior to the June 1, 2024 meeting. We hope to finalize our plans, keeping our website updated with convention details. It is our goal to promote and support Arkansas fairs, to provide AFMA members with beneficial information, and to hold an annual educationally-oriented convention and special meetings.

We want to encourage each fairboard to consider that deserving person who is worthy of getting an award. You can check our website for the guidelines and qualifications for the **Hall of Fame Award, Charles Smith Memorial Award, Mary Louise Fiser Family Award, Lloyd Dunaway Award, and the Work Horse Award.** We ask that nominations be received by October 15, 2024.

Our “**Scholarship Quilt**” has been a huge success. We are once again asking each fair to provide a 10x10 quilt block. The only requirements other than size is that it be on quilting fabric (not thick) with no embellishments such as beads, sequins, etc. We are also asking that you provide us with a t-shirt with your fair logo. We hope to have a second quilt made from t-shirts to auction off. **Deadline for the quilt block and t-shirt is September 1, 2024.** Please forward the quilt blocks and t-shirts to Carolyn Wynn, 10757 St Hwy 54E, Star City AR 71667. We hope all seventy-four (74) counties, districts and state will participate.

The Display of Fairs has become a very popular activity at the convention. Sharing of ideas is great, especially when you have a visual to look at. Start now, getting your ideas together using the theme of **AFMA----Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue.** We are already making plans to increase the number of tables required to set up the displays. Also, don't forget that each fair participating will be in a drawing for \$50. There will be three (3) lucky fairs. The favorite display, which will be voted on by the delegates, will receive the “traveling” plaque for one year.

The tradeshow committee is working hard to have a great tradeshow. The weather was a hindrance last year causing some to have to stay home due to snow in the forecast. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in having booth space please let us know. The booth space is 10x10 with a table, two chairs and signage. Each booth space will be responsible for their own electricity with the convention center. The booth will cost \$150, not requiring you to be an associate member. For those who wish to be an associate member, dues are an additional \$100. Associate members will be listed in the convention directory.

Registration will remain at \$45 per delegate. \$50 is late registration after December 15, 2024. Youth 18 and under will remain at \$10, Associate membership is \$100. Remember, registration will be online with the capability of paying by debit or credit cards. We will activate in November. The banquet tickets will also remain at \$45. **YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A REGISTRATION FORM IN THE MAIL.**

AFMA Youth Ambassadors Program is accepting applications from individuals who wish to be a part of the program. Youth 12-18 years old, demonstrating good communication, leadership, and organization skills. Must complete application which can be found on the AFMA website: www.arkansasfairmanagers.com. If you have additional questions concerning the program please contact Ms Lacie Beason at laciebeason@gmail.com.

AFMA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Door Prize Committee

Andrea Vogt, John Swallow, Larry Jones

Hello, Arkansas Fairs!! We are moving right along with plans for our 2025 AFMA Convention and I can't wait to see all of you there! The committee in charge of door prizes is exploring a lot of options to bring more door prizes and better door prizes to the seminars. I want you to know that we welcome your feedback about the seminars and door prizes! We are asking that, if possible, you bring some selections for door prizes that we can use. We are looking forward to this coming years seminars and having all of you with us again!

Scholarship Committee

Haley-Beth Skelton, Larry Jones, Mike Bradshaw, Muggs Broomfield
James Johnson, Scharidi Barber

Hey y'all!! I hope everyone is doing well and getting ready to kick off the 2024 Fair Season! I wanted to take the time to talk about the scholarship program with everyone! I am so excited to be your chairman this year for the scholarship committee. My family and I have been involved with the AFMA Scholarship program for as long as I can remember, and I am truly honored to be able to head up the committee this year. We, as an organization are so blessed to have the ability to put on a scholarship auction each year to provide scholarship dollars across the state to some really deserving kiddos! We always hope to hit that \$10,000 goal each year, this year is no different! As you start preparing for your fair and the convention in 2025, keep in mind we need

your help to make that happen. I look forward to seeing y'all soon and please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything at all.

I am sure everyone is wanting to know who the 2024/2025 recipients are. The applications were judged at our March 2024 meeting. The recipients will be announced at their graduation ceremonies by an AFMA director living in that area. Once everyone has been contacted, we will post the recipients on our AFMA website.

Nomination Committee

Terry Johnson, Scharidi Barber, Carolyn Wynn

There will be two (2) AFMA Directors up for re-election in 2025. Larry Jones is completing a five year term but can be re-elected to another five year term. Terry Johnson has completed a five year term which was vacated by Don Yarbrough but can be re-elected to another five year term. Anyone interested in becoming an AFMA Board Director needs to submit a resume prior to the deadline of October 15, 2024. You must be a current voting board member in good standing with your fair. You will also need a letter of recommendation from your current fair board.

Seminars Committee

Scharidi Barber, Lacie Beason, Trent Taylor, James Johnson

AFMA Convention Seminars , we want to hear from you!!! What topics would you like to see covered? We are here to serve our county fairs and we want to hear from **YOU!!!** Please contact one of the committee members prior to our June 1, 2024 meeting.

The 2024 Fair Season has begun. Four States Fair in Texarkana is from April 5-14, 2024. The first county fair will be Independence County Fair June 3-6, 2024. We wish you all good weather, lots of entries and exhibitors. Remember, **YOU**, are the success of the fair. Get a visitation card and visit as many fairs as possible. Enjoy!!

AFMA Purpose

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AFMA members with beneficial information, and to hold
An annual educationally-oriented convention
And special meetings.**