

**Arkansas Fair Managers Association
Opening Session
Friday, January 17, 2025
Minutes**

The Opening Session was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by 2024 AFMA President, Lacie Beason. AFMA Board members who were present were James Johnson, Debbie Wells, Kim Maple, Andrea Vogt, Larry Jones, Scharidi Barber, Trent Taylor, Hayley Skelton, Terry Johnson, Karen Baker, John Swallow and Carolyn Wynn, AFMA Executive Secretary.

Steve Arrison, CEO of Hot Springs Convention Visitors Bureau, welcomed the delegates to the 77th Annual Arkansas Fair Managers Association Convention. There were approximately 750 registered delegates to attend the meeting.

Invocation was given by Bailey Skelton, a 2025 Youth Ambassador.

Under the assistance of Director Emeritus Steve Jernigan, Ellie Johnson and Saylor Turner presented the flags. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Torie Beason and the National Anthem was sang by Lilly Burns.

President Lacie Beason thanked the delegates for taking time out of their schedule to attend the 77th Annual AFMA Convention.

There were no state officials to be introduced.

Motion made to approve and accept the adoption of Session One, Session Two, and Session Three. Motion carried.

President Beason introduced the AFMA Board.

The Early Bird Reception Committee was commended on a night of fun enjoyed by all who attended. Bingo was a big success. The Youth Ambassadors were a great asset to the committee. assisting with the dance which followed.

Associate Director Debbie Wells introduced those Associate members who were in attendance:

Johnson's Rides and Concessions	Kenny's Funland
Wells Fun Company	JR Rogers with All Star Music

A special “thanks” to all the convention sponsors: Tyson, Arkansas State Fair, Relyance Bank, Larry and Shirley Broomfield, Johnson's Rides and Concessions, Evans United Shows, Kenny's Funland, Miller Spectacular Shows. Pride Amusements, Southwest District Fair, The Fair Publishing House, Thomas Carnival, Inc., Wells Fun Company, Mitchell Amusements, Sonshine Amusements, and Rick Edwards.

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Hot Springs Convention Center

John Swallow gave report on the 50/50 drawing on Thursday night. Misti Eudy was the winner of \$138.

A reminder was given to visit the tradeshow booths. There were actually thirty booths (30) of which a couple did not show due to illness. The delegates were encouraged to visit all the booths to be in a drawing on Friday and on Saturday for \$250 each day. Miller Spectacular Shows sponsored the give-a-way.

A special "thank you" to Ms Suzi Hall and Ms Sue Miller for making the two quilts located in the AFMA booth in the tradeshow area. Ms Suzi Hall made the quilt out of the blocks the fairs provided. Ms Sue Miller made the t-shirt quilt. Both are beautiful and to be admired.

The delegates were given the opportunity to recognize fairboard members who had passed away during the last year. Ms Pam Casper of PBJ Happee Day Shows, a long time associate member was among those passing this year.

Scharidi Barber encouraged the delegates to participate in the Display of Fairs. At this time there are twenty-two (22) Displays. A People's Choice plaque will be presented. The plaque will be returned to pass on to next year's People's Choice winner.

Roll call was given by Carolyn Wynn, AFMA Executive Secretary. There was a quorum present.

President Beason asked for the reading of the minutes. Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as presented in packets. Motion carried.

President Beason asked for the financial statement to be presented. Motion made and seconded to accept as presented in packets. Motion carried.

Terry Johnson, chairman of the nominating committee reported that there were not any resumes received. Two board members, Terry Johnson, who is not running for a second term and Larry Jones who is up for a second term. Nominations to be taken from the floor. Anyone nominated must be an active voting member and maintain member status with local fair. Each person will need a letter of good standing from their fair.

Those nominated from the floor were Larry Jones, Montgomery County and Richard VanVoast, Sevier County. Motion made to cease nominations. Motion carried.

A few reminders were given by President Beason. She asked the delegates to remember to vote on the decorated tables and Display of Fairs for People's Choice, one vote per delegate. Visit the tradeshow for a chance to win \$250 on Friday and \$250 on Saturday. Michael Mayo to have showcase at 3:30 p.m.

Motion made to recess Session One.

AFMA Purpose
To promote and support Arkansas fairs, to provide
AFMA members with beneficial information, and to hold
An annual educationally-oriented convention

**And special meeting.
Arkansas Fair Managers Association
Session Two
January 18, 2025
Minutes**

Session Two was called to order by 2024 AFMA President, Lacie Beason at 1:30 p.m. AFMA Board Members present were: Lacie Beason, James Johnson, Larry Jones, Trent Taylor, Karen Baker, Scharidi Barber, Hayley Skelton, Andrea Vogt, Terry Johnson, John Swallow, Debbie Wells, Kim Maple, and Carolyn Wynn.

Invocation was given by Don Jones.

President Beason introduced the AFMA Board. There were no state legislators present to introduce.

President Beason welcomed the delegates to the 77th Annual AFMA Convention. There were Approximately 750 registered delegates.

The current 2024 Arkansas State Fair Queens were introduced.

SR Ms Arkansas State Fair Queen	Karen Baker
Ms Arkansas State Fair Queen	Arteja Stamps
Miss Arkansas State Fair Queen	Emerson Greene
Jr. Miss Arkansas State Fair Queen	Lily Burns
Elite Miss Arkansas State Fair Queen	Ashley Walls
Arkansas State Fair Rodeo Queen	Reba Rhudy
Arkansas State Fair Junior Rodeo Queen	Margo Ables

Associate Director Debbie Wells reported that Carnival Night was well attended. \$521 was raised toward the Associate Scholarship Fund.

We always want to thank our sponsors who we have a tendency to forget. Convention sponsors were: Tyson Foods, Arkansas State Fair, Relyance Bank, Larry and Shirley Broomfield, Johnson Rides and Concessions, Pride Amusements, Southwest District Fair, The Fair Publishing House, Wells Fun Company, Arkansas Federal Surplus, Horatio State Bank, Pilgrim's Pride, Thomas Carnival, Miller Spectacular Shows, Mitchell Amusements, Evans United, and Rick Edwards.

Scharidi Barber reported twenty-one (21) Display of Fairs. The People's Choice Award went to White County who will receive the traveling trophy to be brought back next year. The drawing for \$50 went to Randolph, Miller, and Sharp Counties.

The Table Display People's Choice was Fulton County table #9.

John Swallow had 50/50 drawing for \$489. The lucky winner was Taylor Krost of Dallas County.

Carolyn Wynn, Executive Secretary, gave the roll call. There were seventy-three (73) counties represented. Chicot, South Franklin and Johnson were not present for roll call. White County won the Travel Trophy with 26 delegates present at roll call.

President Beason asked that the minutes be accepted as presented in the packet. Motion made by Barbie Washburn and seconded by Carl West.

President Beason introduced the two candidates for the AFMA Board. Larry Jones, Montgomery County and Richard VanVoast of Sevier County. Both were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. Motion made by Barbie Washburn, seconded by Hayley Skelton to accept as the 2025 AFMA Board members. Motion carried.

Hayley Skelton gave the Scholarship Report. She reported a good auction; thanking Nick Fowler, auctioneer, for his time and dedication to the AFMA Scholarship Program \$12,271 was raised with the Live and Silent Auctions. A memorial to the scholarship fund will be given by the AFMA Board in memory of Nick's father, David Fowler who had just passed away.

Lauren Koch, a 2024 AFMA Scholarship recipient was introduced and given the opportunity to "thank" the scholarship committee for her scholarship received.

The Youth Ambassadors were introduced: Bailey Skelton, Torie Beason, Saylor Turner, Ellie Johnson, Regan Frazier. They were an integral part of the convention, used as needed.

Scharidi Barber, on behalf of the AFMA Board, presented President Beason a plaque for her year as president of the AFMA Board, dedication and service.

We were entertained by Finley Watkins, an Elvis impersonator. He did get the attention of the audience. At age 16 he was a "class act". He can be booked by getting in touch with JR Rogers, his promoter

OLD BUSINESS

The By-Laws change was the only business to take care of. A motion made by Larry Broomfield and seconded by Suzi Hall to accept new by-laws that were mailed to all fairs. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

President Beason welcomed Larry Jones as board member for another five year term and Richard VanVoast as new board member with a five year term.

The AFMA Board announced at the Opening Session that they had purchased a 65" TV to be given away at the end of Session Two Business Meeting. The purpose was to keep the delegates from leaving after roll call since you had to be present to win. The winning ticket was Ms Shirley Broomfield from Southwest District Fair.

Carroll County had also donated a 22 Ruger Gun. Beth Wishard was the proud winner
We want to thank Carroll County for the donation.

With no other business to take care of, motion made to recess at 2:45 p.m.
Third Session, Annual Awards Banquet to take place at 6:00 p.m.

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