

**Richland County Agricultural Society
Board of Directors Meeting
February 25, 2025**

Meeting was called to order by President Christy Keith at 7:03 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag was repeated by all present

Roll Call was taken.

Staff Present: Shirley Swihart and Becca Gregg

Guest present: Pam Young, Donald Karger, Deb Boyce, John Gray, Jen Rodman, Heath Hershner and Khoe Nguyen.

The regular agenda order was suspended to allow two guests to address the Board.

- Khoi Hguyen a young man with Akron University would like to have a concession trailer at the 2025 Fair. He brought in samples for some to try. They are all organic drinks.
- Donald Karger with the Johnny Appleseed Square Dance Club shared with the Board that the club has added line dancing to their repertoire for an additional \$50.00. The total they would charge would be \$400.00. They are scheduled to perform on Thursday evening in the Red Barn. **Gene Esbenshade made the motion to pay them \$400.00 and have them include the line dancing. Remington Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Secretary's Report: Bill McFarland made the motion to accept the Secretary's report as submitted. Remington Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Shirley Swihart sent out the report via email. **Zac Tuttle made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for future audit. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

Events Coordinator Report:

- Becca Gregg shared that she will need help getting walk gates out for the Home Show. They are under the grandstand.
- March 29th is the first livestock event. It will be a pig auction. They will need at least 50 pens. Bill McFarland asked Dave Grauer to coordinate with him prior to setting them up.
- The Civil War weekend is the first weekend in May. Both cafeterias will be open on Saturday and Sunday. The Youth Hall Cafeteria will be open on Friday late afternoon.
- Christy Keith shared Becca's resignation effective March 16th. **Bill McFarland made the motion to accept Becca's resignation. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- Christy Keith stated that we will have a booth at the Chamber of Commerce Business After-Hours/Business Expo. She and Kathi Mills will cover the booth.
- Christy Keith brought up that the Auxiliary members would like to get the same discounts on renting the buildings as the Board Members do. **Dave Grauer made the motion to extend the rental discounts to Auxiliary Members. Matt Janisch seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

T-Shirt: Nothing at this time.

Budget: Nothing at this time

Livestock: Nothing at this time.

Nature Park:

- Gene Esbenshade reported that the entertainment is pretty well booked. There are still openings on Friday and Saturday nights, but he is working on those.
- We have received the signed contracts from the Christian Artists for the Tuesday night concert.
- The committee is looking at stages from various companies.

Campgrounds:

- Remington Blevins reported that there are still some who have not paid.

Racetrack:

- Dale Bemiller reported that he is still waiting for confirmation of the sponsor for the Wiener Dog race. But it does look promising.

Fair Book:

- Pam Young shared that responses and changes are starting to come into her. If anyone has any changes they need to get them into her as soon as possible. She also asked that if there are no changes to share that with her so she can proceed with the book.
- She would also like to buy some rubber strips to go on the bottom edge of the cabinets in the Arts & Crafts building. These cabinets are looking really bad. She thinks \$600.00 would take care of this. Dave Grauer said that these cases are getting extremely fragile and asked that everyone keep their ears and eyes open for gently used cases so the ones we have can be replaced for better ones. Shirley Swihart said that she has one in the top of her barn that we can have if someone comes after it. It was also stated there are a couple in the Christmas Storage area. It was suggested that we talk to Mark Cook at the March meeting.
- Pam also shared that, as in Fairhaven Hall, everything is going to be Red, White & Blue in celebration of our 175th Anniversary.

Golf Carts: Nothing to report

Junior Fair Board (JFB):

- Judy Villard-Overocker reported that they will resume regular meetings in March

By-laws: Nothing to report

Sponsorships:

- Christy Keith announced that Bill McFarland and she are working on a new sponsorship packet.
- Dave Grauer said that it is never too early to ask for donations.
- Christy asked everyone to let the committee know if anyone has any businesses they are going to personally contact or if there is a business that the committee could contact for sponsorship.

Admissions: Nothing at this time

Elections: Nothing at this time

Grandstands: Nothing at this time

Parking: Nothing at this time

Antiques: Nothing at this time

Concessions:

- Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that all contracts for the 2025 Fair have been mailed to the outdoor concessions, straight sales and Fairhaven Hall vendors.
- She has received some interest from several food vendors and a few for Fairhaven Hall. The committee will continue to review them as they come in to see if we can add them to our fair.

Equine:

- Marla Reynolds reported that there were 2 changes in their by-laws that they presented in November. 1.) Their meetings will start at 7:15 P.M. And 2.) They changed article #4 to get show bills approved and out earlier. **Remington Blevins made the motion to accept the changes to their by-laws. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- The 4-H Horse Committee would like to have a Youth Camp June 25 & 26. The youth will learn how to clean stalls, teach equine knowledge and several other things dealing with horses. They would like to sleep in the John Hartz building. Christy told them they would not be able to sleep in any of the barns as they are not rated for sleeping. Matt Janisch wanted to know if the Board would waive the camping fee. It was suggested that Marie Leidy from the equine Council attend the March Board meeting and explain the camp in detail.

Raffles:

- Christy distributed a sign-up sheet for the various volunteer spots needing coverage.
- We will set up all of the side raffles and the stage on Thursday evening. Friday night we will set up tables and chairs at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, volunteers are asked to come at 2 p.m. if at all possible to finish setting up.
- As of this moment, there will be NO tickets sold at the door.
- If anyone has ANY tickets please get them to Christy as there are some board members who need them.
- A discussion on the side raffles was held, looking at different ways people can pay for the tickets. Final decisions will be shared on Saturday.
- There will be background music. However, it needs to be subtle so people can visit with their friends without yelling.
- We are going to count the number of tickets for each side raffle to see which ones brought in the most.

Social Media: nothing to report

Safety:

- Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that Dustin Moysi is going to work with her on putting together the comprehensive emergency action plan for the fairgrounds overall, not just at fair time. They have 3 examples to work with as they write ours. She asked that anyone else who might be interested, let her know.

Infield:

- Bill McFarland has been working on the tractor pull. Both pulls will end up about the same time. The contract has been signed so we are ready to go.
- John Gray addressed the Board with information about the Demolition Derby. He said that they dropped 2 classes. Following is the breakdown of the \$12,000.00 fee. \$8,000.00 purse; \$2,000.00 for John; \$1,000.00 for his workers and \$1,000.00 for insurance. John shared several different classes they are planning to do. They are going to bring back the Youth on power wheels. They want to stay on Saturday night. If they moved to Friday night, it would have to be moved to a starting time of 7 p.m.

Grandstand/Grounds: nothing at this time

Entertainment: nothing at this time

Winter Storage:

- Bill reminded everyone that take out day is Saturday, April 12, 2025, and we will need as many helpers as possible.

Shower Arena: nothing at this time.

LS Judges Selection:

- Jim Schaub reported that as of tonight, all sheep judges names are in.

Kitchen Auxiliary:

- Gene Esbenshade reported that we will need a lot of help with some of the multiple day events being held this year.

Grounds:

- Dave Grauer thanked everyone who volunteered to help plow and Remington who came out and put salt down so driving and walking would be safer.
- They did find a water leak close to the sheep barn wash area. Dave was able to get it shut off. There are 2 other hydrants leaking.
- There are somethings around the grounds that need repaired.

Landscaping:

- FFA members need community service projects. All ideas are appreciated. Maybe they could adopt the fairgrounds. No work days have been scheduled as of yet.
- Judy Villard-Overocker asked when the flower beds need weeded. They need to be done before the Civil War weekend. This is the first weekend in May.

Old Business:

- A. Rodeo:** Bishop will not be able to be there this year. Mutton Busting is a GO!!
- B. Coolers:** Person from Allied forgot we wanted the coolers that they had. They do have a 48" one in stock currently for \$4,000.00. It is a new Tru Cooler. It was agreed that we need to get this one.
- C. Committee Assignments:** Christy Keith handed out the Committee assignments. The bolded name is the chair of that committee. If there is a committee that anyone would like to be on, but is not listed, please let her know.
- D. CPR/AED Training:** Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that the Health Department has 2 options for this training. #1 would be to go online and complete the book work at least 1 week in advance of the practical part of the course and then a classroom session of 3-4 hours. Training can be done on a Saturday and #2 would be a full day class with a break for lunch. Kathi will check on a couple different Saturdays when nothing major is scheduled for the fairgrounds. Christy sent around sign-up sheets for the training.

New Business:

- A. Board Applicants:** Christy Keith handed out the applications and letters of intent for the one open Board position. There are three (3) individuals who have applied for the position: Kelly Dawson, Heath Hershner and Jen Rodman. Only Jen and

Heath were present. Both candidates were given the opportunity to address the Board and share a little about themselves and why they want to be part of the Board. **Marla Reynolds made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. Remington Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

The vote was taken by written ballot. **Nick Fairchild made the motion to go out of executive session. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Both candidates were asked to come back into the meeting.

- B. Avian Flu:** It was shared that OSU Extension is highly recommending that Youth have second project just in case we can't have poultry at the fair this year.
- C. Contracts and potential contracts:** Christy reminded everyone that all contracts must come through the office and are not official until they are signed. Becca Gregg reported that the Heart of the City Car Show will be signing a 2-year contract to hold the show at the fairgrounds. Kathi shared that this brings between 500 and 700 show vehicles every year. Kathi shared that she will organize a craft show and a swap meet that day in the Youth Hall and Arts & Crafts building with all booth spaces money going to the Fair Board. The Car Show Committee requested that the cafeterias be open and there will be special food vendors (ice cream, donuts, etc.) on the grounds that day which we will get the money for space. Bill McFarland added that is a huge show and a great opportunity for us.

Other:

- Kathi Cutlip-Mills asked to purchase 20 additional signs and the "date" change banners for the signs we have. The cost would be under \$260.00. The Show is April 26, 2025. Two weeks prior to Mother's Day. **Bill McFarland made the motion that she could spend up to \$260.00 on the signs and banners. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- The votes were tallied for the Board position. Christy announced that Heath was elected to the Board. Jen was encouraged to run again.

Chris Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Remington Blevins seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathi Cutlip-Mills, Secretary

