

Richland County Agricultural Society
Executive Board Meeting
January 28, 2025

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Christy Keith, Gene Esbenshade, Dave Grauer, David Dick, James Schaub II, Tom Craft, Bill McFarland and Kathi Cutlip-Mills.

Staff present: Shirley Swihart and Becca Gregg

Guests present: Remington Blevins and Zac Tuttle

David Dick reported that we will need a signature for the Insurance.

There have been changes from the state that need to be added to The Livestock Committee By-laws, the committee rules and all Open Class registration forms. He read all of the changes to the Executive Board and will present them to the Senior Fair Board for review and vote. They are in the Senior Fair Board's minutes.

He also shared a handout from Husseyseating with available colors for the bleachers in the new Show Arena. He will present this for vote at the Senior Fair Board meeting.

He has a bill from ESL Technologies – Ken Neise, \$10,000.00 of this invoice would come from the Senior Fair Board. This will be presented tonight to the Senior Fair Board.

He also has a list of proposed Barn Superintendents that will need to be voted on as well.

David Grauer reported that he attended a session at OFMA dealing with Agricultural Society Membership sales. He stated that they stressed no one can purchase a membership for someone else, which is a practice we have been following. Memberships must be sold in numeric order. They also recommended that we endeavor to get everyone's email address so they can be notified of special events and the annual meeting. This is especially important if we are making any changes to our by-laws and/or constitution. It would possibly save some mailing costs. Memberships can be sold online, however they must be signed in person. The Board can appoint when and where memberships are sold, i.e. Committee, Council meetings. It is imperative that office staff know and be familiar with the constitution.

Board candidates cannot get signatures during the fair, nor can they campaign during the fair.

Any changes in the by-laws and/or constitution must be given to **ALL members of the Agricultural Society in advance of the annual meeting, at least 3 weeks.**

Gene Esbenshade reported that the Christian Concert Committee met with The River representative, Mark Boyer yesterday, January 27, 2025. Mark recommended prices for the

concert which will include admittance to the fair. Gene reviewed them and will have them for vote during the Senior Fair Board meeting.

Jim Schaub II stated that he needs the names of judges for the fair ASAP.

He will get someone in to replace the thermostat in the administration building this week.

Shirley Swihart reported that she needs an invoice for the electric poles. She needs to know what this purchase goes against.

She received a \$1,000.00 check from the Harness Home Talent Colt Stakes Association and would like it to go to the Harness Racing Program.

We need to vote on the annual report again during the Senior Fair Board tonight as there were some glitches in the former report that the auditor found later on.

It was reported that the Richland County Cattlemen's group will be dissolving and will be sending their money in and it is to be applied to Phase II of the Arena.

Bill McFarland shared that winter storage went fairly well this year. We did have some individuals call after the end date. We did have some room to fit them in, so we did accept them.

Some have seen that we have not advertised the Tractor Pull as of YET. Bill was told that he could sign the contract. We will have 2 sleds, a scale and will need help from Board members for the read outs.

He will be having surgery on February 6th.

Kathi Cutlip-Mills reminded the members that part of the agreement with the Richland Public Health's donation of AEDs is that Board members and any volunteers who wanted to would go through CPR and AED training. The training is free. We will be receiving at least 2 more, so each building will have them.

All Food Concessions and Straight Sales contracts will be mailed by February 1, 2025. We are receiving some requests from concessions and vendors who have not been with us before. We are reviewing them to see if we can include them or if we cannot because we already have concessions with their food items.

She reminded the Executive Board that the Craft Show will be on Saturday, April 26, 2025, and she will need some help with measuring the spaces in Fairhaven Hall earlier that week.

Tom Craft asked for help. He asked if anyone is near or at the fairgrounds for any reason to please check each building to make sure that the heat is turned on. It is imperative that the water does not freeze! He stopped in the other day and the Youth Hall bathrooms registered 38 degrees!

Becca Gregg asked if someone could make sure that the fairgrounds have snow removal on every Monday and Tuesday as Bingo is there both days, prior to 3 p.m. Also if salt could be put down in the parking lot and also on the ramps.

She stated that we are down to our last bag of salt in the maintenance building. Jim stated that he will get 10 bags and bring them over He will put them in the maintenance building.

She needs clarification on "FREE" clinics for Junior Fair Board. K & M did donate \$50.00 for electric.

The following groups have signed contracts:

- Gun show – signed for 2026
- Civil War – have 1 more year on their current contract and want to Sign for another 5 years.
- Toy Show is under new leadership and is planning to expand for their September show.
- Mid-Ohio Feline Show is in April. They want an amendment to their contract stating that no other feline show can be there for 6 months prior to theirs. It was suggested that we make it 60 days prior to their show.

Becca would like these groups to do 10 year contracts if at all possible.

Pioneer will provide students for workdays. Please let Becca know what needs to be done. If 4-H groups are responsible for weeding the Flower Beds, they **need to have them done prior to the Civil War Weekend Event!!**

Christy Keith and Tom Craft met with Rumpke regarding dumpsters. They agreed to increase the size of the one at Fairhaven Hall and the other 2. They will get back to them about dumpsters for the INC. We need to pour some concrete for the larger units. Once the concrete is poured by the new Show Arena, one can be put there.

The Exec. Board agreed that we need to go after the gentleman who still owes for horse barn rental. If he does not pay the outstanding amount, he will not be permitted to race in Ohio.

David Dick made the motion to adjourn. Jim Schaub II seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Cutlip-Mills
Secretary