

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc. 2017 Convention

The 129th Annual New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention at the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, NY was held January 13-16, 2017. Thirty-nine Fairs attended as well as Associate Members of the Association. Over 750 individuals were in attendance. President Andy Imperati, Dutchess County Fair, Rhinebeck, NY welcomed everyone to the Convention.

Saturday's keynote speaker was Clint Swindall, "Tell me Somethin' Good!" and Sunday speaker Juli Burney presented "Those Who Laugh, Last".

A variety of breakout sessions continued throughout the four day event and delegates enjoyed an interactive game show experience "Fair Family Feud".

The Auction to benefit the scholarship program grows in items and attendance each year. Record amounts were raised for the fund in 2017.

The Trade Show was held on January 14 & 15 and included 88 booths. The "Little Red Wagon Parade" with its theme "County Fairs" was a tremendous success.

The Association's "Hall of Fame" Award was presented to NYSAAF Past President and Executive Secretary, Russell Marquart, CFE of the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, NY.

New York State Showpeople's Association awards were presented to Jefferson Mayne of the Madison County Fair for "Fair Person of the Year"; Avery Wheelock for "Show Person of the Year" and Carmeron Ward, Wheelock Rides for "Workhorse of the Year".

The Officers for 2017 are as follows; Gary Newkirk, CFE of the Ulster County Fair, New Paltz, NY will serve as President of the NYSAAF for 2017. First Vice President, Scott Christian, Essex County Fair, Westport, NY; Second Vice President, Nick Pelham, Steuben County Fair, Bath, NY; Third Vice President Jason Lawrence, Chenango County Fair, Norwich, NY; Treasurer, Melissa Beardslee, Delaware County Fair, Walton, NY and Russell Marquart, CFE, Executive Secretary, Erie County Fair, Hamburg, NY.

District Directors are:

District 1 Frank Cuff, Ulster County Fair
District 2 Lauren Rowland, Saratoga County Fair
District 3 Joseph Giroux, Clinton County Fair
District 4 Douglas Hanno, Lewis County Fair
District 5 Kevin O'Brien, Delaware County Fair
District 6 Richard Freligh, Seneca County Fair
District 7 Taryn Moyle, Orleans County 4-H Fair
District 8 Alton M. MacDuffie, Genesee County Fair

NY State Fair Acting Director – Troy Waffner, Syracuse

Associate Directors – Jeff Lloyd, Utica, NY & Joseph Sofo, Jr., Auburn, NY

Showcase Acts: The One Man Band & Son presented by Artists and Attractions; The Martin Family Circus presented by Klein's Entertainment, Gord Bamford presented by Variety Attractions and The Great Dubois, presented by Fusion Talent Group.

2018 Convention dates are January 12-15 at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY

For more information on NYSAAF Fairs & Convention contact Russell Marquart, CFE, Executive Secretary at rlmarquart@aol.com or visit our website at www.nyfairs.org.