

## **New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, Inc. 2018 Convention**

The 130th annual New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention at the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, NY was held January 12-15, 2018. Thirty-nine (39) Fairs attended as well as Associate Members of the Association. Over 750 individuals were in attendance. President Gary Newkirk, CFE, Ulster County Fair, New Paltz, NY welcomed everyone to the Convention.

Saturday's keynote speaker was Frank Pastizzo, "Warm Up the Workplace" and Sunday's speakers Mark & Kirstin Kimball presented "Motivate Youth".

A variety of breakout sessions continued throughout the four-day event and delegates enjoyed Ag Trivia, the Interactive Game Show Experience, hosted by Martha Bush of the Cortland County Junior Fair.

The Auction to benefit the scholarship program grows in items and attendance each year. The Auction proceeds with fund scholarships for students pursuing continuing education programs. Funds raised were in excess of \$13,000.00.

The 50/50 Raffle was won by Adesa Auto Auctions, Boston, MA, who donated the funds back to the Scholarship Fund.

The Trade Show was held on January 13 & 14 and included 91 booths. The "Little Red Wagon Parade" with its theme "County Fairs Olympics" was a tremendous success.

The Association's "Hall of Fame" Award was presented to NYSAAF Past President R. Harry Booth, of the Washington County Fair in Greenwich, NY.

New York State Showpeople's Association awards were presented to James Folts, of the Yates County Fair as "Fair Person of the Year"; "Show Person of the Year" was awarded to Bob Lawrence, Wilson Enterprises, "Workhorse of the Year" went to Mary Lloyd of Lloyd's Concessions. A Life Time Achievement award was presented to E. James Strates, Strates Show for his dedication to the carnival and fair industries.

The Officers for 2018 are as follows; Scott Christian, Essex County Fair, Westport, NY will serve as President of the NYSAAF for 2018. First Vice President, Nick Pelham, Steuben County Fair, Bath, NY; Second Vice President Jason Lawrence, Chenango County Fair, Norwich, NY, Third Vice President Edward Rossley, Delaware County Fair, Walton, 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	Julia Reynolds, Washington County Fair
District 3	Joseph Giroux, Clinton County Fair
District 4	Bruce Fox – Boonville-Oneida 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 Nell Fellows, Cattaraugus County Fair  
NY State Fair Acting Director – Troy Waffner, Syracuse  
Associate Directors – Jeff Lloyd, Utica, NY & Joseph Sofo, Jr., Auburn, NY

Showcase acts included Keith Anderson presented by Klein's Entertainment, Emi Shine presented by Variety Attractions, the Beverly Belles, presented by Fusion Talent Group and Frankie Justin presented by Eagle Entertainment.

2019 Convention dates are January 11-14 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 [nysaaf@gmail.com](mailto:nysaaf@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.nyfairs.org](http://www.nyfairs.org).

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