



Illinois
Association
of
Agricultural
Fairs

December 2018

TentTalk

Fairs Need to Accept, Thrive in Change

Convention keynote speaker, Mark Mayfield, will help fair leaders manage change with his high octane, hilarious presentation.

He'll do this while you're laughing at his off-beat, observational comedy because his philosophy is simple...say it with humor and people will take the message home.

You'll learn the responses to change and how creativity is the key component to "thrive during change". You'll also learn behavioral changes that will boost your innovation skills, and did I mention you'll have a great time?

"Fairs are like anything else," said Mayfield. "If you don't keep up with the times and stay current, you'll be left behind."

Mayfield grew up showing hogs at fairs in southeastern Kansas. He climbed the leadership ladder as a state and national president of the FFA.

"Where I got my start was in FFA and 4-H and county fairs," said Mayfield. "In southeastern Kansas, we had a huge interstate fair that draws from four states – it was the biggest event for everyone in the area. I know the value of fairs."

Professionally, Mayfield has lobbied in Washington and 13 states for agricultural issues and now shares his story of the importance of embracing change throughout the country. He also hosts the Commodity Classic, the biggest indoor agricultural show.

Mayfield and his wife split their time between Kansas City and Arizona, spending time with their two daughters and four grandchildren.

This program is guaranteed to make you laugh and make you think. You won't want to miss his session on Saturday morning at our breakfast. Tickets are still available.



Annual Convention keynote speaker Mark Mayfield explains that fairs need to accept and embrace change in order to survive.

'Innovations and Traditions' is Theme

Every fair has great traditions, from the perfect corn dog and biggest head of cabbage to the grand champion steer.

In addition, fair board members have those traditions of spending time with children and grandchildren and reconnecting with friends.

But, they also have a responsibility to keep their fairs fresh and innovating so that the future of county fairs is assured.

The upcoming 109th Annual IAAF Convention will help you continue to build on those Innovations and Traditions for your fair and citizens

of all ages in your communities.

It can start with a networking opportunity at the preconvention "Can't Miss It" hospitality event on Thursday evening. Then you will be challenged at the Friday afternoon "Get Acquainted" session with a presentation on effective ways to use social media at your fair. You can also share and hear some of this summer's successes from your colleagues in the fair industry.

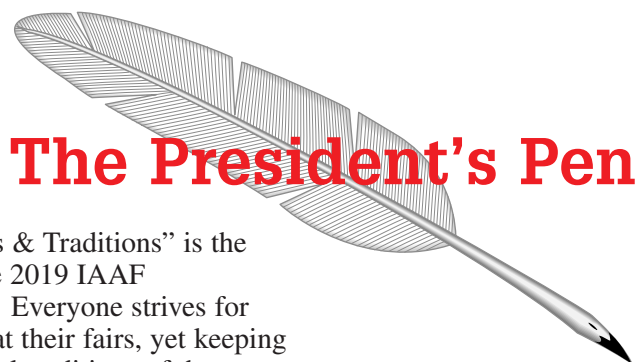
The Trade Show will open with free beer and popcorn on Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. There will be a full display by vendors with lots of

new products and services being offered. Don't forget to visit those with hospitality rooms in the Holiday Inn Express as well as those on the 12th floor of the Crowne Plaza.

All convention guests, including associates, are invited and encouraged to attend the Saturday morning breakfast and program. We will honor a new class of "Friends of Illinois County Fairs."

Our keynote speaker is Mark Mayfield, a former National FFA President, who will challenge and entertain you. You can still order

(Continued on Page 6)



The President's Pen

"Innovations & Traditions" is the theme of the 2019 IAAF Convention. Everyone strives for new events at their fairs, yet keeping the successful traditions of the past.

Attend the 2019 IAAF Convention and you will be sure to get the tools you need to make your Fair a success.

The Convention kicks off with a Pre-Convention hospitality event on Thursday at 8:00 PM. Friday is Trade Show which is sure to be sell out and of course the Trade Show opens with a reception at 3:00 PM on Friday.

Friday night Showcase is a good time to find a name entertainment for your fair. Saturday is the Breakfast with Mark Mayfield and a workshop on "Competitive Edge".

On Sunday, we have some very interesting round tables planned followed by the Annual meeting. And of course, the Queen Pageant will be going on all weekend with the coronation of a new Queen on Sunday night.

Be sure to make your reservation for the Convention, January 18 thru January 20 at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield. Attending the convention is the best way to network with other fair family members.

You will learn from others who have faced some of the same cir-



James Walsh

This year we are grateful to Gov. Rauner and the Illinois Department of Agriculture for granting \$54,000 to 94 counties in the state for rehab of our county fairgrounds. Checks should be issued soon.

This summer I got to travel to several of the county fairs in the state and enjoyed several livestock shows at Perry, Richland, Schuyler, Edwards, Fisher counties. I'd also like to thank everyone for flowers and concern while I was ill. See you at the Convention in January!

James T Walsh

President

cumstances that your County fair faces, and you will find that the information you share with others will benefit all County Fairs. I look forward to seeing you.

Dates to Remember

- **F & E Reports:** Declaration of Intent due to IDOA by Dec. 31
- **IAAF Convention, Springfield, IL**
Crowne Plaza
January 18-20, 2019
- **IAFE Zone 5, Lincoln, NE**
March 15-17, 2019
- **Illinois State Fair**
August 9-18, 2019
- **County Fair Day, IL State Fair**
August 9, 2019

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

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www.IllinoisCountyFairs.org
iaafoffice@illinoiscountyfairs.org
IAAF Office
1400 Mound Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Convention Roundtables Are Back!

We have an exciting group of roundtable discussions this year at the IAAF Convention in January.

The Roundtable date is Sunday, January 20th. There is quite a variety of topics to choose from. Come and have some "free" breakfast sandwiches that morning and then join us at the tables!

- Insurance – Do you have everything covered on your fairgrounds
- Ideas on how to retrieve more

revenue off-season

- Is your fair prepared for an Emergency?
- How do you spot frauds and scams?
- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter – Where are you at with Social media at your fair?
- Ideas for Gate and Grandstand ticketing.
- NICA – What can they do for your fair.



Queens at southern zone meeting at Marion County fairgrounds in Salem.

Contest Will Name Fairgrounds Coliseum

Contest entries are now being accepted by the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation to rename the Coliseum on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

The contest runs through December 14. The winner will be selected by the Fair Foundation and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and announced in early January.

Current members of Illinois 4-H, FFA, and the Junior Horseman's Council are eligible to submit their naming ideas to the contest. Each member is allowed one entry and can submit it online at www.ilfairfoundation.com.

The winner will receive a silver platter of recognition and an Illinois State Fair Mega Pass. The winner could also be a guest of honor at the grand re-opening of the Coliseum and serve as a youth fair marshal during the 2019 Illinois State Fair.

"Agriculture is an integral part of our state's identity, and the Illinois State Fairgrounds play an important part in promoting our agriculture industry," said Governor Rauner. "Our youth in agriculture, including 4-H and FFA members, are the

future of this industry, so it's only right that we let them name the historic building that will be open for generations to come."

A generous donation of \$1 million from the Rauner Family Foundation, announced on Agriculture Day at the 2018 Illinois State Fair, has arrived at the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation. This donation is specifically earmarked for repairs and updates to the historic Coliseum, which has been closed since it was declared unusable due to structural deficiencies.

The Foundation already made several improvements to the Fairgrounds ahead of the 2018 Illinois State Fair, including roof replacements and additional lighting and fans. In the Swine Barn, two 16-foot fans were installed above the show rings to help keep exhibitors, animals, and spectators cool, not just during the Illinois State Fair, but at other non-fair events that take place there throughout the year.

Lighting improvements were also made to the Livestock Center Show Ring, including the installation of 35 new LED bulbs, thanks to the George Obernagel Family Farm in

Monroe County. Their sponsorship of the Livestock Center will continue into July 2019, with improvements also slated to be made to the Center's audio system.

"The Department would like to thank the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation, Governor Rauner, and all of those who have made donations to the Foundation," said Director of Agriculture Raymond Poe. "This Fairgrounds has so much history and holds fond memories for so many people – we want to make sure that continues for several more generations."

In addition, the Foundation recently purchased roofing materials for Barns 16A and 16B. This allowed state employees on the fairgrounds to reshingle both barns. These barns are located near the Coliseum and contain 22 horse stalls each. Previously unoccupied, they may now be used during the Illinois State Fair and during the many horse shows that take place on the Fairgrounds throughout the year.

For more information about the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation, check out its website at <https://www.ilfairfoundation.com>.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend Convention

TOP 10 Reasons to Attend the 109th Illinois County Fair Convention

Can you remember the feeling of winning your first blue ribbon? For most of us, it was a million dollar feeling of being on top of the world.

Innovations & Traditions is the theme for the 109th Annual IAAF Convention. We're hoping by attending this year's convention, Jan. 18-20, you and your fair will not only experience new ideas but also celebrate timeless traditions.

Here are 10 reasons why we think you should attend this year's convention at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois.

10. Queens, queens and more queens. The IAAF convention is the best place to see 71 contestants vying for the coveted 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen on Sunday evening. Don't forget to get your banquet tickets ordered for the Sunday Banquet, which starts at 4:30 p.m. (Doors open at 4 p.m., ticket required).

9. Social media made easy. Casey Blakeley with Inked Entertainment will share tips at the Friday Session at 1 p.m. Social media keeps fairgoers connected and involved in your fair.

8. Networking opportunities. Come to the Friday afternoon General Session and the Roundtables on Sunday morning about successful events at other fairs, livestock updates, off-season revenues and more. In addition, all fair secretaries and treasurers will benefit from an opportunity to learn from Mike Foster and Tim Norman with the Illinois Department of Agriculture bureau of county fairs at a meeting at 10:45 Saturday morning. Ray Hanks with the IDOA will lead a Roundtable on livestock issues Sunday morning (replacing the livestock meeting Sunday afternoon on past years).

7. Best place to book an act. Our trade show is sold out and features the best entertainment available to book for your upcoming fair. Add some excitement to your fair next year with a new act or show. The Trade Show will open with free beer and popcorn on Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. You can also visit vendors with hospitality rooms in the adjacent Holiday Inn

Express as well as those on the 12th floor of the Crowne Plaza.

6. Best place to share wine and ice cream and hear up-and-coming bands. Our Showcase event on Friday evening features great entertainment and lots of fun as well as a great chance to hear a new entertainer. On Saturday evening, our Talent Contest showcases some of Illinois' finest young talent.

5. A motivational speech sure to get you pumped about your fair. Keynote speaker Mark Mayfield, past national president of the FFA, will speak at the Saturday morning breakfast. He was one of the keynotes at the IAFE. You won't want to miss his insights into sponsorships and how to make a bigger impact on your community. You can still order tickets if you haven't yet.

4. Friendships renewed. We know county fair folks are some of the

nicest you'll meet and while you may be good friends with those you work with to put on your fair, the convention offers a great time to reconnect with others and make new friends.

3. A chance to honor "Friends of Illinois County Fairs" at the Saturday morning breakfast. These are our heroes – friends who are committed to the "Innovations & Traditions" of county fairs over the years.

2. Participate in the annual business meeting on Sunday at 11 a.m. This is your chance to bring up concerns or talk to directors and officers.

1. The No. 1 reason to attend? It's a weekend of pure fun. Share a drink or meal with friends; learn something new; relax a bit; stroll through the trade show for some new ideas; dance to a new band; cheer and support your favorite queen or simply take a minute to enjoy all that county fairs offer.

Foster: Reports Due Dec. 31

Well another year is coming to an end. First I want to take a minute to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years from all of us here at the department.

This time of year brings us with a couple things we are needing to wrap up for 2018.

Grand summary report was due in October 15th, Fairs & Expositions: Reports due December 31. All Fairs: Declarations of Intent are due December 31.

Those fairs that held horse racing in 2017 and 2018 can apply for \$1,000 in track improvement money. The applications need to be filed with the department before December 31. If you apply for and complete the track improvement before April 1, 2019. All receipts need to be submitted to the department before April 1, 2019. Please remember this money cannot be used in your rehab reimbursement for this year.

Everyone should have received their \$54,347.82, what a great way

to end the year. Remember this money is for normal operational needs and rehab.

All county fairs need to file a report and receipts with me by October 15th of each year until the money has been exhausted. If you have question, feel free to contact me.

Tim and I are looking forward to seeing you in January at the IAAF County Fair Convention.

Happy Holidays
Michael S Foster

Zone 5 Update

The 2019 IAFE Zone 5 meeting will be held March 15-17 in Lincoln, Nebraska, at Embassy Suites.

Please plan to attend this weekend of education, fun, networking and lots of energy as we move into 2019! More information will be handed out at the IAAF Convention in January. Be looking for it!

Vaughn: Vote; Your Vote Does Count!

ELECTION RESULTS

The Democrats now have super-majority once again in the House, which means they will not need any GOP votes to override the Governor's vetoes.

Once the Governor-Elect Pritzker's new administration takes over in January, there will mostly likely be whole turnover in the agency staff as far as directors, management and legislative liaisons, etc. The new Governor will be sworn in the second week in January.

There will be even more new faces in the General Assembly than originally anticipated because 9 incumbent legislators who planned to come back were defeated on election day, bringing the number of new legislators to well over 40.

This means it is more important than ever to constantly develop and maintain a working relationship with your legislators.

Every vote counts! Two races were so close that they had to wait two weeks for the mail in ballots to come in before the winner could be declared. On election night Sen. Mike Connelly (R-Naperville) was leading his democratic opponent Laura Ellman by only 12 votes but later ended up conceding after additional ballots came in.

Only 1 vote separated Rep. Helene Walsh (R-Mundelein) from Rep. Mary Edly-Allen, but Rep. Eddy-Allen pulled ahead by the time all the ballots were counted. If you don't think your vote counts, it does!

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STARIS TO RELEASE MONEY

The extra \$54,347.82 payments for premium fairs are finally starting to be released by the Comptroller's Office. Please let me know when you receive yours
mvaughn@springnet1.com

How can we spend it? This additional money can't be spent on prize money for agricultural competitions or purses, but CAN be used for any kind of operational expenses, rehab to the fair grounds, insurance, etc. There is NO TIME LIMIT (it can be spread out over years) for when the money can be spent but you just must include HOW it was spent in your annual October reports to the

Dept of Agriculture. If you use it for rehab, you can include it in your rehab receipts which you submit to the state every June and you will be reimbursed for a portion of it. To make it easier for record keeping, IAAF recommends that you keep this additional funding in a separate bank account.

IAAF CONVENTION

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Convention in January. Once again, I will be leading one of the Sunday Morning Round Table Discussions on Advocacy and hope you stop by. In the meantime I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Calling Fair Board Members <35

Are you or one of your fellow Fair Board members 35 years of age or younger?

The IAAF is offering five awards to attend the IAFE Zone 5 conference March 15-17 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Neb. The IAAF would like to encourage leadership with some new generations as we "Build for the Future."

Three awards to fair directors/board members under 35 years of age will be awarded. The package would be for a total of \$200 per recipient. The award would be used to cover registration and some of the recipient's expenses to attend the Zone 5 meeting in Nebraska.

An applicant must be 35 years of age or younger, be an actual fair board member/director of an IAAF fair and be willing to learn. There can be no more than one applicant per any one fair.

In the event that more than 3 qualifying applications are received, the IAAF Board will conduct a drawing for the actual recipient. Hear more about it at the IAAF Convention in January. Applications will be due February 1st, 2019. See any IAAF Board member during the convention for the application. This is an awesome opportunity for your younger members to educate themselves on our industry!

Correct addresses

Tent Talk has a continuing need for correct addresses as more and more of you switch from rural routes to "911 addresses". Also, there are some phone numbers that have a new area code that we won't know about unless you tell us.

The Eye Opening Breakfast

Tickets may still be ordered for the Saturday morning IAAF breakfast.
Tickets will be held for pickup at the registration desk.

Name: _____

County Fair or Associate: _____

Town: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of tickets: _____ @ \$15/ticket = \$ _____ Due no later than Jan. 6th, 2019

Please send this request and check to:

IAAF, c/o Charlyn Fargo Ware, Secretary, 1400 Mound Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650

Schedule of Events for 2019 IAAF Convention

"Innovations & Traditions"

109th Annual Convention

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs
Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Express
Springfield Illinois

Schedule of Events for 2019 Convention

All events open only to registered guests with a convention badge.

Thursday, January 17, 2019

8:30-11 AM Queen Registration—*Plaza Lobby*
1:00 PM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*
4-6:00 PM Carnival Amusement Safety Board Mtg. — *Wintergarden, 14th floor*
8:00 PM Associate Registration —*Plaza Lobby*
8-11 PM "Can't Miss IT" Pre-convention hospitality and fun—*Capital View—12th floor*
Sponsored by the North American Midway Ent., the Northern, Central and Southern Zones and the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant Crew.

Friday, January 18, 2019

8:30 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal — *Ballroom*
9:00 AM Registration Counter Opens —*Plaza Lobby*
10:00 AM IAAF Board Meeting —*Lincoln Board Room*

1:30 PM IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

"Using Social Media Tools to improve your Fair's and your Business's Bottom Line."
Important information as a cost effective way to market your fair.
Sponsored by Inked Entertainment

What did your fair do differently in 2018?
Moderated by Paul Johnson, Variety Attractions, and IAAF Director Bill Jennings

3:00 PM **Trade Show opens with a reception.**
Skinners Amusements and Event-Tex hosting.— *Plaza A-E*
6:00 PM Trade Show closes for the day

4:00 PM Fairs and Exposition Fund Meeting —*Capital VI - 3rd floor*
5:30 PM Audit Committee Meeting —*Turquoise—2nd floor*

7:30 PM **Showcasing—Plaza H-J**
Drinks and Snacks Sponsored by
Burnham & Flower Insurance,
Illinois Wine by Tom & Pam
Schahrer, Ice Cream by Prairie Farms

MC: Kent Casson of Central
Illinois Farm Network.

Roderling, Joe Mellenth in The Wolf and 'Gypsy Band; Derek Joseph, A Star Promotions; Eliminator, Toga Talent Agency; Freebird USA, Evergreen Music Network; The Net Generation Leahy, Klein's Entertainment; Scott Marek Band, Matt Graczyk; Rock & Roll Rebels, Creative Community Promotions; NGG, Mark Campbell; Jason Pritchett, Variety Attractions; Blacktop South, Tri State Entertainment; Circus Act, Cincinnati Circus Company; The Riverside Band, Elsenpeter Productions.

Associates who have hospitality rooms may be hosting during other hours than those listed for the trade show.

Saturday, January 19, 2019

7:00 AM Registration Desk Opens—*Plaza Lobby*

7:30 AM "The Eye Opening Breakfast" doors open. — *Plaza F&G*
Tickets Required
Sponsored by Luehrs Ideal Rides and Skinner Amusements
Special door prize for breakfast participants — \$50 Cash

7:45 AM **Breakfast**
Opening remarks:
IAAF President James Walsh
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: Bill Redshaw

8:15 AM All non ticket fair members and associates are welcome to join the meeting after breakfast.

8:30 AM Welcome & committee appointments:
James Walsh, IAAF President

8:45 AM Presentation of "Friend of Illinois County Fair" Awards, Marvin Perzee
Drawing for "Early Bird" door prize

9:00 AM Remarks: Illinois Department of Agriculture
9:30 AM **Mark Mayfield, Keynote Speaker**, presented by Luehrs Ideal Rides.

10:30 AM **Drawing**—All door prize winners must be present to win at the time of each drawing.

10:45 AM Secretaries and Treasurers Meeting —Mike Foster, IDOA —*Plaza F&G*

Please visit the associate member rooms or trade show booths.

8:30 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*
11:00 AM Trade Show & Associate Rooms open —*Plaza A-E*

12:15 PM Jr. Talent Competition—*Plaza H-J*
1:00 PM Afternoon Queen Pageant Preliminaries—*Ballroom*

3:00 PM Central Zone Pres. Mtg.—*Capital View 12th floor*

5:00 PM Trade Show closes
5:15 PM Past State Queen Dinner - *Plaza F&G*
5:45 PM Sr. Talent Competition- *Plaza H-J*
6:00 PM Mass —*Winter Garden-14th floor*
7:00 PM Evening Queen Pageant Preliminaries —*Ballroom*

8:00 PM Registration Desk Closes

Associates who have hospitality rooms may host during other hours than those listed for the trade show.

Sunday, January 20, 2019

8:15 AM Protestant Worship - George Fewkes and Sharon Alders
—*Winter Garden-14th floor*

9:00 AM Registration Desk opens—*Plaza Lobby*
9:00 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*

8:50 AM Enjoy a Breakfast Sandwich & Coffee —sponsored by A Fantasy Amusements

Convene for Round Tables—*Plaza F-G*
Sponsored by Illinois Tractor Pulling Association
Moderated by Jill Hardesty

9:15 AM Roundtables: First Session
10:00 AM Roundtables: Second Session

- Social Media - What it can do for you
- Livestock meeting—*Ray Hanks, IDOA*
- Repurposing Buildings
- Get to know your Senators & Representatives —*Margaret Vaughn, IAAF Legislative Liaison*
- Counterfeiting & Fraud
- Grant writing - *Mary Liz Wright*
- Competitive Exhibits —*Ellen Sietman and Jim McGuire, DuPage County Fair*

11:00 AM Annual IAAF Business Meeting —*Plaza F-G*

Please Register for Door Prizes
A Crowne Plaza Package for the 2020 IAAF Convention will be awarded.

Welcome - James Walsh, IAAF President
Minutes
Introduction of Directors

Committee Reports:

- Secretary-Treasurer report - Charlyn Fargo
- Audit Committee report - Ken Tyrrell
- Grievance Committee - Tom Moore
- Advocacy Report - Margaret Vaughn
- Legislative Committee - Marvin Perzee

Old Business
New Business

Drawing for prizes donated by Swyear Amusements and other prizes.
All door-prize winners must be present to win.

11:30 AM Queen Devotional & Farewell Luncheon for Retiring Queen, Samantha Hasselbring - *Plaza H&J - ticket required*

2:00 PM Zone Officers Meeting —*Capital View-12th floor*

2:45 PM Past Presidents Meeting —*Capital View-12th floor*

4:30 PM Doors Open for Banquet—*Plaza A-J*

5:00 PM Banquet Served

6:30 PM Queen Pageant Finals —*Ballroom*

9:30 PM Reception for the new Queen —*Lobby and Rosewood Dining Room*

Monday, January 21, 2019

8:00 AM IAAF Directors And Spouses Breakfast—*Ruby Room*

9:00 AM IAAF Directors Meeting—*Ruby Room*

—Convention

(Continued from Page 1)
tickets if you haven't yet.

All fair secretaries and treasurers will benefit from an opportunity to learn from Mike Foster and Tim Norman with the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of County Fairs. The meeting will be held at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday. They will offer suggestions on how to make your jobs (and theirs) easier.

The popular Friday evening Showcase of fair entertainment will feature a great lineup of acts along with snacks, Prairie Farms Ice Cream and Illinois wine, courtesy of Tom and Pam Schahrer.

The Queen Pageant and the Talent Contests have great participation. Seventy-one county fair queens will vie to be crowned Miss Illinois County Fair on Sunday evening. The events showcase some of Illinois' finest young talent.

Kate Jennings in 4th Term Presidency

Kate Jennings is serving her fourth term as president of the Rock Island County Fair in East Moline.

She was recently a recipient of the Zone 5 Young Professionals Scholarship to attend the IAFE in San Antonio. Kate, 32, joined the fair board in 2011 and is now the first woman to ever serve as president of the board.

She attended IAFE with the goal of finding ideas to make her fair's 150th annual celebration in 2019 a huge success.

"I've learned so much about fairs since taking over as president," said Jennings. "In Rock Island, we have the unique opportunity to engage with a mainly urban audience. We try to bring in folks who have never seen a cow in person and teach them why agriculture is important in their everyday life."

This year's fair featured a cow birthing center that was extremely popular, says Jennings. "Even at 10:30 p.m., we had a barn full of



Kate Jennings

people wanting to see calves being born. We hope to expand that next year."

Her biggest challenge as president has been dealing with declining revenues — she took over with a deficit and now has brought the fair in the black by tweaking every aspect of the fair's finances.

"This year we stepped up our social media and reduced our TV and radio ads — not everyone thought that was a good idea, but it worked out," said Jennings.

Rather than have a big concert, the fair focuses on "wheels," said Jennings. "That's what our fairgoers like."

At IAFE, she focused on finding off fair uses for the grounds.

"There are so many ideas at IAFE — I came away with an idea to use our grounds for a drive-in movie night in the Grandstand," she said. "I'm going to go home and figure out how to implement it."

Jennings grew up in Springfield, attended Bradley University with a degree in political science and attended Iowa State with a master's degree in professional agriculture. She works full-time on the staff of Sen. Sherry Bustos. Previously, she worked on the staff of then Sen. Obama and Sen. Durbin.

Good Attendance at Zone Meetings



Queen Samantha with Miss Champaign County — winner of the best scrapbook of the Central



Good crowd attended Central Zone meeting.



Entertainer Jonathan Len



Queen Samantha with Clay County queen whose scrapbook was chosen as best of Southern Zone.



Illinois Rep. Tom Bennett spoke at the Central Zone meeting. He helped in securing state funding.

IN MEMORIAM

Donald R. Mielke, 84, of Coal Valley, Ill., passed away Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018..

Don was born Dec. 1, 1933, in Moline, the son of Rudolph and Ethel (Harsha) Mielke. He graduated



Donald Mielke

from Coal Valley High School before going on to earn his bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Illinois.

He married Nancy Jahn on Dec. 27, 1954, in Rock Island. He supported her many endeavors and was a devoted caretaker until her death Sept. 25, 2016.

Don worked for the family farm with his father for about 10 years and then worked for Regalia Manufacturing in Rock Island. He

spent the rest of his career at Norstan Communications. In addition he continued to help with Regal Faire Inc., which his wife founded after leaving Regalia, by proofing orders and running that business after her passing.

Don is survived by two sons, Dwight Mielke and Drue Mielke and friend Dale Seaholm, all of Coal Valley, and a sister, Carolyn Carlson, of Silvis.

Wilbert Lawrence Schaefer, 80, of Effingham, IL, passed away November 20, 2018.

Wilbert was born on November 26, 1937 in West Township, rural Mason, IL, the son of John Henry and Beulah Violet (Hinkle) Schaefer.

He graduated from Altamont High School the Class of 1956 and received a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 1960.

He married Marilyn Joan

Smallwood on June 17, 1962 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wheeler. Wilbert served as Chief Real Estate Appraiser for over 30 years at the Illinois Department of Transportation District 7.

After his retirement with the state he opened his own Appraisal Business and later groomed two of his children in the appraisal business. He served in the Army National Guard.

Wilbert was on the Effingham County Fair Board for 25 years where he held many positions and loved to work with food vendors. He also was a 4-H leader for more than 30 years.

Wilbert is survived by his wife, Marilyn Schaefer of Effingham; children, Kevin Schaefer of Effingham, Teri Schaefer of Effingham, Todd (Michelle) Schaefer of Effingham, and Jenee (Randy) Berg of rural Altamont and several grandchildren.

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