



Illinois
Association
of
Agricultural
Fairs

December 2017

TentTalk

Alejandro Shares How to Live Your Brand

Want your fair to make a bigger impact on your community?

Our keynote speaker, Aaron Alejandro will share how fairs can live their brand and make an impact on their communities. You won't want to miss his session on Saturday morning.

"In today's fast paced world and access to 'social media,' we have an incredible opportunity to promote our fairs, expos, youth, agriculture and leadership," says Alejandro, executive director of the Texas FFA Foundation based in Austin, Texas. "Live Your Brand will be an engaging presentation to surely empower, educate and entertain participants to take action and live a legacy."

As a troubled "city boy," "at-risk" and transplanted to the country, Aaron will be sharing life experiences that opened doors of opportunity and career success ... many of which involved fairs and expos.

As director of the Texas FFA, Alejandro has established relationships with sponsors and individuals resulting in significant stakeholder engagement with the Texas FFA. With more than 170,000 students enrolled in agricultural science education courses and Texas FFA membership in excess of 119,000 members, Aaron's efforts are bringing much needed "fuel" in the form of sponsorships – to help make dreams come true.

In 2017, the Texas FFA Foundation recorded more than \$9.5 million in endowment and financial assets, a 159 percent net asset growth since Alejandro joined the organization in 2000. Because of its success, the Texas FFA Foundation's development model created by Alejandro is now being used by more than 18 state FFA foundations.

When he's not leading the Texas FFA members and alumni, Alejandro consults with businesses, organizations, education and youth clubs about ways to improve organizational and individual performance. He has more than 30 years of experience in management, personal and professional training.

Aaron was raised at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch just outside of Amarillo, Texas. As a promising youth in the midst of what could have been less than promising circumstances, he learned quickly the importance of a positive attitude. His life is a reflection of his philosophy – positive attitudes create positive results.

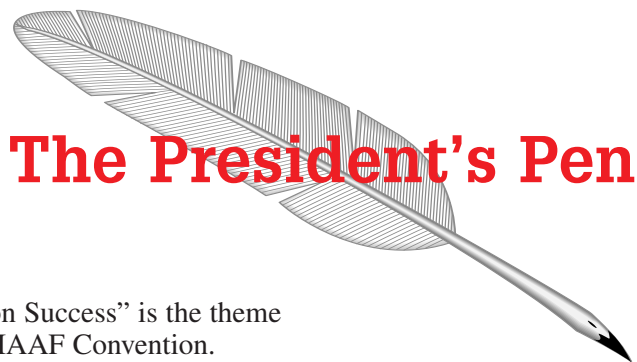


Aaron Alejandro, pictured here with his son, will share his motivational tools for achieving success when he keynotes the Annual IAAF Convention in January.

Alejandro is an avid sportsman and has been featured on The Prieferts television show seen on the Sportsman Channel where he harvested an Aoudad sheep in the majestic Palo Duro Canyon.

He and his wife, Rebecca have two sons, two daughters and a grandson. He enjoys the outdoors, hunting, fishing and golf. He also coaches his son's soccer team and is an accomplished martial artist.

He has shared his motivational tools for achieving success among businesses and organizations in more than 800 cities across 12 states.



The President's Pen

"Blue Ribbon Success" is the theme of the 2018 IAAF Convention.

Everyone strives for the Blue Ribbon and each of our County Fairs want nothing less than a "Blue Ribbon Success". Attend the 2018 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 p.m. Friday is Trade Show which is sure to be sell out and of course the Trade Show opens with a reception at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Friday night Showcase is a good time to find a name entertainment for your fair.

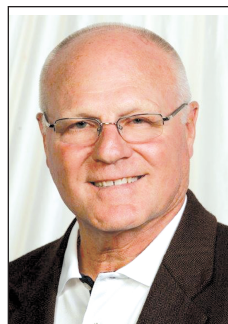
Saturday is the Breakfast with Aaron Alejandro and a workshop on "Competitive Edge". On Sunday, we have some very interesting round tables planned followed by the Annual meeting and election of officers.

And, of course, the Queen Pageant will be going on all weekend with the coronation of a new Queen on Sunday night.

We lost a very special member of our IAAF Board and our Fair Family on November 21. Russell Vandever will be missed by all who knew him. He served on the IAAF Board for many years. He was chairman of the Queen Committee and also served on the audit committee. Russell was loved by everyone who knew him.

I have had the pleasure of working with Charlyn Fargo Ware for two years as I have served as your President. Charlyn has an untiring dedication to the IAAF. She is one of the busiest women I know, but never hesitates to take on ONE more thing. She is organized, patient, and has "fire in her belly" for the IAAF. We are in good hands.

Margaret Vaughn, Legislative



Bill Redshaw

this great organization as President and will, of course, continue to be involved.

The IAAF Board gives their time unselfishly all year to support County Fairs throughout Illinois, and I want to thank them for their dedication. I am especially thankful to all the many volunteers who make our County Fairs the best of Illinois.

Be sure to make your reservation for the Convention 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 circumstances 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.

Bill Redshaw

President

Lobbyist, encouraged everyone at the Zone meetings to be sure to get to know your Legislators.

This will be my last President's Pen for my term of office. I have enjoyed serving

One of Best Agencies

"Laughter Has No Color"-Comedy Agency, a division of Elsenpeter Productions, was selected by Good Deeds Seats as one of the 30 very best comedy agencies in America.

Dates to Remember

- **F & E Reports** : Declaration of Intent due to IDOA by Dec. 31
- **IAAF Convention, Springfield, IL**
January 19-21, 2018
- **IAFE Zone 5, Manhattan, KS**
March 2-4, 2018
- **Illinois State Fair, Springfield**
August 10-19, 2018
- **County Fair Day, IL State Fair**
August 10, 2018
- **IAFE Convention, San Antonio, TX**
Nov. 25-28, 2018

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

OFFICERS

President.....	Bill Redshaw, Rushville
Vice President.....	James T. Walsh, Carmi
Secretary/Treasurer	Charlyn Fargo Ware, Jacksonville
Past President	Ron Meyer Peotone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Marvin Perzee (Northern Zone)	Ashkum
Bill Jennings (Southern Zone).....	Olney
Tom Moore (Central Zone)	Jerseyville

ZONE DIRECTORS

David Hake (Southern Zone)	Hoyleton (Southern Zone)
Jill Hardesty (Central Zone)	Farmer City
Sandy Hoke (Central Zone)	Tuscola
Ken Tyrrell (Northern Zone).....	Sheridan
Gary Mielke (Northern Zone).....	Leaf River

ZONE OFFICERS SOUTHERN

President	Marcia Craig, Clay Co.
Vice Pres.	Kris Lowe, Randolph Co.
Sec./Treas.	Ilene Ruroede, Perry Co.

CENTRAL

President	Mary Liz Wright, Edgar Co.
Vice Pres.	Craig McCoy, Fulton Co.
Sec./Treas.	Jennifer Swinger, Christian Co.

NORTHERN

President	Jim McGuire, DuPage Co.
Vice Pres.	Charlie Kennell, Heart of Illinois Fair
Sec./Treas.	Cindy Mielke, Leaf River

www.IllinoisCountyFairs.org

iaafoffice@illinoiscountyfairs.org

IAAF Office

1400 Mound Ave.

Jacksonville, IL 62650

217-553-1120

All Zone Meetings Were Full of Activities

There were early Blue Ribbon Success at the three Zone Meetings this year with great entertainment, food, attendance and networking.

Many of the 72 queens, who will be vying for the coveted crown of 2018 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen were in attendance and had mock interviews, passed out door prizes and introduced themselves to attendees.

Cathy Redshaw, Illinois County Fair pageant director, announced there will be a new People's Choice award at this year's Convention.

Each queen will have a jar where supporters can use dollars to vote for their choice (\$1/vote). The queen with the highest votes will receive a \$500 cash gift.

The zone meetings were held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield (Central); the Pitstick Pavilion in Ottawa (Northern) and the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds in DuQuoin (Southern).

Congratulations to new officers elected for the Northern Zone and Southern Zone. Jim McGuire of DuPage County and Charlie Kennell of the Heart of Illinois Fair were elected president and vice president for Northern (Cindy Mielke of Leaf River continues as sec/treasurer).

Marcia Craig of Clinton County and Kris Lowe of Clinton County were elected president and vice president of the Southern Zone (Ilene Ruroede of Perry County continues as sec/treasurer).

In the Central Zone, officers continue in their positions – Mary Liz Wright of Edgar County as president, Craig McCoy of Fulton County as vice president and Jennifer Swinger of Christian County as sec/treasurer. Thanks to all the officers for their dedication and hard work.

Entertainment at the Central Zone was by Sojourn, represented by Elsenpeter Productions; Broseph and Ventriloquist James Wedgewood at the Northern Zone, both represented by Bobby Baker Entertainment.



Queens attending the Northern Zone meeting had mock interviews and passed out door prizes from the full table.



Sojourn Band, represented by Elsenpeter Productions, entertained Central Zone attendees.



Dean Bruns of Hartsburg in Logan County has attended every Central Zone Meeting since the very first one was held.



Queen Claudia VanOpdorp with Henry County Queen candidate. Henry County is the home county of Claudia.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend Convention

TOP 10 Reasons to Attend the 108th 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.

Blue Ribbon Success is the theme for the 108th Annual IAAF Convention. We're hoping by attending this year's convention, Jan. 19-21, you and your fair will not only win blue ribbons with fairgoers but with your communities.

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 72 contestants vying for the coveted 2018 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. Tim Heller with Red Frog Events will share tips at the Friday Session at 1 p.m. and at one of the Roundtables Sunday morning. 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 Rhonda Jachino and Gina Merano 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 Aaron Alajandro, executive director of the Texas FFA Foundation, will speak at the Saturday morning breakfast on "Live Your Brand". 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 "blue ribbon success" of county fairs over the years.

2. Participate in the election of new IAAF officers and directors. Every two years, we elect new officers at the annual business meeting on Sunday at 11 a.m.

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.

Jachino: Our Condolences

Warm Holiday Wishes!

It's 70 degrees outside as I write this and in case you were wondering, Yes, I'm in Illinois!

Those of us who live here year-round have become familiar with the strange changes in our temperatures - but I'm sure not complaining. Let's hope this bodes well for our summer 2018 county fair season!

Sadly, I wanted to mention the loss of one of IAAF's finest - IAAF Director Russell Vandever. As many of you may know, my family was involved in tractor pulling so I was fortunate to have known Russ for many years.

On behalf of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, we extend our deepest sympathies to his personal family and to his Marion County Fair Board family. He was a special man and will be missed.

And to any other fair boards who

have lost a valued member and friend, such as Christian County Fair Board's sudden loss of Michael Drea, my very sincere condolences.

And to bring us back to the present, here's a quick reminder of your upcoming report deadlines.

Fairs & Expositions: Reports due December 31st

ALL fairs: Declarations of Intent due December 31st

Track Improvement Funds up to \$2,000 for those fairs that held harness races in 2016 or 2017: Application due December 31st

Gina and I look forward to seeing you in January at the IAAF County Fair Convention. Happy Holidays!

Rhonda Jachino
Acting Bureau Chief County Fairs
& Horse Racing
Rhonda.jachino@illinois.gov
217-782-4231

Bit & Piece

"Do not focus on customer satisfaction, but focus on customer experience." —Steve Gillard, IAFE speaker

New Stage Canopy at Effingham Fair

Back in September 2016 Phil Hartke proposed a canopy to be built for the fair stage.

The stage measures 24 ft. by 40 ft. He proposed a canopy that would be 28 ft. by 44 ft. with a 16 ft. clearance in the front to allow people in the top of the grandstand to see the performers on the back part of the stage.

The back of the stage needed to have 15 ft. clearance to allow it enough clearance to cover existing bleachers in the infield. He worked with a local welding company to build it.

It is self-propelled by two 1-hp. Electric motors. It moves at a rate of 12 ft. per minutes. They can move



Effingham Clouty Fair has a new stage canopy that was designed and constructed locally and serves a dual purpose.

the portable stage out on the race track and move the canopy over it in less than an hour. It cost the fair approximately \$30,000.

Because it's portable they can dual use the canopy. When it is not used for stage cover it is used to cover a set of bleachers.

OMB Proposes Withholding Fair Funds

by Margaret Vaughn

While the General Assembly appropriated level funding for the fairs in the budget that became law in July and even included an additional \$5 million, the Governor's Office of Management & Budget (GOMB) is arguing the General Assembly's math does match their own and for FY18 and is coming up \$1.7 billion short.

The Rauner administration is proposing \$156 million in budget reductions, which includes a cut of \$21 million from the Department of Ag.

What does that mean for county fairs? While the level funding to F & E Fairs, and Premiums is intact, the Governor's office wants to withhold \$1,459,000 towards county fair rehab and horse racing and fairs, along with the additional \$5 million the General Assembly appropriated.

What you can do? Contact your GOP legislators and ask them to urge the Governor's office to release the \$1,459,000, which was appropriated to county fairs for rehab and horse racing.

Please follow-up with me at

mvaughn@springnet1.com to let me know you contacted them so I can keep track.

What should you tell your legislator? According to a recent U of I study, county fairs generate \$170 million of annual spending to the Illinois economy and support over 1000 jobs. Please urge the Governor office to release the appropriated \$1,459,000 GOMB is holding up for rehab & horse racing.

The funding goes a long way to promote economic development in rural areas.

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, 2017

Please send this request and check to:

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

Schedule of Events for 2018 IAAF Convention

“Blue Ribbon Success”

108th Annual Convention

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

Schedule of Events for 2018 Convention

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

Thursday, January 18, 2018

- 8:30-11 AM Queen Registration—*Plaza Lobby*
1:00 PM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*
4-6:00 PM Carnival Amusement Safety Board Mtg. — *Illinois Department of Transportation Auditorium, 2300 Dirksen Pkwy.*
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 19, 2018

- 8:30 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsals – *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 Red Frog Events, Tim Heller

What did your fair do differently in 2017?

Moderated by Paul Johnson, Variety Attractions, and IAAF Director Bill Jennings

Illinois Bicentennial Partnership with Illinois County Fairs; David PLerlmutter
—*Plaza FG—1st floor*

- 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.

Eric Burret, Big Hat Hodeo, Trace Cyrus (Upper Deck Concerts), Shania Paige (Heart Songs Corp.), Two Blondes Menalim & Hypnosis, Madd Hoss Jackson (Variety Attractions), Scott Marek Band, The Riverside Band (Elsenpeter Productions), Unforgiven (Togo Talent Agency), Alike Arlynn.

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

Saturday, January 20, 2018

- 7:00 AM Registration Desk Opens

- 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 Bill Redshaw
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: Bill Redshaw, 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 **Aaron Alejandro—“Live Your Brand”, Executive Director, Texas FFA Foundation**, 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 —Rhonda Jachino & Gina Merano —*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*
5:30 PM Mass —*Winter Garden-14th floor*
5:45 PM Sr. Talent Competition- *Plaza H-J*
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 21, 2018

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

- 9:00 AM Registration Desk opens—*Plaza Lobby*
8:00 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal—*Ballroom*

- 8:50 AM Enjoy a Breakfast Sandwich & Coffee —sponsored by AFantasy 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 —*Tim Heller, Rd Frog Events*

- IRS Building Rental Issues—*Mary Lou Wright, Edgard County*

- Livestock meeting—*Ray Hanks, IDOA*

- PETA and other animal rights issues

- Get to know your Senators & Representatives—*Margaret Vaughn, IAAF Legislative Liaison*
- Insurance — Are you prepared for a loss? —*Mike Meisenheimer*
- More Emergency Preparedness
- What do you do to attract more sponsors?
- Bring your problem to the board! —*Bill Jennings/Marvin Perzee, IAAF Board*
- Illinois Bicentennial Agriculture Bike Tour —*Illinois Department of Agriculture, David Perlmutter*

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

Please Register for Door Prizes
A Crowne Plaza Package for the 2019 IAAF Convention will be awarded.

Welcome -Bill Redshaw, IAAF President
Minutes
Introduction of Directors

Committee Reports:

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

Old Business

New Business — Election of Officers

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, Abby Foster—*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 22, 2018

- 8:00 AM IAAF Directors And Spouses Breakfast—*Ruby Room*
9:00 AM IAAF Directors Meeting—*Ruby Room*

IAFE Zone 5 Update

**By Jill Hardesty,
IAFE Zone 5 Director**

“Find your FUN in the “LITTLE APPLE”!

The 2018 IAFE Zone 5 meeting will be held in Hutchison, Kansas, March 2, 3 and 4, 2018. It will be hosted by the Kansas State Fair.

There will be something for everyone and lots of surprises in-between! Please plan to attend this weekend of education, fun, networking and lots of energy as we move into 2018!

More information will be handed out at the IAAF Convention in January. Be looking for it!

IN MEMORIAM

Russell Vandever, age 66, of Kinmundy, IL, died November 21, 2017, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

He was a member of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, Secretary of the Marion County Fair, State Director of Illinois Association Agricultural Fairs, Kinmundy - Alma and South Central School Board, Member of Illinois Tractor Pullers Association, and Soil and Water Conservation Board. He was also named "Illinoisian of The Day" at the 2016 Illinois State Fair by Gov. Rauner. He loved to go hunting and tractor pulling with his family.

Born May 22, 1951, in Salem, he was the son of Ray O. and Lucille (Shaffer) Vandever. His mother Lucille survives in Salem and his father preceded him in death. He was married to Carolyn Jones Vandever, June 6, 1970, in Patoka and she survives in Kinmundy.

Russell is also survived by his son Michael (Tammy) of Alma and daughter, Michelle (Chris) Bloomberg of Kinmundy.

Charles Fulton, age 73, of Centralia, died November 12th at his home. He was a farmer and livestock producer who served as Chairman of the Board and an Elder at Young's Chapel; Raccoon Township Supervisor for 52 years; treasurer of the Marion County Fair Board, and member of the Marion County Farm Bureau Board and Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Charles Fulton is survived by his wife: Georgiann Helene (Johnson) Fulton of Centralia; two sons: one brother: three grandchildren: four step-grandchildren.

Michael Patrick Drea, 60, of Taylorville passed away at October 7, 2017. He was born on May 13, 1957 in Taylorville, the son of Patrick E. and Marjorie L. (Rhodes) Drea. Mike married Kathy Nolan on September 7, 1985 and she survives. He graduated from South Fork High School in 1975. He earned his Bachelor's in Accounting from Sangamon State University in Springfield and went on to receive his MBA from

there in 1982 and is also a Certified Procurement Buyer.

Mike worked for the State of Illinois for 32 years, including 25 years in the Comptroller's Office and later for the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission at the Department of Transportation as a Procurement Officer/State Purchasing Officer retiring in 2013. Mike was an active member of the Christian County Democrat Party.

Mike had a passion for serving his community and was proud to be active in many organizations throughout the years. He has served as Director of the Christian County Agricultural Fair Association for 31 years.

Cheryl Jean "Jeannie" Morrison, 59, of Hammond, IL, died on March 11, 2017. Jeannie was married to Jim "Moe" Morrison on May 29, 1976. She is survived by her husband, 2 sons, JC and Joshua (Rebecca), and 4 siblings.

Jeannie was the secretary of the Piatt County Fair for 7 years, having helped with the fair for a few years before that. She worked at Krogers for 20 years, for Cerro Gordo PreSchool, for Monticello Bus Company, and for First Student. She was a tireless worker at the Fair and at its weekly bingo sessions.

Robert Dean "Bob" Day, 41, of Hammond, IL, died on July 20, 2017. He was married to Kristina Kerst on October 10, 2014. He is survived by his wife, a son Lukus, his parents, a brother, and a niece and nephew.

Bob served in several offices on the Piatt County Fair board, including president, vice-president, and director. After Lukus was born, Bob brought him to every fair board meeting. Bob loved farming and joined his father and uncle in their farming business, Day Farms. He also ran Day Trucking. Bob was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church where he was on the church board and a member of Knights of Columbus. He was a member of Piatt County Young Ag Leaders Committee and of Piatt County and Illinois Farm Bureau.

William "Bill" Ritchie, 91, of Cerro Gordo, IL, died on May 11, 2017. He married Joyce Hainey and later Myra Basden; both of whom preceded him in death. Bill is survived by children Ilene Harned, Steve (Angie) and Don (Cristy) Ritchie, Beth (Dale) Walker, Laura (Buck) Buchanan, Elizabeth (Greg) Duggar, and Julia Basden, and 32 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren.

Bill was the last of the founding members of the Piatt County Fair, after it moved to Cerro Gordo, and spent many years in various offices on the fair board. He served in the Army in WWII, was a farmer, a construction worker, a member of Cerro Gordo American Legion Post #117, and a member of the Cerro Gordo United Methodist Church.

Richard "Dick" Seitz, 79, of Cerro Gordo, IL, died May 22, 2017. He married Beverly Albert on January 18, 1958. Dick is survived by his wife, children Renee (Jim) Crawley, Brant (Diana) and Darren Seitz, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, and 2 siblings.

Dick served in a number of offices on the Piatt County Fair board before becoming president for a number of years, beginning in the late 1990s. He and his family remained active with the tractor pulls for many years after. Dick served in the National Guard, was a truck driver with Local 279, a farmer, and served on the Cerro Gordo Village board of trustees.

Constance "Connie" Nickey, 67, of Decatur, died May 30, 2017. She was married to Donald Nickey on August 12, 1979. She is survived by her husband, children Patrick (Courtney) and Joan Nickey, one grandchild, and one sister.

Connie was co-superintendent of the Piatt County Fair General Exhibits Adult Show with her daughter Joan for many years. She also volunteered time in the Fair office during the fair. Connie worked at First National Bank, Decatur, was a Mary Kay consultant, a member of the First Baptist Church in Decatur, HCE, and Farm Bureau.

IAAF Convention Roundtables Are Back

IAAF Convention Roundtables are back!

There is an exciting group of roundtable discussions this year at the IAAF Convention in January.

The Roundtable date is Sunday, January 21st. 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!

1. Social Media - What it can do for you with Tim Heller, Red Frog Events
2. IRS Building Rental Issues with Mary Lou Wright, Edgar County
3. Livestock meeting with State IDOA representatives
4. PETA and other animal rights issues
5. Get to know your Senators & Representatives with Margaret Vaughn, IAAF Leg. Liaison
6. Insurance – are you prepared for a loss? with Mike Meisenheimer
7. More Emergency Preparedness

8. What do you do to attract more sponsors?

9. Bring your problem to the board! with Bill Jennings and

Marvin Perzee of the IAAF Board
10. IL Bicentennial Agriculture Bike Tour by IL Dept. of Ag – David Perlmutter

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 in March, 2018 in Hutchison, Kansas. The IAAF would like to encourage leadership with some new generations as we” Build for the Future.”

Five 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 March 2-4, 2018.

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 5 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, 2018. 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!

Charlyn Fargo Ware, Secretary
1400 Mound Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Illinois
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