

Summer Workshop Focuses on New Ideas

The Florida Federation of Fairs Summer Workshop was held July 29th & 30th in Plant City, FL. The event was hosted by the Florida Strawberry Festival in honor of Happy Norris, the current President of the Florida Federation of Fairs.

Twenty-five Fairs with 123 Fair folks attended the two day event which included a welcome dinner on Friday night and a full day of educational sessions on Saturday. The Welcome Dinner was co-sponsored by the Florida Strawberry Festival and Belle City Amusements.

The keynote speaker for the Summer Workshop was Barbara Hensinger with the IAFE Speaker's Bureau. Barbara's presentation "Partnerships – How To Explore The Uncharted Territory?" was thought provoking and innovative. Saturday's workshop also featured a variety of workshops which included: Unleashing the Power of Google by Jeff Shreaves, Florida State Fair; Update on the most recent EPV-1 outbreak and update on health rules and regulations by Dr. Diane Kitchen and Ken Westerman with the FDACS; New Tactics and Technologies by Scott Merselis with the Florida State Fair; On-Site Contest and Competitive Exhibits by Gayle Hart, Greater Jacksonville Ag Fair, and Bettye Thompson, South Florida Fair; and Creative Thinking by Rip Stalvey with the Florida State Fair. The day wrapped up with a series of round table discussions as follows: Gate Procedures and Ticketing Policies by Bill Olson, Greater Jacksonville Ag Fair; Blue Ribbon Fairs Best Practices and Judging Guidelines by Jim Ward, Pasco County Fair; Ag Awards Program by Dan West, Manatee County Fair; and Getting Creative by Theresa Agricola, South Florida Fair.

The event sponsors were: Welcome Dinner - Florida Strawberry Festival and Belle City Amusements; Lunch - Florida State Fair; Continental Breakfast - Miami Dade County Fair & Exposition; Coffee Break - Wade Shows; Guest Speaker - IAFE & Bianco's Foods; Door Prizes - Firefighter's Indian River County Fair, First America Bank, Northeast Florida Fair, St. Lucie County Fair, Volusia County Fair; Signage - South Florida Fair; AV & Tech Support - Florida State Fair. The support of these sponsors helps make such events possible for the Federation.



Federation President Happy Norris welcomed the group to the 2011 Summer Workshop.



The Florida Strawberry Festival hosted this year's Summer Workshop. Pictured here are (left to right) Paul Davis, Manager Florida Strawberry Festival; Joe Repass, Associate Director Florida Federation of Fairs representing K & K Insurance; Ron Gainey and his wife Vonda, President of the Florida Strawberry Festival Board.



Belle City Amusements and the Florida Strawberry Festival co-sponsored the Welcome Dinner on Friday night. Left to right – Charles Panacek with Belle City Amusements and Paul Davis, General Manager, Florida Strawberry Festival.



Federation Past President's are still strong supporters of the Federation. Left to right – Doris Graska, Past President 2009 and Ken Cassels with his wife Peggy, Past President 1990.



Rip Stalvey with the Florida State Fair presented a session on “Creative Thinking”.