

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF FAIRS

Holds Successful Convention

The Florida Federation of Fairs & Livestock Shows, Inc. 59th Annual Convention – entitled “Kick Off the Fun – Bring The Whole Team” was held in Daytona Beach, Florida on May 13 – 15th.

Perfect weather provided a wonderful day for the pre-convention golf tournament fundraiser held at the LPGA International Golf Course on May 12th. This year’s 10th Annual Tournament was held in honor of Giles Ellis, Controller at the Florida State Fair who passed away in 2007. Giles initiated the first Federation Golf Tournament and we were pleased to be joined by Giles’s daughter Amanda Correia. The day started with lunch and access to the beautiful course for a field of 46 golfers. A great afternoon of golf was followed by a sumptuous dinner and prize drawings. David Viers, Tournament Chairman, assisted by the Golf Tournament Committee and the great staff at the Volusia County Fair (Paulette Viers, Darla Combs, and Thom Giordano) did a superb job in putting together the annual tournament.

Thursday morning, things started off early as the Trade Show area took shape with 64 booths by our Associate members. The Board of Directors honored the Federation’s Past Presidents at a breakfast that was sponsored by Belle City Amusements. The breakfast was followed with a Board meeting. The afternoon provided dedicated Trade Show time, and also table topics including sessions on Beer/Wine Gardens; an E. coli Update; ADA – from the bottom up; Sponsorships; Non-Fair Revenues; and Competitive Exhibit Ideas. The afternoon also hosted three guest speakers with current topics: Handling Complaints by Barbara Hensinger, Ingham County Fair in Michigan; A Shortcourse in Facility Operations by Bob Batista, President of the Rocky Mountain Fair Association; and Looking at Your Fair Through The Eyes of An Attendee by Charlie Smith with Populous. The afternoon also featured two Encounters with Technology workshops on Word 2007 and Getting Organized. These “hands-on” computer classes continue to be popular with the convention attendees.

Thursday evening, all registered delegates received a complimentary ticket to the President’s Party. The party, in honor of President Artie McIntyre was sensational. President Party Chairman Gayle Hart (Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair) and her committee created a spectacular event centered around the theme “Kick Off The Fun...Bring The Whole Team!”. The evening featured several showcases and a live auction. The event was sponsored by Reithoffer Shows and included a free drink ticket for all partygoers. The event was a definite success!

Friday morning, delegates arrived in great spirits for the official opening session of the convention. After a welcome by Artie McIntyre and a beautiful version of the National Anthem sung by Mark Mabrey and the Doo Wah Riders, the audience was moved and motivated by the keynote speaker who was sponsored by Populous. The keynote speaker Bobby McLamb entertained and motivated attendees with his address. Delegates spent the rest of the day between the Trade Show and educational sessions.

This year’s Educational Sessions were sponsored by Haas & Wilkerson and involved over 82 speakers, moderators, and facilitators. Federation Fair members and Associate members presented many informative sessions and were also joined by several guest speakers. Guest speakers included: **Code Adam—Lost Kid Policies & Procedures - Michael Treacy, Director California Department of**

Food and Agriculture—Division of Fairs and Expositions; Simple Ways To Go Green At Your Fair - Chrysty Fortner, Tennessee State Fair; Zoonotic Diseases—What Do They Mean To Our Fairs - Dr. Jenifer Chatfield, DVD; The Principles of Food and Beverages—Rey O’Day, Executive Manager of NICA- West (Sponsored by NICA—National IndependentConcessionaires Association and IAFE—International Association of Fairs and Expositions); and The Future of Youth Livestock Shows - Chad Carr, University of Florida.

The Friday Night Showcase Event which was sponsored by the Associates continues to grow in popularity and success. The evening featured two showcases, and new this year – 3 video showcases, a variety of flavored popcorns, free beer, and a great variety of card game mixers. The mixers were a great success in getting everyone “up and out of their chairs” to participate and get to know one another.

Saturday morning began with refreshments in the Trade Show sponsored by the Volusia County Fair. The afternoon was bustling with educational topics, and the Annual Business meeting, as the Florida Federation of Fairs Board of Directors convened with the new board to elect officers. The new Officers and Directors are:

Jeanne Keaton – President, St. Lucie County Fair
C.E. “Happy” Norris - 1st Vice President, Lake County Fair
Dan West - 2nd Vice President, Manatee County Fair
Gayle Hart – Secretary/Treasurer, Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair
Artie McIntyre - Immediate Past President, Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair
Felicia Chivington, Pensacola Interstate Fair
Phil Clark, Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition
Gayle Hart, Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair
Dawn Rowe, Osceola County Fair
Pete Sutton, Clay County Fair
Toby Turner, Indian River County and Firefighters Fair
Tom Umiker, Greater Hillsborough County Fair
Rick Vymlatil, South Florida Fair
Jim Ward, Pasco County Fair
Vicki Oler, Oler Productions – Associate Director
Joe Repass, K & K Insurance Group of Florida – Associate Director
Don Coker, FL Dept. Of Agriculture - Farmers Market Division - Honorary
Frankie Hall, FL Farm Bureau - Honorary
Dr. Larry Arrington, Florida Cooperative Extension Service – Honorary

At the annual banquet on Saturday evening, awards were presented to various individuals. These included:

- A special President’s award to the Volusia County Fair for all their hard work putting together the very successful annual golf tournament fundraiser.
- The Associate of the Year award was presented to Rebecca and Charles Panachek – Belle City Amusements who have supported the Federation and fair industry for many years.
- The Florida fairs awarded as Blue Ribbon Fairs are named below.
- The Florida Federation Hall of Fame inductee for 2010 was Lisa Hinton, Executive Secretary for the Federation and past Director of Agribusiness for the Florida State Fair
- Sponsoring the most new members was Tracy Thompson of the Pasco County Fair

- Winning the IAFE Fair Management Scholarship was James Smith of the Levy County Fair.

Following the presentation of awards, President Artie McIntyre turned the gavel over to Jeanne Keaton from the St. Lucie County Fair. After presenting the Past President's plaque to Artie, Jeanne noted that she is looking forward to her year as President and sees this as an awesome opportunity to work for the betterment of our industry. After the entertainment showcase, everyone was invited to a reception honoring the new President, Hall of Fame Inductee, and Associate of Year where the festivities continued on.

The hospitality suite has been a continued success at the convention. Everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to socialize and network after hours.

2009-10 Blue Ribbon Fairs

Brevard County Fair
Central Florida Fair
Central Panhandle Fair
Citrus County Fair
Clay County Fair
Collier County Fair
Columbia County Fair
Firefighters Indian River County Fair
Florida State Fair
Florida Strawberry Festival
Hardee County Fair
Hernando County Fair
Highlands County Fair
Lake County Fair
Manatee County Fair
Miami-Dade County Fair
Northeast Florida Fair
Northwest Florida Fair
Okeechobee County Fair
Osceola County Fair
Pasco County Fair
Pensacola Interstate Fair
Putnam County Fair
St. Lucie County Fair
Santa Rosa County Fair
South Florida Fair
Southeastern Youth Fair
Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair
Sumter County Fair
Suwannee County Fair
Volusia County Fair & Youth Show

A Sincere Thank You to Our Convention Sponsors!

SPONSORS

Reithoffer Shows

President's Party Presenting Sponsor

Populous

Opening Session Keynote Speaker

Haas & Wilkerson Insurance

Educational Sessions

Volusia County Fair

Refreshment Breaks

Wade Shows

Friday Luncheon

Netterfield Foods

Saturday Luncheon

Belle City Amusements

*Past President's Breakfast
& Printing of History Book*

North American Midway

IAFE Scholarship

Murphy Brothers Exposition

Incoming President & Hall of Fame Reception

K & K Insurance

Name Badges

American Tent

Directory Cover Photo Contest

Capitol International Productions

Year in Review Video

Duttera Sound

Ag Awards

Allied Specialty Insurance

Famous Gabbys

Florida State Fair (2)

Lafayette Tent & Awning (2)

Myers International Midway

Northeast Florida Fair

nQativ

O'Brien's Food Service

Rick Modesitt & Associates Entertainment

The Best Around

Triangle Talent

Trade Show Door Prizes



2010-2011 Board of Directors

(left to right) Lisa Hinton, Tom Umiker, Felecia Chivington, Rick Vymlatil, Dawn Rowe, Dan West, Jeanne Keaton, Pete Sutton, Artie McIntyre, Jim Ward, Gayle Hart, Happy Norris, Vicki Oler, Joe Repass, Toby Turner, and Phil Clark



Hall of Fame recipient Lisa Hinton with last year's recipient Happy Norris.



Associate of the Year Recipients – Charles and Rebecca Panacek with President Artie McIntyre.



Incoming President, Jeanne Keaton presents outgoing President, Artie McIntyre with his Retiring President's Gavel.