

# CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

## **Stephen Brown**

Incumbent  
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E-Mail:

### **1. *State why you wish to serve on the Board of Directors.***

I wish to continue serving on the Board of Directors because it is a tremendous honor to be part of the most fun and educational event in Alaska! As an active board member for the past 4 years, I believe I have demonstrated a very strong commitment to act on behalf of our members, vendors and staff. I wish the opportunity to continue doing this.

### **2. *Summarize employment experience; include work with budgets and supervisory duties.***

I have over 23 years experience as a Professor for the Cooperative Extension Service in agriculture, horticulture and 4-H. I have served at Cornell University, Kansas State University, University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In these positions I have been responsible for managing employees, students and volunteers. I have experience managing multi-million dollar budgets and have written over 2 million dollars in grants.

### **3. *List any volunteer activities, including board experience.***

I have served as President and board member of the Palmer Kiwanis Club. I am a volunteer member of the Red Cross for the Mat-Su Valley. I have been a Scoutmaster with 6 Eagle Scouts to my credit. I have been a finance volunteer and a Friends of Scouting chairman for the Great Alaska Council. I am the President Elect of the Board of Directors for the Journal of Extension. I am the Western Region Director and board member for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. I have served as a missionary in Indonesia and Haiti on behalf of Lazy Mountain Bible Church.

### **4. *How have you participated in the Fair in the past? Includes fairgoer, vendor, volunteer, exhibitor, employee, events, programs and activities.***

I have had a life-long association with county and state fairs...first as a youth in 4-H and FFA livestock competitions and then professionally as a Cooperative Extension Service Agent. I have served the Alaska State Fair both professionally and as a volunteer since 2007. Professionally I serve the Fair as the Mat-Su/Copper River District Agriculture Agent for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This means training the many Master Gardeners that volunteer at the Fair as well as the adult and youth 4-H exhibitors. During the Fair I volunteer as a 4-H agriculture/horticulture exhibit judge and work in the 4-H building in the "Ask an Expert" booth. For 2015 I was elected as Vice President of the Board of Directors where I also serve on the Scholarship Committee. During the winter I conduct workshops on how to grow giant vegetables for exhibition at the fair. I am also a financial donor to the Fair.

### **5. *Summarize what you value most about the Fair. State your specific areas of interest.***

What I value the most about the Fair is that it is a fun family experience to taste and see all that Alaska has to offer. Unique vendors, exotic foods, educational exhibits, competitions and fun shows blend together to make this happen. My particular area of interest with the Fair is working with the 4-H program and helping prepare the horticultural exhibitors through the Alaska Master Gardener Program.

### **6. *What is your vision for the Fair and do you have specific goals?***

My vision for the Fair is that it continues being the flagship of agricultural education in Alaska. Through a variety of experiences including competitions, shows, displays and vendors, it should connect Fairgoers with the importance of Alaska's unique agricultural heritage and future. My specific goal is to find ways to expand the educational experience of the Fair to an increasingly urban population. Our Fair should represent all of Alaska, but particularly preserve the uniqueness of Palmer's agricultural legacy. I believe our Fair should continue to grow and become an even bigger destination experience for Alaska and beyond.