



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 19, 2021
Wednesday
7:00 p.m.
Raven Hall

Alaska State Fair Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

Alaska State Fair, Inc. provides a center for the Alaskan community to gather in a dynamic and safe atmosphere throughout the year.

Mission

Produce a traditional State Fair which educates and entertains Fairgoers. Provide stable finances through good business practices, statewide outreach, partnerships and hosting a variety of community, cultural, and business events.

Alaska State Fair, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting
May 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Agenda

1. Establish Quorum
2. Call to Order: President Kristy Thom Bernier
Ballot Box Presented
3. Introduction of Board and CEO
4. Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
5. Treasurer's Report, John Harkey
6. State of the Alaska State Fair Address, President Bernier
7. Proposed Bylaw Vote
8. Election Committee Report, Jason Ortiz
9. Candidate Statements – 3-minute limit
10. Election of Directors
Call for ballots
11. Recess
12. Door Prize Drawing
13. Final Call for Ballots
14. CEO Jerome Hertel, Preview for 2021
15. Member Comments
16. Board Comments
17. Results of Director Election
18. Adjournment



March 8, 2021

Dear Alaska State Fair Member,

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Membership Meeting of the Alaska State Fair on Wednesday, May 19th at Raven Hall. Doors open and voter registration begins at 6:30 pm. It is crucial that you attend, as a quorum is required even if you have mailed in your ballot. In addition, bylaw changes must be voted on in person until the proposed mail-in option passes.

Candidates for election to the Alaska State Fair Board of Directors were certified by the Election Committee for one open seat. Candidate's profiles are included in this booklet. At the Annual Meeting you'll have the opportunity to hear a short presentation from each candidate.

The board of directors would like to ask for your support to approve our proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. As noted, most of the changes are housekeeping for consistency. The housekeeping changes will be listed separately for the vote this year. An additional vote will take place for the proposed change to allow the membership to vote on any future changes to the Articles and Bylaws by mail-in ballot or in person. You must be present at the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 to vote on this specific proposed change to the Articles and Bylaws of Incorporation as the Bylaws currently state that the vote must be made in person, until this bylaw passes. Please be sure to read your voting instructions carefully.

Thank you for your continued support of our fair! It has been and continues to be my honor to serve as your President.

Sincerely,

Kristy Thom Bernier
President

Alaska State Fair, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2019

President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:03pm after a quorum of 71 was established by Fosselman & Associates.

Chmielewski/MCU: Dispense with the reading of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Allen/MCU: Approve the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

Combs/MCU: Dispense with the reading of the 2018 Treasure's Report and accept the treasurer's report.

President Brown reviewed some of the 2018 Fair highlights:

- "Memories in the Making" Theme,
- Farm Family of the Year, Brian, and Laurie Olson. Alaska Berries, Soldotna, Alaska,
- Scholarship Awards totaling \$8,000 were given out to five students this year,
- 8, 532 Exhibit entries were received, 23 new State records were recorded,
- Ten-year record of 45,703 pounds of recycling material was picked up by different volunteer individuals and groups,
- 4-H livestock Auction raised \$224,000, \$10,000 more than last year,
- Monster Truck Show had three completely sold out shows,
- Increases of 4.2% in attendance, 5.7% in gate revenue, 23% in advance ticket sales and 46% in concert sales,
- Alaska State Fair won 11 overall awards at International Association of Fairs and Exposition,
- Super Volunteers were recognized – people who have come every year, such as Frank and Linda Dias with Linda's sister Gina, represented the spirit of all the volunteers who donate their time,

On a very sad note, Brown reported that Claire Morton, Golden Wheel Amusement, a true icon of our Fair and the Fair industry had died. Her family will continue to carry on in her footsteps.

Election Committee Chair Ortiz reported Stephen Brown, Aryn Randall, William Tull, Brittany Hudson Greer, Jerika George, John Harkey, Timothy Maudsley, Shawn Decker, & Ailis Vann had certified eligible to run for Board of Director seats. Ortiz stated election services provided by Fosselman & Associates and thanked the Palmer Kiwanis for being Election Officials. Candidates present spoke to the membership.

President Brown called for a vote on amendments to the Articles and Bylaws.
Allen moved to approve/Motion Failed.

General Manager Hertel reported the entertainment lineup for the 2019 Fair, announced new food booths, improvements scheduled for completion, and the theme "Crazy Good" to the membership.

Director Bernier announced that members had elected Stephen Brown, John Harkey, and Aryne Randall.

President Brown recognized previous Director Lara McGinnis for her contributions and presented outgoing Director John Tracy with a Shane Lamb print inscribed with the Fair's thanks for his dedication and many contributions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Jon-Marc Petersen, Incumbent
jmp@denalilaw.com

Wasilla, AK

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

This will be my second term serving on the Board of Directors if I am re-elected. I am fully invested in what we have accomplished and want to continue serving my community and the Alaska State Fair

2. Summarize employment experience.

I have been self employed as a partner with Denali Law Group since 2007. Prior to that I was an Assistant District Attorney for the State of Alaska in Palmer.

3. List any volunteer activities, including board experience

I have served on numerous boards in the past. I also do volunteer work through church. I routinely take on pro bono cases where I encounter a person in need who cannot afford an attorney.

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

I have served on the BOD of the State Fair and have participated in the fair in that capacity. Prior to that I was a fair goer with my 6 children.

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

Now more than ever the Alaska State Fair will give us a sense of community. COVID has changed the landscape of how we do life and I see the State Fair being instrumental in strengthening our community spirit.

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

I want a roller coaster for the Fair. We need to continue to develop the Rebarchek Agricultural park as well as continue to be fiscally responsible while working to expand the infrastructure to include a new venue to replace the sluice box. Expanded vendor involvement as well as continuing cultural appreciation and education for Alaska Natives.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Cody Beus

greatlandfamilynursery@gmail.com

Wasilla, AK

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

I wish to serve as a way of contributing to the local and regional community through my experience. I know the positive impact this organization and its events have on the people of this area and I want to serve to carry that forward. Specifically I have firm roots in the agriculture community and have successfully worked with diverse organizations to bring about events that positively impact our communities. I have a strong desire backed by a proven work ethic to be a part of the team that works to provide these events that have so positively impacted my life.

2. Summarize employment experience.

I currently serve as a teacher and FFA advisor for the Agricultural Education Program at Palmer High School. Before attending post-secondary education, I dairy farmed in Point Mackenzie and during school was a wildland firefighter with the State of Alaska. Before accepting the position here in Palmer I was the Greenhouse and Agriculture Program Manager for the Southeast Island School District. In this position I secured and implemented numerous grants totaling over \$400,000. I managed over 7 greenhouse sites and coordinated with Alaska Native organizations and community groups to increase food security and provide economic opportunities.

3. List any volunteer activities, including board experience.

I serve on the Alaska Association of Agriculture and Natural Resource Educators (AAANRE) as Secretary and as a board member of the Alaska FFA Association. I currently am a member of the Mat-Su Borough Agriculture Advisory Board and also serve as the Vice-President of the Mat-Su chapter of the Alaska Farm Bureau. To a lesser extent I have volunteered with Alaska 4h, the Northland Pioneer Grange #1, Alaska Master Gardeners, and the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association.

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

I have been an avid fairgoer since the age of three when I first relished an Elephant Ear scone on the midway! As a teenager I worked at a clothes vendor and have always enjoyed attending the concerts. My children are active 4h members and I have helped volunteer with the livestock committee's great work. I actively attend the other activities on the fairgrounds such as the drive-in movie, vintage market, dog show, and many other activities. I have also consulted with the Rebarchek farm project and volunteered in the Mat-Su Farm Bureau's booth.

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

What I value most about the fair is its connection to the past and its celebration of the future. People come to the fair to be inspired by new thoughts, ideas, actions, while reflecting on our proud agricultural history. The economic impact is more important than ever and I want to highlight and expand on all of these areas. My specific areas of interest include Native Alaska culture, agriculture, and the public education/outreach programs. To me the Fair and its related events add to a quality of living that also translates into economic prosperity.

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

I first want the Fair to continue to be the highlight of the year for many Alaskans while continuing to expand its offerings. The financial stability of the organization is always of concern, especially navigating the uncharted waters of external policy. I specifically want to expand partnerships where possible with Alaska Native entities and agricultural groups for improved public offerings. I mainly want to learn more from the incredible board team so that I may offer assistance to existing goals.

A BIG thank you to our generous 2020 sponsors

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We express our gratitude to the following...

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State of Alaska, Historical Foundation Grant
Tanaina Folk Farm, Matthew and Chelsea Dischner
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2020 Alaska State Fair Farm Family of the Year

Halibut Cove shellfish farmers are Alaska's Farm Family of 2020

Alaska's Farm Family of the Year for 2020 was the Bates family of Halibut Cove, whose determined operation of their shellfish farm in Kachemak Bay embodies the innovative, resilient spirit of Alaska agriculture even in the face of a global pandemic.

"Alaska agriculture is a growing, evolving industry, and nothing reflects that more clearly than the selection of oyster farmers as Farm Family of the Year" said Dave Schade, director of the Division of Agriculture. "Greg and Weatherly Bates have embraced the opportunities of aquaculture in Alaska, and their success in this new market sector points to a prosperous future for them and other farming families, as well."

The Bates both grew up the coastal culture of a seashore Rhode Island town, and after successfully managing a growing oyster farm there together they married, then honeymooned in Alaska. Falling in love with the state and its opportunities, they moved north in 2007 and started Alaska Shellfish Farm. With the help of their children, Rockwell and Vera, their growing family operation produces and sells oysters and mussels, and recently expanded into the evolving kelp market.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed off national markets, they met the challenge by refocusing on local sales, even loading oysters on a small boat tied to shore for sale to locals on honor system, according to those nominating the family, who added that "Weatherly and Greg are the hardest-working, most compassionate young couple we have ever met." With the COVID-19 pandemic driving many normal activities online, the division used online resources to increase the accessibility of the award and the visibility of the industry it supports, Schade said. Nominations, including the winning nomination, arrived online.

Farm Families Over the Years

- 2000 Paul & Bernice Huppert Family – Palmer, AK
- 2001 Ben & Suus VanderWeele Family – Vanderweele Farms, Palmer, AK
- 2002 Bob & Jean Havemeister Family – Havemeister Farms, Palmer, AK
- 2003 Mark & Tammy Rempel Family – Palmer, AK
- 2004 Paul & Peggy Dinkins – P & M Gardens, Eagle River, AK
- 2005 Tom Zimmer & Susan Willsrud Family – Calypso Farm & Ecology Center, Ester, AK
- 2006 Rex & Shirlene Wrigley Family – Delta Junction, AK
- 2007 Bobby & Brenda and Randy & Becky Peterson Families – Insanity Acres, Delta Junction, AK
- 2008 Brad & Pam Lewis Family – Palmer, AK
- 2009 Oberg – Kenley Family – Palmer, AK
- 2010 Pyrah Family – Pyrah's Pioneer Peak Farm, Palmer, AK
- 2011 The Baker Family – Gray Owl Farms, Palmer, AK
- 2012 Carrol and JoAnne Martin – Diamond M Ranch, Ninilchik or Kenai, AK
- 2013 Vern Stockwell and Becky Gardner – Stockwell Farms, Palmer, AK
- 2014 Williams Family - EagleSong Family Peony Farm, Wasilla, AK
- 2015 Todd Petit/Jack Seeman Family – Little Pitchford Ranch, Palmer, AK
- 2016 The Plagerman Family – Scott Plagerman Farms, Delta Junction, AK
- 2017 The McCollums and Pinkertons – Northwest Land & Livestock, Delta Meat & Sausage, Inc. Delta Junction, AK
- 2018 The Olsen Family, Alaska Berries – Soldotna, AK
- 2019 Brad and Christine St. Pierre, Goosefoot Farm - Fairbanks, AK

The "Farm Family of the Year" award was established in 2000 by the Alaska Division of Agriculture and the Alaska State Fair with the intent to honor an Alaska farm family that best epitomizes the spirit of the industry that year, and to show appreciation for hard-working Alaskans committed to agriculture, including Alaska's growing aquaculture segment.

Year-Round Events & Facility Rentals

The fairgrounds are normally utilized by many different entities, for many different events. Before the Covid 19 pandemic struck we had the Mat Valley Sportsmen's Gun Show, the Denali Destroyers Roller Derby, and the NRA Banquet. Other events postponed until the infection rates lowered or until they could hold the event outdoors, while most events cancelled for 2020 to keep their employees and attendees safe.

Alaska State Fair staff came up with new forms of entertainment that were socially distanced and provided safe but fun outings. The fairgrounds were a perfect venue for drive-in movies. They were a welcome throw back for older people and a novel experience for young people.

We provided space for a three-week long carnival that implemented pandemic safety protocols. Masks were provided, attendance was limited, and queues maintained six-foot distancing between families. The carnival was a great way to safely get kids out while the parents enjoyed a beer in the outdoor beer garden. The beautiful sunny weather really worked with us for these events.

Of course, in August we have the Alaska State Fair. To keep the crowds down and provide plenty of room for outdoor social distancing, we held the Harvest Festival in lieu of the annual fair. It was a success with giant vegetables, food vendors, cool stuff vendors, and outdoor entertainment. Pandemic protocols were in place and again the weather obliged.

As case numbers lowered, some events proceeded with a focus on providing safe experience. Alaska Vintage Market and Food Truck Fest moved to the Farm Building to provide social distancing for vendors and attendees. The barn-like atmosphere enhanced the ambiance of the event so much they are going to continue to use it this spring.

As we entered colder weather, many events had to cancel. They could not provide safe distancing indoors. But the ever-inventive Christmas Factory developed ways to keep families socially distanced and allowed children (young and old alike) to make sure Santa had their list.

2021 promises to bring back all our favorite events held on the fairgrounds. Please watch the calendar on the website to keep abreast of all that is happening on the grounds this year.

Let Us Host Your Next Event

We have three heated facilities that are available for rent year-round, apart from Fair-time.

- **Colony Theatre** is perfect for small receptions, classes, and meetings. It has a quaint, rustic atmosphere.
- **Hoskins Building** is perfect for groups that are too large for our smaller venues, but not large enough to fill Raven Hall. It has easy access for loading and unloading, and a spacious parking area.
- The largest of our buildings is the 20,000-square-foot **Raven Hall**. It has an abundance of restrooms and a catering kitchen with plenty of cooler space and freezer space. Raven Hall is perfect for fundraisers, trade shows, dog shows, receptions, memorials, and many other events. Raven Hall is beautifully decorated for the holidays. If you are interested in holding a holiday party, without the work of decorating, think of Raven Hall! Early reservations are highly encouraged, as we host many parties during the busy holiday season and now a holiday gun show as well!
- During the summer months we also have the **Sheldon Events Center** available. It is perfect for large receptions, dances, and smaller trade shows.
- **Eckert Gardens** has become a favorite for weddings and small gatherings. It is an oasis, with a lovely pagoda for dining or ceremonies.
- If you don't need a building, but you are looking for a secure, area with plenty of parking. Look no further. The combination of our enclosed lawn areas is perfect for large functions, picnics, retreats, dog training or conventions.
- For more information on Fair events or facility rentals, check our Facilities page on alaskastatefair.org, email sheri@alaskastatefair.org or phone sheri Musgrave at 907-746-7173.