

OAAS District 13 Spring Meeting Minutes

April 17th 2019

Held at the Melbourne Agricultural Society

12 of 16 Fairs/Ag Society represented themselves at the meeting with a total attendance of 34 members.

Regrets: None received

Guests: Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden – Strathroy Caradoc

Brian Slaughter – 1st Vice President OAAS

1. Welcome from the District 13 executive. Lauren Armstrong declared the meeting open at 7:32am. She extended thanks to the Melbourne Ag Society for hosting the meeting.
2. Joanne Vanderheyden brought greetings from Middlesex County and shared her experience with 4H and the local fairs, recognizing them as economic drivers to the local economy and a vibrant part of our communities. She thanked everyone for their volunteerism.
3. Brian Slaughter – current 1st Vice President of the OAAS – brought greetings on behalf of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies and wished all of us success with the 2019 fair season.
4. Lauren enquired if there were any items from the floor to be added to the agenda, none being had.
5. **A motion was asked to accept the minutes from the last Spring Meeting. Wayne Ramsay of the Plympton –Wyoming Ag Society made the motion, Justen Richards of the Petrolia & Enniskillen Ag Society – seconded the motion – All in favour – carried.**
6. Reports from the District 13 Executive were given – **see attached X 3**
7. Brenda Tipping gave her provincial Director Report – **see attached**
8. Lauren updated everyone on the Ambassador Experience- see attached. **A motion was made by Kathy Williams – North Dorchester Ag Society, seconded by Doug Krall of the Petrolia & Enniskillen Ag Society for \$300 to be allocated for the Fair Ambassador Day being held at the Forest Fair grounds on June 22nd, 2019. All in favour – motion carried**
9. Lauren announced that Mark Williams – North Dorchester Ag Society has taken on the role of secretary/Treasurer until the Fall AGM in November.
10. New Business – Barbara Johnston – Ilderton Fair – spoke about water costs imposed upon them by their local municipality and wondered how other district members were experiencing such issues. A questionnaire concerning this issue was put in everyone's bag of information and we ask that you take a few moments to fill it out and return the information. Be sure to look for your updated District 13 judging lists that are also a part of your information provided.
11. November 16th was announced as the date for the Fall AGM – being held in Thorndale.

12. Open Forum – many shared upcoming fund raising events for their Ag Societies – see attached
13. Adjournment was called at 8:25pm

Reports from your Executive

Judy Krall

Shared some information and concerns from an OAAS Directors Discussion held on February 15th 2019

- There are fairs that are failing to follow the Agricultural & Horticultural Act
- Judy McFaul mentioned that she likes to attend Fair AGM's instead of the Fair Openings – Everyone is so busy at their respective Fair at fair time that attending Fair AGM's make for more meaningful discussion time.
- Develop a visitation schedule for your Fairs (We have done this one already.)
- There are Fairs experiencing governance issues. Governance will be available online and at next year's Convention.
- Provincial Directors are there to help offering an extra hand and guidance.
- Develop a District Facebook page. (We have already done this also.)
- There still is a lack of qualified judges. It is nice to see new judges.
- Having District directors allows us to get a presence at our Fairs.
- Organize a District event, such as a family farm tour, as an example.
- Invite all Districts to attend District AGM's.
- Share resources amongst the Fairs in our District/region.
- It was said by another District that has had 3 District Directors for a couple years now that there is more engagement going to 3 District Directors.
- Have a District Ambassador competition.
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In closing, District Directors should help fairs to fill their dreams and potentials!!!!!!

Judy Slaughter

Shared information on the upcoming judging schools

Crafts and Quilts being held at the Plympton – Wyoming Fair building on May 4th, 2019.
Registration deadline is April 27th.

Culinary is being held Saturday June 1st, 2019 at the Thorndale Fairgrounds – in the community centre – registration deadline for this school is May 24th, 2019

Registration for both schools start at 9am and the learning begins at 9:30am. Remember to bring your brown bagged lunch. This information has been emailed/mailed to all apprentices and judges on the District 13 Judges list and the same information has been distributed to all fairs in our group.

New requirements for people wanting to become judges was discussed, including all requirements by the district and the OAAS

The updated District 13 judges and apprentice lists is now available on the OAAS website. They can be found under Member Services, General Information – Judging lists & Schools, just scroll down the list for District 13

Competition Cards and Competition result forms are also included in this year's information bag, we ask that they be used as it makes the job easier for your district 13 rep when they visit – allowing them more time for you to share your success stories and time for them to enjoy your fair.

Lauren Armstrong

Updated everyone on the Ambassador Day that is being held Saturday June 22nd at the Forest Fairgrounds. (9am to 3pm) This is a fantastic day of information for your fair ambassadors as they prep for the CNE interviews, a question period, networking with other ambassadors, and bus information for the CNE competition

All this information will be posted to both District 13 social media pages
More information on the bus will follow once numbers are determined and a price is set

Provincial Director Report – Brenda Tipping

The OAAS Board wants to thank the Agricultural Societies and Districts for supporting the change in venue for the Convention. An overwhelming majority of the comments about the Convention were very positive. It was one of the best Conventions to date. Our stats show that 20% of the attendees were attending for the first time!

The OAAS Board met the first weekend in April. A lot of information to share.

- 1) Hotel Registration for Convention – press release just issued and Hotel Registration for the 2020 convention opens May 1st.
- 2) Strategic Plan – At the Spring Board Meeting, we selected the following items as our priorities for the Board to work on for 2019.
 - Partnerships and Member Services
 - Revamp website
 - Seek/develop additional Convention partnerships/sponsorships
 - Enforce chain of communications
 - Link with OMAFRA and Minister of Agriculture
 - Create and implement a marketing plan
 - Train Staff /directors in emerging technology

- 3) Youth Program Committee - one of the priorities is to get input from Agricultural Societies on how to include Youth in our organization at the Provincial, District and Agricultural Society levels
 - We are asking your Agricultural Society to complete 1(one) copy of survey today and return it to me before you leave.
 - We are proposing to include Youth as Ad-Hoc members on some of the OAAS Committees. We are asking you to watch out for/ think about exceptional youth in your Agricultural Societies and Districts who might be interested in participating on Committees.
- 4) Possible District Realignment – at the Spring Board Meeting it was suggested that we investigate and bring a report forward for the Fall OAAS Board Meeting, regarding the benefits and/or challenges of realigning the Districts in Southern Ontario to have a more equitable number of Societies in each District.
- 5) Board Governance Train the Trainers Workshop – we are looking to train a number of people to be able to work with any Agricultural Societies that need some Board Governance assistance i.e. creating or amending Constitutions and Policies, running meetings, etc. The Provincial Directors will be taking part and we are looking for 2 or 3 people from each District or Agricultural Society to take part as well. There are two parts to the Webinar - May 1- Part 1, and May 15 – Part 2. Please check our OAAS website and watch for emails for more information.
- 6) Website – just a reminder to send news from your Districts to be posted on our website. We have an RFP that is being finalized that will be sent out shortly as we are looking into a redesign.
- 7) First Impressions - The First Impressions program is a unique program that allow you to look at your fair through another’s eyes. It is a tremendous chance to identify opportunities, to make improvements that make a difference in your guests’ experience of your fair. Check the website for more information and a great audio PowerPoint presentation. The deadline is May 1st to apply.
- 8) Current District Director and Secretary/Treasurer Contact information - Please check your District Information on the website and make sure we have your District’s current Contact Information.

9) Chain of communication – Since we haven't been able to clone Vince yet, we would like to make his workload more manageable.

- The Governance Committee will create a statement that reflects the chain of command that might ease the number of calls and emails to our Manager.
- In the interim, contact your District Director for any issues that occur at the District level i.e. judges' lists or judging schools. Contact your Provincial Director first for other issues. Do continue to contact Vince, our Manager, for issues which may require a more provincial view to finding a solution or resolution or a resource to assist in resolving an issue.

10) New Title for Vince – At our Spring Meeting it was decided that Vince would now be referred to as **OAAS Manager**. This title more clearly reflects his current role and responsibilities. All documents will now remove reference to Office Manager and be replaced with Manager.

11) Traceability

Traceability is certainly a hot topic and there seems to be a lot of confusing, conflicting information being presented by many of the agencies and departments involved in Livestock Traceability.

- OAAS is working to create a Factsheet to explain the Requirements to assist the Agricultural Societies in being compliant with the Requirements. However, we are still trying to verify some details. As soon as we get all the information compiled, Vince will be sending it out.
- CFIA was visiting different fairs across Ontario last year to determine if our Agricultural Societies were compliant with the regulations. . The implementation of proposed updates to the Traceability Requirements has been postponed until at least 2020 so that is helpful. Meanwhile, we ask you to review the information that we sent out previously to the fairs.

Below is a quick recap of the information:

- OAAS understands and fully supports the need for a fully integrated national livestock identification and traceability program
- We suggest that you implement a policy at your fair, if you have not already done so, that ANY livestock (dairy or beef cattle, sheep, bison or pigs) that does not possess the approved (intact and undamaged) CFIA or PIGTRACE tag or identifier should not be allowed entry to your fairgrounds and must leave immediately.
- If an Agricultural Society is required to provide a tag in the event that an animal loses their tag at the fair, then the owner or exhibitor is responsible for applying the tag and ensuring that it is done in a safe manner.

- Agricultural Society staff or volunteers MUST NOT apply or assist in applying the tag. Furthermore, the Agricultural Society is not responsible for providing the pliers to apply the tag or facilities to restrain the animal while the owner/exhibitor applies the tag.
- **We suggest that you post signs at livestock entrances and buildings with the following information - ANY livestock that does not have the required intact/undamaged CFIA or PIGTRACE tag or identifier will not be allowed entry to our fairgrounds and must leave immediately.**
- Reminder to the Fairs that if you haven't already sent the Traceability letter to your MP and the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri Food, please don't forget to. It was sent to your Agricultural Society Secretary. It would be a good idea have your membership send the same letter.
- If you did not receive the email regarding the above Traceability information, please contact the OAAS Manager.

An open forum closed the meeting and everyone shared upcoming events being held. I wrote down several of them, however the information came quick and I had trouble keeping up. I ask that you email your information to mwilliams@billblaney.on.ca and we will get this information published to our social media pages for all to see

Adjournment called at 8:25pm followed by some fellowship, coffee and snacks provided by the Melbourne Agricultural Society.