

# OAAS Fall Board Meeting – take Back notes



## 1. OAAS Agricultural Society Member (Affiliation) Fees

Individual invoices/emails regarding the annual OAAS Agricultural Society Member (Affiliation) fee were recently sent to each Agricultural Society. The email was sent to at least 2 of the contacts for the society.

Many thanks to the agricultural societies that have already paid their fees – your prompt response is very much appreciated.

## 2. OMAFRA 2020 Annual Return

**Reminder** – submit your OMAFRA 2020 Annual Return ASAP if you have not done so already.

OMAFRA delayed the usual February date until December 6<sup>th</sup> because of the delay in holding their AGM by many Agricultural Societies due to the pandemic.

This report **MUST be submitted by December 6<sup>th</sup>**, or your Agricultural Society will lose your “*in good standing*” status.

OMAFRA Annual Report Information – there is a link on our website under the ‘**AG SOCIETY INFO**’ tab <https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/agricultural-society-info/omafra-annual-return-information-2020>

Losing your ‘*in good standing*’ will mean your agricultural society will not be eligible for the OMAFRA Annual Grant; may affect other grants or programs that ask for proof of incorporation from OMAFRA and could affect your land tax exemption.

If you have any questions or issues submitting your Annual Return – please contact your OMAFRA Regional Representative ASAP as some agricultural societies have reported that it has taken some time to get their report submitted.

The link to the OMAFRA Regional Representative list is also found under the ‘**AG SOCIETY INFO**’ tab <http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/returns/agcontacts.htm>

**FYI** – your agricultural society will be required to submit their 2021 report based on this year’s activities by the normal February 2022 deadline.

## 3. 2022 Convention

Just over 100 days until the 2022 Convention on February 17-19

- Registration will open December 1.
  - The early bird rates are: 3-day rate is \$125 +HST & the 1-day rate is \$100 + HST, which will be accepted until Friday January 28, 11:59pm.
  - The rate after January 28th will increase to \$150 + HST, for the full 3-days & \$125 + HST for the one-day rate.

- Registration completed after February 16 will be: \$175 + HST for the 3-day rate and \$150 + HST for a one day.
- Alternate hotels are listed on OAAS website, for people looking for hotel rooms
- Hotel requires that all people attending Convention are double-vaccinated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination received no later than February 1
- With the recent Ontario Covid re-opening announcements, the hotel has informed us that their facilities are back at full capacity.
- The pandemic has resulted in a couple of changes to the Convention but almost all of our usual events and activities will be back.
- Because many Agricultural Societies were not able to have their usual exhibits and competitions, we are not holding the Provincial Competitions. However we will be introducing our two new Provincial Competitions – Maple Syrup and Honey at Convention with a fun class for you to judge.
- We have made the decision to change the format of our Hospitality Suite for the 2022 Convention. In order to assure a safer environment for our attendees, we will be reimaging our usual Hospitality Suite with an event in the York Ballroom on Thursday and Friday evenings after the evening Showcase.  
We are looking for additional sponsors for this event so if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email Kathryn Lambert. [convention@oaasfairs.com](mailto:convention@oaasfairs.com)
- We are once again holding our Live and Silent Auction and we are looking for donations from agricultural societies, Districts, individuals, and businesses. New this year - The Auctions Committee will select a limited number of unique items from all those donated to be included in the Live auction. Please email Kathryn Lambert [convention@oaasfairs.com](mailto:convention@oaasfairs.com)
- The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will have displays about the OAAS history on display.
- Districts are invited to participate in the **OAAS 175th District Video Competition (rules attached)**
- Agricultural Societies are invited to submit entries to **OAAS 175th Agricultural Society Historical Photo Display (rules attached)**

#### **4. Youth Programs**

The OAAS Youth Committee has been working hard developing our Youth Program. They presented the following information at our weekend meeting

##### **OAAS Youth Committee:**

- Developing a "Handbook for Youth Involvement in Agricultural Societies
- Will be launched at Convention 2022 during a seminar
- Is an effort to assist agricultural societies to engage youth as part of their regular programming
- The program will offer a handbook with PowerPoints, Resources, and social media promotion for getting youth involved in agricultural societies.
- All resources can be customized to fit each Board's needs.

### **Our Ask:**

#### **- Looking for one Agricultural Society from each District who will be part of the pilot of this Youth Program**

- This would involve attending our launch session at Convention, followed by four to five Zoom sessions with the Youth Committee and other pilot agricultural societies over the course of the next year to give us feedback on how they are using the program, what is working well, what needs to be changed or added.

#### **- Name of participating agricultural society, and contact information for lead individual, and District # should be emailed to [valeriea@oaasfairs.com](mailto:valeriea@oaasfairs.com) by December 31st, 2021.**

- Note: as many societies as you want can use the Youth Handbook etc., but we need one specific society to participate in our feedback group.

## **5. District Funding**

The OAAS Board has decided to make Judging Schools and the training /recertifying of our Judges a priority for a minimum of the next two years. On a trail basis, we have decided to reallocate the funds for District Directors for travel to fairs towards covering some costs for Judging Schools and District Competitions.

We understand the importance of District Directors visiting the fairs in their District, but we feel that it is critical that we put our funds and energy into ensuring that we have enough judges to judge the competitions at those fairs.

We will be sending the Competition Cards and “*Winner Contact Information*” sheet directly to each individual agricultural society in the spring.

## **6. District Board and Director Roles and Responsibilities - Appendix E**

Reminder to all current and incoming Directors that:

- All members of District Boards (Provincial and District Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary/Treasurer, District Judging Representative) **MUST** submit a recent ‘**Vulnerable Sector Check**’ and a signed ‘**Code of Conduct**’. The District should retain a copy and send a copy to the OAAS Manager within 60 days of the member being elected or hired to the position to continue in the position. The ‘**Vulnerable Sectors Check**’ must be submitted at least every three years. The ‘**Code of Conduct**’ is submitted annually.

In response to concerns raised to the OAAS Board that the original intention of the organization regarding the election process and the roles and responsibilities of the Provincial and District Directors are being interpreted differently in a couple of Districts, the Board has reviewed the “*District Board and District Director Roles and Responsibilities Appendix E*” document. We have added some additional points to clarify the election process and the roles and responsibilities of the District and Provincial Directors on the District Board/District Executive going forward.

The revised document will be sent to the Districts and has already been posted on the OAAS website

The following points have been revised or added to the Appendix E

- Any person that is a member in good standing of any Agricultural Society that is in good standing with the OAAS is eligible to run for the position of Provincial Director or District Director and is elected by the designated voting delegates from each of the Agricultural Societies at the District AGM
- The Provincial Director and District Directors are voting members of the District Executive/District Board.
- The Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer are considered non-voting members of the District Executive/District Board.
- District Judging Contact is appointed by the District Board and is considered a member of the District Executive/District Board. They may be one of the District Directors or any other Agricultural Society member with a significant interest in the District Judging Program
- Provincial and District Director are deemed to be separate and unique positions. The OAAS expects that a person does not hold both the Provincial and District Director positions simultaneously..
- Districts should endeavour whenever possible, to have representation from different areas of their District. No more than 2 Directors should be elected from a single Agricultural Society.
- Notify OAAS Manager of all District Judging Schools, meetings and events by submitting the 'OAAS District Event Registration Form' found on the OAAS website **a minimum of 30 45 days prior** to the event.
- **Section 15. NOTE:** As of October 22, 2021, this directive is suspended for two years – this point refers to District Director visits to Agricultural Societies

## **7. Not for Profit Legislation - ONCA**

Our Manager has been working with OMAFRA to find out information on how or if these changes will affect our Agricultural Societies. We have been informed that the legislation does not come into effect for 3 years but are still waiting on further clarification on how the legislation will affect us. .

We have recently come across a website for Community Legal Education Ontario(CLEO) that has some information on the new ONCA legislation. It appears from information on their website, that Agricultural Societies may be affected by this legislation.

As soon as we get some definitive answers, we will send out more information and plan some webinars to assist our agricultural societies deal with the new legislation

About CLEO: This information is from their website – *“Nonprofit Law Ontario is a project of CLEO to meet the legal needs of small and medium-sized nonprofits and charities in Ontario as they transition to the ONCA. We’ve worked closely with the Ontario Nonprofit Network to ensure our information is sensitive to and reaches the widest possible network of public benefit nonprofits.”*

Here is a link to their website on the transition to ONCA - <https://nonprofitlaw.cleo.on.ca/future-law/>

## **8. District Director Meeting**

The OAAS is planning a webinar for District Directors after all the District AGMs have been held.

Please ensure that you submit your updated list of District Directors as soon as possible after your District AGM so we have a current list of Directors for the webinar invitations.

These Take-Back Notes are posted on the OAAS website under the ‘**Board**’ tab > ‘**Information for Directors**’ > ‘**Board Meeting Minutes**’ and it will be at the top of the list.