

Lancaster County Agriculture Society
4100 N. 84th St
Lincoln, NE 68507
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:30pm

President Dowding called the annual meeting of the Lancaster County Agriculture Society to order at 6:30 pm. Proof of due notice was given with the Nebraska Open Meeting Act posted.

Board members present were Bauman, Cooper, Dowding, Messick Ronnau, Rutt, Swanson, and Suing, with Wilkinson being absent.

The minutes from the 2017 meeting were approved as corrected.

Presentation of the end of year FY16 financials – Steve Bjorkman (HBE) and Secretary Rutt

- The drivers for profit loss this past year was seeing fair revenue up and fair expenses down. This was observed by a \$200,000 shift.
- There was a \$500,000 improvement in Net Ordinary Income in FY16 vs. previous year before adjustments for non-operating revenue/expenses. There was a \$17,455.74 improvement estimated in Operating Net Income after adjusting for non-operating bonds, grants, interest, taxes and depreciation.
- LEC staff are continuing to meet expectations and guidelines in cleaning up LEC accounting.
- It was moved by Ronnau and seconded by Suing seconded to approve the FY16 financials. Motion passed by a voice vote.

President's Report - President Dowding

- President Dowding introduced current Ag Society Board members and wanted to send a huge thank you to 4-H and LEC Staff, Lancaster County Commissioners, and volunteers for their involvement in making the annual Super Fair possible. He said it takes a lot of people to make this all work and we continue to be one of the best fairs in the State and we couldn't do it without you.
- Dowding reviewed key fair numbers including 2017 fair attendance 130,000. 4-H had 5,261 entries with 701 exhibitors. 2017 open show had 4,751 entries with 595 exhibitors.

Managing Director Report:

- It was a very successful year seeing the addition of new shows, expansion of current shows, and improvement and potential growth of the Lancaster Event Center. There is pride in not only securing new shows such as the National High School Finals Rodeo, but also seeing growth in re-occurring events such as the Cornhusker Classic.
- Roma Amundson (Lancaster County Commissioner), Cindy Lamm (Lincoln City Council), Lt. Governor Mike Foley, and Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director, Steve Wellman attended the Nebraska Farm and Power Show. They were impressed with the event and were happy with the revenue this was bringing to Lancaster County and the State of Nebraska.
- LEC staff is already working on the 2018 Lancaster County Super Fair, gearing up for fundraising and what improvements they can make for 4-H exhibitors and fair attendees.
- Managing Director Dickerson's team is looking for more help and new skill sets in finance and fundraising. The current team is helping out and doing well, but they could use some team members who are specialized in these areas. She continues to be impressed with ingenuity of the current team in finding ways to be resourceful, i.e. Susan Bulling trading sponsorships for service with a company to get new blinds for all of the office.

- LEC staff continue to look for more options to fill in the remaining open dates to see increased revenue for the Event Center.
- Design and contracting phase on CVB grant for the NHSFR rodeo improvements has begun with financing options and master plan work on phase 3.
- Phase 3 planning next steps include currently talking to promoters and the public to make sure we are capturing everyone's needs and researching financing options including special sales tax.

Election Results: Dave Shively, Lancaster County Election Commissioner

- Tom Messick re-elected
- Jennifer Rawlinson new board member
- Jim Swanson re-elected
- Terms are for 3 years.

Proposal to change 2017 NAFM Outstanding Individual on the Local Level – (VP Kendra Ronnau)

- It was moved by Kendra Ronnau and seconded by Ron Suing to strike item 7. Motion passed 8-0 with Wilkinson absent and not voting.

NAFM Nomination Announcements: Secretary Bauman

- 2017 NAFM Outstanding Individual on the Local Level Marty Cruickshank
- 2017 Associate of the Year Award: Heartland of America
- 2017 Fair person of the Year: Kendra Ronnau
- 2017 Wall of Fame inductees: Ron Snover and Jim Countryman

Other business: none

Communication from the public: none

Meeting was adjourned by President Ron Dowding at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jamie Bauman- LCAS Secretary

Jamie Bauman, Secretary

Ron Dowding, President