

Minutes of the
District 13 Spring Zoom Meeting
Tuesday May 5th, 2020



1. Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Lauren Armstrong
2. Welcome and Review of Meeting Procedure presented by Lauren A.
 - Michelle from Brigden Fair made a motion to approve the virtual meeting, Malcolm from Brigden seconded the motion and the motion was carried.
3. 14 of our 16 fairs were represented at the meeting – with approximately 45 people attendance. Guests included Brian Slaughter – President of the OAAS, Vince Brennan – Manager of the OAAS, Beth Howell-Veraecke, 1st VP of the OAAS, Kathryn Lambert, Convention Administrator, Doug Yeo, Past President OAAS and Judy McFaul, Director of CAFE
4. Greetings from both Brian and Judy were given – with emphasis on reaching out to each other, communication and the recognition that we are all in this together and that is how will we get through this, (as it pertains to the current COVID19 situation). Judy asked us to find some time to fill out the surveys CAFE and the OAAS are seeking information for. Without this information – it makes their jobs more difficult when they approach our governments for assistance and recognition. She also encouraged us to send letters to our MP's – templates for these letters can be found on the CAFÉ website. For any of us seeking more information, much exists on both websites and recent meetings have been turned into free accessible webinars.
5. OAAS Update

Vince Brennan spoke of the updated OAAS website and advised of the COVID19 tab that has been recently added to the top of the page, where we can ascertain ongoing COVID19 information. There is also a 175-celebration tab and a new link whereby we can sign up for all the latest newsletter.

The other side of the website is the information on all the Ontario Fairs, where you can sort the fairs by District or name. They is a new feature, you can check for fair cancellations

OAAS 175th Anniversary competitions were discussed by Sarah S. Two competitions are being held – the first one is the creation of a 60 second promotional video for each district and the second competition is by fair and consists of one 8X10 photograph – either colour or black and white that best represents your fair, this will be voted on by convention goers at the 2021 convention, a viewer's choice award and more information can be found on the OAAS website – District Competition Tab.

- Sarah also advised of the cancellation of all judging schools for the District for 2020 and in light of that fact extensions have been granted to current judging certification into 2021.
- Brenda T spoke on the provincial Strategic Plan – the main focus on communication at all levels – to the districts, each fair, our stake holders and our communities
- Letters from the OASS to Government agencies requesting government funding and assistance to fairs were discussed by Brenda, she also discussed the importance of the TRIEM survey and other surveys and the need for them to be completed and sent in.
- Judy K advised that the Spring Packages from OAAS – being sent directly and Vince stepped in to advise that the packages are being printed – but that we had a bit of time before the final numbers needed to be calculated for copies and to advise him asap when decisions to cancel our fairs were made – in essence to save money on printing costs
- Planning for convention 2021 – Room Reservations – booking moved to July 1st, 2020 and the fact that only 2 rooms per name can be reserved
- First Impressions Program cancelled for 2020

6. District 13 update

- Lauren spoke to the Fair Ambassador Program, Carrie from Glencoe reported on communication she had with Paula Ellis of the CNE competition. IF the CNE is cancelled, she is working on something whereby our current ambassadors will be recognized. May 14th is the date for a zoom meeting for fair ambassadors and you encouraged to check out the OAAS website for further information.
- Ambassador Day Experience, a motion for an expenditure was made by Carrie of Glencoe, seconded by Ian of Thorndale for \$300 to be made available for the ambassador experience – if by chance it went ahead.
- Motion Carried
- Keep checking the District 13 Ambassador Face Book Page – depending on what transpires – Lauren is thinking about a virtual meeting to update everyone and answer any questions
- Discussion of Fall Fair District 13 Elections happened, noting that 2 positions will be coming up for election at the November AGM – one being the provincial spot currently held by Brenda Tipping and a 3 year director spot at the district level currently held by Lauren Armstrong.

7. COVID-19 and Fairs

Vince Brennan spoke to this matter and a lot of great information was shared and can be found on the OAAS website especially under the new COVID19 Tab

He talked about what might be involved in modifying your fair to meet whatever COVID19 measurement and requirements maybe in place, asked us to consider the extra costs that may be involved if we moved ahead with our fairs, things like extra

bathrooms, cost of extra security, extra signage, extra cleaning and sanitizing measures, how you enforce physically distancing, to consider the age average of our volunteers and with many of them having compromised immune systems – would we be short of volunteers and the ramifications to our community and reputation if someone attended your fair and spread the virus and that got traced back to your association.

There is an OMAFRA webinar available the last Wednesday in May that addresses a lot of these issues and if you are interested – please sign up early.

It was stressed the need for communication- with your volunteers over their safety and to do some polling with your community and fairgoers to find out if they will feel safe enough to attend your fair.

His last bit of advice was to keep our websites and Facebook pages current with all our decisions and to keep telling our story.

- Cancelling your fair is a local fair board decision, not the district or the OAAS
- If you decide to cancel your fair, please let Mark Williams – District 13 Secretary/Treasurer know at mwilliams@billblaney.on.ca and send an email to Vince Brennan at manager@oaasfairs.com

8. Other Business/Open Forum – Mark Williams

We concluded the meeting by giving each fair an opportunity to tell us something positive that is currently being done by their boards. Common themes prevailed – such as donations made to local food banks, the sewing and creation of much needed PPE for our front line workers or simply keeping their grounds open so people in their community could physical distance themselves and get out for some exercise.

More information will follow concerning our Fall AGM in November – which is being hosted by the North Dorchester Ag Society (Dorchester Fair)

9. A motion for Adjournment was made by Gary from Plympton – Wyoming, seconded by Beth from Western and carried

Better days will return
We will be with friends again
We will be with family again
We will meet again

Respectfully submitted by

Mark Williams
Secretary/Treasurer
District 13