



THE DEFIANCE COUNTY FAIR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, INC  
P. O. BOX 184  
HICKSVILLE, OHIO 43526

John Fifer  
President

Carol Sines  
Vice President

Paula Fairchild  
Secretary

Alliance Tax Services  
Treasurer

---

January 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Vice President Carol Sines called the January director's meeting to order at approximately 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

**Roll call was taken, those present:**

Mary Bishop, Brian Chittenden, Rusty Detray, Angie Etchen, Paula Fairchild, David Ferguson, Dave Fine, Corey Maassel, Doug Moog, Don Retcher, Larry Retcher, Jeff Rohlf, Jerry Sanders, Carol Sines, Joe Stotler, Mitch Troyer and Lavon Wiles

**Not present:**

Ann Beach (E), Yvonne Blosser (E), Debra Cocke (E), John Fifer (E), Earl Klepper (A) and Francis Schindler (E)

**Secretary's Report:**

Carol Sines called for the Secretary's Report. Larry Retcher made a motion to abstain from reading the report at this time; second by Don Retcher, all in favor. Request was made to change Deb Cocke to excused from 12-12-2012 meeting, noted.

**Guest attending meeting:**

**Commissioner Nicely** spoke with John Fifer concerning the leaking water line; Lavon confirmed it is temporarily fixed. Commissioners authorized up to \$5,000 requesting the Fairboard keep them informed of any issues. Commissioners only concern might be the ditch up to the campground, Lavon explained they might have to go with an open ditch, Commissioner agreed that would be the best. Commissioner Nicely congratulated the Fairboard on last year's fair, good job.

**Teresa Johnson:** Awesome time at OFMA and would like to thank the Fair Directors that attended her session. Desiree Mack attended this year and came back with some great ideas. QR codes are popular this year; they can be scanned and will take you to a website to obtain educational information about a particular animal. You can turn them into a fun survey or game to get more visitors involved and into the barns; thought it would be a good idea to put them in the barns this year. A grant was written to Cooper Farms requesting funds for a new hog barn that is estimated at \$25,000. Part of that request was to place an educational center at one end of the barn so if they want, that they can fund it as Cooper Farms. Teresa noted a correction from the December meeting minutes of received funds from the Strausbaugh family; it was noted as \$4600 and should be \$4800. At convention Teresa looked at wrist bands, suggesting 450-500 just for members and would like them dated; then use passes/tickets for the adults. Teresa asked about posting updated bi-laws on website; Mary Bishop has updated bi-laws and will send to Teresa. Teresa has also posted the 2010/2011 audit on website. All Livestock committee should have their packets with all guidelines for review and Jr. Fair calendar. Teresa confirmed the garden tractor pull is a go for the last Saturday on the infield; weigh in at 9am and start at 10am. Kaitlyn Rethmel would like to thank the Fairboard for the opportunity to participate in the queen program, it was an awesome experience.

Charles Fitzwater / no comment

**Correspondence:**

District meeting is March 16, not sure of the place, we will get that information out to those who are interested.

**Treasure Report:**

After approving checks, balance will be \$93,025.16 - total between all accounts. Larger checks to be approved: \$9200-Ace, \$1900-Auditors (last payment), \$8198- annual premium for insurance and \$1592-AEP electric bill. Total of checks to be approved, \$23,628. Account Receivables: received 3 more stall payments to add. Not in the bank accounts, but currently the Profit and Loss statement shows a negative \$11,453. Please keep in mind when approving large expenditures. Denise met with Auditors on December 13<sup>th</sup> for post audit meeting; nothing has changed that was discussed at the December Fairboard meeting, no new changes.

Bill Peters has no problems providing their own receipt book.

Denise would like to have the budgets from the Finance Committee by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ticket Machine:** The account is being set up now.

**Future Audits:** At a meeting Denise attended, ODA has been given the go ahead from the State to do the audits. ODA will need some front end money to start. They are looking at approximately \$160,000 to put 2 people in place to complete audits and did some brainstorming of how they can come up with funds. They are looking at the average audit, with no problems, to be around \$3500.

**Credit Card Machine:** Denise has done a lot of research and found that the square, pay as you go is the best deal and can be used on your cell phone. No equipment, No monthly fee, No contract. The reader is free; you only have to pay for per transactions of either 2.69% or 2.70%. Questions were brought up regarding phone signal, and the usage of data plans. These are just some issues that need to be looked at. Teresa will budget \$300.

Motion was made to accept financial report

Motion was made by Dave Ferguson; second by Doug Moog, all in favor

Motion was made to pay bills

Motion made by Doug Moog; second by Jerry Sanders, all in favor

There was much discussion regarding the per diem and mileage that was approved at the last meeting. Per Diem would be at \$40 a day and mileage at the higher government rate of .56 a mile. There was much discussion regarding the travel policy that was approved at the last meeting and suggested we revisit and update this policy at the next E-Board meeting. There was a concern of having receipts to show expenditures to the auditors. Otto agreed that some counties pay a daily per diem and pocket what is left. Some counties do that, we do not, we require you have to have receipts. He suggested we check with state auditors.

To clarify the wording in the last meeting minutes regarding the approved \$40 a day per diem, knowing \$40 a day is not enough to cover mileage, rooms and meals. The Board approved to cover the cost of rooms, cost of mileage and a \$40 a day per diem for meals”.

**Stall Contract:** Stall renters were presented with a new contract. One individual is upset with the new contract and is implying there is a discrepancy with the months of May and June. This individual has made several phone calls to Columbus and now to the Crescent News. Carol requested approval from the board for her and John to meet with the Crescent News as soon as possible to get the Fairboard's side of the story out there. Carol asked Commissioner Nicely for his opinion. This individual had also contacted the Commissioner's Office. Otto agrees the Fairboard has a reasonable stall rental rate compared to the surrounding area.

Dave Fine made a motion to give a 30 day eviction notice if this individual does not pay or turn in the signed contract by the 10<sup>th</sup>, as it is stated in the contract. It was recommended to send the 30 day noticed by certified mail.

Motion was made to send a 30 day notice.

Motion made by Dave Fine; second by Brian Chittenden, all in favor

### **Committee-Chairman's Report:**

Finance Committee: to meet next week to review documents and prepare to set budget.

Entertainment: Dave is working on the Lumberjack/Timber show. Cost is \$4887, with 3 shows a day, 4 days a week as midway entertainment. Still working on sponsorships.

Working on an auto show we would like to put on opening day, working with a calendar and have a sponsor for that show. Registration for auto show will be 11am –1pm with the show ending at 4pm. Cost will be \$10 for registration which includes entrance to fair grounds. The calendar will go over 7 states at 46,000 issues and will have all the information on the auto show, live music on stage and The Gallagher show. Our sponsor has paid for a full page ad. Our major sponsor is Alliance Tax Service. Working with several other organizations for sponsorship.

The Buckeye Rodeo, from S.E. Columbus is still a go. Buckeye Rodeo is a point's event that will draw people in for the Sunday show.

We need to vote on the Timber show that was tabled at the last meeting. Dave would like to see them perform for the 4 days and is looking at Tue, Wed, Thur and Friday.

Motion was made to contract the Timber show for 4 days.

Motion made by Joe Stotler; second by Rusty Detray, all in favor

**Defiance Chamber meeting:** Dave Fine, Carol Sines and Rusty Detray will meet with the Defiance Chamber regarding membership. We seem to lack communication with the City and would like to see the City of Defiance more involved with the fair.

Dave continued on with information on the Auto Show. Would like to have live music at the Auto Show and came across a very good band at the OFMA that plays anything from bluegrass to rock n roll. Cost for the band is \$2,000 a day and they are willing to move around the grounds as they play.

Motion was made to contract the band for the auto show and day.  
Motion made by Don Retcher; second by Corey Maassel, all in favor

Dave shared some information from the OFMA classes regarding special promotions that may help bring more people to the fair. One suggestion was to have those who bring a can food item to the fair get a dollar off when entering, then donate all proceeds to a local food bank to show our support. Teresa said the Jr. Fairboard will be willing to support that program. It was then asked about those who may have a season pass, issues with tickets and which gate. Dave suggested a \$1.00 off voucher that can be used at one of the vendors. Another suggestion was to charge Seniors a \$1.00 instead of free entrance that day. The seniors did not mind paying and the fair still made money. Will table for now and work out any issues.

### **Old Business:**

**Numbering the Grandstand:** This was tabled at the December meeting. There are some Fairs that sale on line tickets and do not have their grandstands numbered, according to Dave. Online tickets are sold up to 7 days before the event, any sales after that, we will hold the tickets in the office. Dave is looking at an online ticket system that cost \$249 a year. Other fairs have used this system for all events.

**Radios & Tents:** John signed contracts for Radios and Tents.

Carol asked those who went to the OFMA to share any information they received.

Rusty Detray passed out a 3 page outline of the classes he attended. Some of the topics include: Good business practices, Develop -5 yr. plan, Sponsorships and Benefits of Facebook.

Joe Stotler got some information on selling wine coolers, which is a different license. Also receiving information on AEP, we are not the only one receiving high bills. Changes are coming around 2015; we will only be billed on the kilowatts used.

Mary Bishop-There is 74 fairs that still have harness racing. We will have more harness racing coming because they doubled the number of horses' bread.

Dave Fine found that some fairs do not advertise as "kid's day", they advertise as "Family Day".

Lavon-On demos, a lot of the fairs only had eight cars, demos are starting to turn. Harness racing, we will get about the same money as last year. Got some quotes on bleachers.

Paula-Focused on Audit issues and changes that are coming. OFMA is a great opportunity and a lot of information for anyone who gets a chance to attend.

### **New Business:**

Deb and Denise (Tax Alliance) requesting the use of the Fair grounds for a Christmas Cruise-Thru and Holiday Festival. It would be for 2 weekends - 6 nights) 6pm to 10pm. With inside entertainment and food on Friday and Saturday 7-9pm. Santa will be there Friday and Saturday 7-9pm. Working with businesses, churches and community groups to get involved. Free will offering for those who drive thru, Paulding made \$800 last year. Set up will be November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Teresa volunteered the Jr. Fairboard to set up a live nativity.

Motion was made to allow Christmas Cruise-Thru  
Motion made by Lavon Wiles; second by Joe Stotler, all in favor

Motion was made for the use of the Multipurpose building if not in use or County building  
Motion made by Joe Stotler; second by Jerry Sanders, all in favor

9:10 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Dave Ferguson; second by Joe Stotler

Next Fairboard meeting: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
EMA Building @ 7:30 pm