

**District 13 Spring Meeting
Thursday April 17, 2017
Forest, Ontario**

1. Welcome and introductions:

Michelle Evanitski, Homecraft Director welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the executive table.

Brenda Tipping, Agricultural Director introduced Lambton-Shores Deputy Mayor Rick Goodhand who brought greetings and thanked all fair boards for their hard volunteer work on behalf of Mayor Bill Weaver. He wished the fair boards a great season and good weather to all.

Brenda Tipping introduced Brian Slaughter, 1st Vice President of OAAS.

2. OAAS Report from Brian Slaughter & Melissa Johnson

- Brian indicated that he has been busy with meetings in Toronto and mentioned everyone's workloads had been busy since they cut the board down to 19 from 34.
- Brian announced Colin Poole from District 9 will sit as a member at large on the O.A.A.S Executive. Colin will help with outlining the rules and responsibilities, attend meetings and the AGM plus attend some fairs.
- OAAS will cover Melissa's travel expenses as Provincial Director
- OAAS has passed a motion to issue \$1000 to each District to cover the travel costs for the Agricultural and Homecraft Director to travel to the fairs in the district. The \$1000 cheque will arrive by mail in early September. Each district will be responsible to submit their financial report to Vince (OAAS Office Manager) to show how the funds were allocated.
- Past OAAS President Elaine Rennie met with Midway owners in Toronto at the convention regarding midway issues that have arisen. They reminded her that they are vendors and need to look after their business and event profitability. Future meetings are scheduled concerning how to have a cost efficient midway.
- 1,680 people attended the convention but only 100 people filled out the survey from the OAAS convention. The trade show and showcase were sold out at the convention.
- 2018 convention will be held again at the Royal York Toronto. Inquiries were made around the province to have a new location, but another venue big enough or no bonuses like the Royal gives us (meeting rooms, ballrooms) has been found. If members have any ideas for keynote speakers or round table topics, please let Melissa know.
- New starting this fall, OAAS Affiliate fees will change. Fees will now be calculated based on gate money as opposed to attendance. The hope is to lessen the burden on smaller fairs but this will be reviewed again.
- OAAS is reviewing all the awards and possibly adjusting them or splitting them.
- The Provincial Board are still waiting for Canada's 150th logo and requested that members keep checking the website.
- Directory updates: They are looking at software such as AssistExpo to simplify the process. First Impressions: Will take place again this year. Participating fairs will have their First Impression Fees reimbursed once they complete the program.
- First Impression deadline is May 15 and the fee is 113+ HST for interested fairs.
- OAAS is following CAFÉ lead for premise tracking
- Fair Judging
 - OAAS Board are currently in the process of setting up a committee to review Judging
 - If a judge has not attended a judging school in the past 2 years their name will be removed

- Looking for teaching judges
- Finding a judge to apprentice with has been difficult
- Judging books are being updated
- Doug Yeo will be working to update fruit, vegetables, feeds and grains
- Photography also needs an update
- OAAS Office Manager
 - Hours have been increased from 20-30 hours due to workload

3. Directors Updates

- Melissa gave an overview of what the Provincial Director role is
 - One task that is highlighted is that the Provincial Directors are hoping to work on providing consistent information to all district
 - Every District needs to have the same procedures across the province
- Brenda gave an update on the E-Coli workshop that she attended
- Michelle prepared information packages for each fair to take home to their membership. The person taking the package was asked to sign for it
 - She also requested updated emails so that information can be distributed. There are a lot of interesting events happening in the district this year but in order for us to make sure you get the information we need to have your correct contact information.
 - Updated information from fairs was also requested to be forwarded to Sharon Carter.
 - The District has an active Facebook page in which you can advertise your events
- Michelle was sad to report the resignation of Kathy Williams as Associate Homecraft Director due to workload issues. She thanked Kathy for all her assistance during her term.
- Michelle highlight that 2017 is a year about change and asked that we all embrace it.
- Reminder to update the prize books to reflect the OAAS competition changes
 - A lot of questions – raisins or no raisins in butter tarts.
- Brenda Tipping asked for a motion regarding the \$1000 funding from OAAS for fair visitations.

Motion: That the \$1000 funds provided by OAAS be divided up based on travel incurred.

Moved by: Carrie Fraleigh-Deschutter, Glencoe

Seconded by: Pam Hills, Alviston

Discussion occurred.

Carried

4. Guest Speaker

Associate Ag Director Lauren introduced our guest speaker, Matt Garwood from Elmwood fair in District 5. Matt was the winner of CNE 2015/2016.

5. Election of Officers

Brenda Tipping called for any nominations from the floor for the position of Associate Homecraft Director. There were no nominations at this time. If anyone was interested in learning about the role they were asked to reach out to Michelle or Brenda.

6. Ambassador Experience Update

Lauren and Carleigh visited a few fairs to help boost the program. District 8 and District 10 are pairing their ambassadors with a mentor. Workshops are growing and changing. They will have the Ambassador Preparation day for CNE. A request was made for a host with availability in early July. They are looking for a host and preferably in early July.

Motion: That the Ambassador Experience programme be given \$300.

Moved by: Carrie Fraleigh DeSchutter, Glencoe

Seconded by: Judy Slaughter, Forest

Carried

7. Open Forum

- Website
 - Brenda Tipping is working on website where we can upload minutes, policies, etc.
- CNE
 - Transportation is being arranged for our Ambassadors. Normally the costs has been approximately \$50 each and \$5 dollars for tip
- Fall District Meeting
 - Rodney Fair will be hosting the annual meeting
 - Discussion occurred regarding the date (Nov 18 or 25)
 - Date will be confirmed with host site
 - Suggestions for guest speaker to be forwarded to Sharon
 - 2018 suggestion someone from Midway Industry (Jerry O'Neill)
- Coming Events were shared

8. Adjournment

Motion: That the spring 2017 meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Robert Marsh