



# Sunflower Celebrations

A publication of the Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association

P.O. Box 127 Great Bend, KS 67530    www.kansasfairsassociation.com    Fall 2010

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Jacque Karl - President  
 Robert Atkisson - Vice President  
 Charles Atkinson - Executive Director

### District 1

Bob Barthol - Olathe  
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 Terry North - Galena

### District 3

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### District 4

Greg Dixon - Rock  
 Connie Chilcott - Atlanta

### District 5

Stan Brown - Preston  
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### District 6

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Gary Parr - Great Bend  
 Dave Maygers - Kansas City, MO

### Ks State Fair Representative

Denny Stoecklein - Hutchinson

### Delegate to Kansas State Fair

Charles Craig, Jr. - Winfield

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## Berg & Diamond to speak at convention



**Gary Berg, Featured Speaker, Owner of G.L. Berg Entertainment**

Gary Berg is a successful business owner, coach, former college administrator, and a really regular guy. His presentation is entitled **“Simple Truths in the Workplace and in Life”**. This presentation challenges all who listen to try to look at their lives more closely and

with more focus and it challenges audiences to be better at what they do. Gary has been described as a human reminder of those things in life that are important. Gary’s talk challenges people to think and also laugh as they look at every day situations and plug themselves in to try to be their best.

When asked what do you like best about being a performer? He replies, “What I like best is making a connection with a group of people and seeing in their eyes that they are listening and thinking and I am moving them to examine things that are important.”

Gary has owned his own company for over 20 years and considers the opportunity to work with some really great people as one of his greatest career highlights. In his “real job” he has worked with many nationally known performers and has been part of events with celebrities ranging from Hall of Fame athletes to Grammy Award winning musicians to former Presidents of the United States.

Gary’s presentation will be featured on Saturday afternoon during the convention. His presentation is being sponsored in part by the International Association of Fairs & Expositions and the Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association.

With a background in clinical psychology and sociology. Ron Diamond is a professional in advanced clinical hypno-therapist. He spent 10 years with Disney as an entertainer and trainer of other entertainers and have used those skills as a speaker and entertainer in the fair industry for the last 19 years.

On Sunday morning at this years convention Ron will present, **‘Keeping the Passion Alive in you & your Fair’**. He will cover topics such as - the art of play in your management style, Focusing on Agriculture and avoiding the, we have always done it that way

syndrome. Ron’s humor and wit will keep you wondering, what’s next.

Ron is a people person and loves to visit and share his time with others, so the fair market is an especially fond place for him. Everywhere he goes to perform, one thing stands out. His down to earth style and constant high energy programs guarantee that audiences from young children to older adults will leave with a feeling of awe and laughter.

Ron has had the opportunity to perform for some of the largest corporations and resorts around the world. He is a regular for the Four Seasons Resorts, The Ritz



**Ron Diamond, Featured Speaker, Owner of Diamond Entertainment**

Carlton Resorts, Marriott, Hilton, and many others. He performs for standing room only audiences at the various fairs and festivals he brings his show to. His presentation is being sponsored in part by Visit Topeka, Inc.



Contact your district representative or the executive director for more information about becoming a board member. Get involved - It's your board.....



## Auction Items Needed

Each year the association hosts our silent and live auction to help raise money for the Challenge of Champion scholarship. We need your help.

Please bring items to the registration table as soon as you arrive at the convention.

Please include a card with the name of the Fair/Festival/Associate that is making the donation and approximate value of the item. We would like to auction off 12 large unique items during the live auction. If you think you might have one of those unique items please let us know prior to the convention.

The live auction will be held after the Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday.

## KFFA Districts to have important elections

Each year one director is up for election in each district. These directors are the heart of your membership. We are always looking for new and fresh ideas as well as warm bodies to volunteer their time to help make this organization the best possible. This year we are losing two individuals that have dedicated over 10 years to the organization. Their hard work and commitment to the fair industry will be missed. Kenny Feldhausen in District 1 and Rita Habbart in District 6. They have seen many changes in the fair industry over the years.

They have been instrumental in helping make our conventions run smooth and entertaining.

District 2 will also be losing a director, Terry North has decided not to run for another term.

The other three districts will have incumbents running in their respected districts, they are: Robert Knittner Dist. 3; Connie Chilcott Dist. 4; & Steve Hammersmith Dist. 5.

We encourage anyone with interest in the board to let us know either now or at the caucus on Saturday during the convention.

The board meets three times during the year and also during the convention.

If you have any questions about becoming a board director please contact your district representatives or the executive director.

Remember that during the caucus meetings only one vote per fair/festival is allowed during the meeting. Bring as many members to the meetings as you want but only one vote.



## KFFA Seeking Candidates for Kansas State Fair Board Appointment

The Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association is allowed a position on the Kansas State Fair Board of Directors and every three years we are allowed to nominate three individuals to the governor for that appointment. (KS-Statute 74-520a)

Candidates for this position must represent a county that a county fair or festival is held in, and they (the organization) must continue to be a member of the Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association. Membership must be current and kept current during the period of the appointment. Candidate must submit a resume and 250 word essay stating why they wish to

be considered for this position by Dec. 1st.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**  
**Kansas State Fair Board -**  
 Meets in January, March, May, July, September\* (brief meeting each day of the Fair), October (via conference call), and November. Other than meeting throughout the State Fair, most others meetings will last 2-4 hours. Therefore travel to and from within the same day is easily achieved. Usually one meeting is part of a retreat, so would likely involve an overnight stay.

\*Board members are not expected to be here every day of the State Fair. Several are able to make that commitment, but we


recognize people have jobs and family that may require them to be back and forth during the Fair.

**Kansas Fairs & Festivals Assoc. -**  
 Meets in January (during convention), April & September (during the State Fair). Board members are expected to attend the Annual Convention held in January.

**DUTIES:** The Kansas State Fair Board is a Policy-making board; not involved in day-to-day management or operation of the Fair, but rather an advisory board to set policy and guidelines.

For a complete description of the position contact Charles Atkinson, Executive Director at [admin@kansasfairsassociation.com](mailto:admin@kansasfairsassociation.com)

Currently Charles Craig Jr. from Winfield is our current appointee. Thanks Charles for all your hard work & dedication.



**Jan. 7 - 9, 2011**  
**Annual Convention**  
**Early Deadline Dec 1st**



## Seeking Nominations for Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame Committee is now seeking nominations for the most prestigious award that can be bestowed on a individual(s) by the Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association. Applications can be found on our website or by request. Nominations should be postmarked by November 1. The committee will select the winners and the nominator will be notified after the selection.

The winners will be honored at the 2011 Annual Convention scheduled for January 7, 8 and 9th in Topeka at the Ramada Inn Downtown.

This is a perfect opportunity for a member Fair, Festival or Associate to honor an individual that has contributed so much and never expected anything in return.

Remember the postmarked deadline is **November 1st.**

### Policy & Guidelines for nominee's

- Each fair and festival must be a current member of the Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association and have been a member for the previous five years.
- Each Associate that has been nominated must be a current member of the Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association and have been a member for the previous five years.
- Deceased nominee's may be considered as long as the Fair/ Festival/ Company for which they volunteered and/or employed by is a current member and has been a member for the previous five years.

•Each Fair/ Festival/ Associate member is allowed one nomination each calendar year.

• Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association Hall of Fame is a prestigious award and the selection of each years Hall of Fame award will be limited to Three individuals from the Fairs and/or Festivals and One individual from the Associate Members.

•Nominations of persons not selected for the current Hall of Fame can be kept on file and considered for the next two years provided the membership by the Fair/ Festival/ Association who employed or nominated the individual is kept current. More information on the Web at [www.kansasfairsassociation.com](http://www.kansasfairsassociation.com)

## Agriculture Challenge of Champions Winners Announced

Austin Abeldt & Dustin Aherin were announced as winners at The 2010 Agriculture Challenge of Champions contest that was held in the Fairs & Festival Association room in the Encampment building on Sept 12th at the Kansas State Fair. Eighteen participants competed for two \$2250 college scholarships.

Austin was nominated by the Dickinson County Fair Assoc. and Dustin was nominated by the Phillips County Fair Assoc. Both gentlemen worked very hard at the contest and scored within 3 points of each other.



Challenge of Champion Winners (L to R)  
Austin Abeldt and Dustin Aherin

Special Thanks to all the participants  
who entered this years contest.

Participants competed in various area's of concentrations including Crops & Weed Identification, Speech, Livestock Feed, General Ag Quiz, Farm Management, Animal Science and General Agronomy.

The KFFA Board of directors wish to thank Steven Sears and the staff of the Hutchinson Community College for their assistance in administrating the contest.

Also, Thanks to all the Fairs who nominated the contestants and support the Scholarship contest.

## Attorney to provide insight to Non-Profit Organizations at Convention



Susan J. Whitfield-Lungren  
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Ms. Whitfield-Lungren, a highly recommended attorney on Non-Profit Organizations, will speak on Friday afternoon to convention

attendee's. She will focus on the topic of

operations & management of Non-profit Organizations and the difference's between the IRS 501(c) series.

Ms. Whitfield-Lungren has more than 24 years of legal expertise serving

individuals, families and organizations in the arts and nonprofit communities. Her reputation for providing expert advice and guidance to non-profit organizations in Kansas, the United States and Internationally is distinct.

She is uniquely skilled and experienced with identifying, analyzing and implementing solutions for non-profit organizations. This includes creating organizational governance and management structures, policies,

procedures, and the development and implementation of programs and activities.

"I believe our diverse cultural heritage holds the key to understanding our past; to appreciating the strength of the human spirit; motivating us to communicate with and help others; and is the inspiration for our dreams of a better future for ourselves, our families, our communities and our planet." - Susan Whitfield Lundgren -  
Quoted from her website



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## **The Final Seed. . .**

**Charles Atkinson, Executive Director**

Many times I am asked why should I become a member of the Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association? And you would think that the answer would be relatively simple, but to be honest it just not that easy and "Just Because" doesn't cut it.

Each person or individual decides why to become involved in a organization for several reasons. Some to be part of a larger group that involves the same things that they are passionate about. Some believe in the cause and want to be a part of it, and even more because they want to grow, develop, and improve on themselves and the organization which they are a part of.

No matter what your reason, you being part of this association is what makes it strong and moving forward.

Statistics tell us that most people may believe and support what you are doing with your organization, but will not get involved unless they are asked.

The Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association is a great way to make your fair or festival even better. I know that when our county fair first came to the convention we were curious as to what there would be that could help us. To this day, we always take back something that is helpful, whether it be a new idea, how to work with the public or just that friendship that lasts a life time. There is not better reason to belong.

I would like to encourage each and every member to help us grow as an organization by just asking someone to belong. There are numerous county fairs and festivals out there that are not actively participating in the only industry that promotes agriculture, and the quality of life we have to offer in Kansas.

Be part of something bigger than yourself - Be part of Us.

**Kansas Fairs & Festivals Association**

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