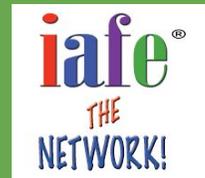




# MAAF Newsletter



2020 Issue #1

Jan. 1, 2020

## MAAF President's End of the Year Message: Kathryn Hunter

What a wonderful year !!! In January, we made some changes to our MAAF brochure, downsizing it and adding GPS addresses so guests can easily find our fairs. In February, we had a fundraiser/sleigh ride at the beautiful High View Farm in Harrison, ME. It was a gorgeous day, and Darcy and Bill Winslow were excellent hosts. We had a great turnout of Presidents joining our MAAF meeting to share their advice and suggestions. In April, we had an amazing weekend at the Samoset Resort, with our other Zone 1 States/Friends. A huge thank you to Union Fair for being so welcoming to their fairgrounds for a fun afternoon...and our deepest thanks to all of our sponsors, especially Central Maine Pyrotechnics for donating the spectacular fireworks display to make an incredible finale to a fantastic weekend !! Thank you to Missy, Darcy, David, Rayma, Mike, Katie and Mark who worked so hard on the committee making sure everything ran smoothly Take a bow !! In May we had our annual get-together with the MAAF, the MDACF, the MHRC, the MHHA, the MSBOA and OTB owners. Thank you, Gary Sagris, at WInners OTB in Brunswick for hosting. It is so important to gather together once in awhile with everyone in the industry for dinner, conversation, camaraderie and smiles! In August, the MAAF once again sold 50/50 tickets at the Windsor Fair Race Track (thank you Tom Foster and Bill McFarland) to earn some money for our educational scholarships. Thank you to all of the MAAF board members who helped, along with Katie/Mark Damren from Windsor, Rick/Tina Anzels from Skowhegan, Roger/Gayle Hoffses from Northern Maine, Junia Norris from Union and the Weymouth family from Piscataquis. Most of our MAAF meetings were held at the Windsor Fair during the year, but we did venture out in July to the Waterford World's Fair (thank you Lisa Fox and Darcy), and in October we went to the Fryeburg Fair parade, proudly waving our MAAF banner ! It was so much fun ! The best decision we made all year was in the hiring of our new Executive Director, Barry W. Norris. We are all pleased to have someone with his expertise and enthusiasm to "carry the torch of the MAAF into the next decade". Barry organized a retreat in October to help us fine tune our mission statement and our future goals. It was a very helpful event. We are happy that he has brought back the newsletter to keep all the fairs better informed and in touch with each other. Thank you , Barry...and welcome aboard ! Thank you to Katie Damren for representing us with grace in Augusta as our Legislative Liaison. Thank you to Melissa Jordan for her assistance with all of our fairs and helping us keep a wonderful relationship between the MAAF and the MDACF. Congratulations, Missy, on being named the YPI Zone 1 Director and for being the first Maine fair person to receive her diploma from the IAFE as a graduate of the Institute of Fair Management. We are all so proud of you ! Also, a warm welcome to Garrett Lambert, from Skowhegan, who joined as our newest Junior Advisory member ! Thank you to Junia, Rayma, David and Rusty for putting nice MAAF displays in the exhibition halls at the Union, Windsor, Litchfield and Piscataquis Valley fairs. They were beautiful. Whew! That's a lot of thank yous, but given with gratitude and love. I proudly attended all 25 Maine Fairs this year again, as well as the Cornish Trotting Park...a summer full of fun and happy adventures. Thank you ALL for a wonderful and memorable year, and we will all look forward to 2020 together. Cheerfully, Kathryn R. Hunter

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### AG SHOW : AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER : JANUARY 14, 15 AND 16

The MAAF booth will be located to the left of the auditorium entrance on the side wall.  
Booth #20 . Drop by and say hello. Pick up a MAAF rack card containing all the up to date fair dates.

**2020 Annual Conference: January 24-25, 2020**

Holiday Inn By The Bay

88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine

**Thursday, January 23, 2020**

2:00 - 7:00 pm Marketplace setup - Casco Bay Room  
7:30 MAAF Board Meeting-Connecticut Room

**Friday, January 24, 2020**

6:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast  
8:00 - 3:00 pm Registration desk open  
8:00 - 4:00pm Marketplace open  
9:30 am Opening session/Welcome - K. Hunter  
10:00am What's in store for the MAAF future?  
10:00 am Pull Superintendent training  
10:00 am Harness Racing Discussion  
11:30 am Pine Tree Steer and Ox  
12:00 pm Lunch on your own  
12:00 - 3:30 pm Entertainment Showcase  
1:00 pm Fairs, Carnivals and Fire Marshals  
1:00 pm Farmers' Draft Horse, Mule and Pony Club  
1:00 pm Fair Livestock Superintendents  
2:15 pm Fire Marshal's pending rule updates  
3:00 pm Farmers' Steer and Ox Club  
3:00 pm Maine Draft Horse and Ox  
3:00 pm Ment-A-Minute  
3:30 pm Auction  
8:00 pm Dance featuring the Allison Ames Band  
9:15 pm Door prize : must be present to win

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A special recognition to Steve Marson and his crew from Central Maine Pyrotechnics. CMP has been honored by the members of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of their Kenney Award for "Most Outstanding Large Business". Congratulations to Steve, and thank you for your support during the annual MAAF conferences in the past. Steve and his employees will be attending the award ceremony and WILL NOT be hosting a Hospitality Room this year. CMP will be present in the Marketplace, so drop by and offer your personal congratulations.

During the conference, the Oxford and Samoset Rooms will be available for networking and as a place to eat lunch.

Lunch will be available downstairs as a Grab and Go, and will include salads, hot dogs, hamburgers and other luncheon items. Lunch will also be available in the hotel dining room and pub. In the past, many fairs have chosen to use this time to gather as a team and reflect on the morning workshops, and plan for the afternoon sessions.

**Saturday, January 25, 2020**

6:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast  
7:30 am Presidents' Breakfast  
8:00 - 12:00 Registration desk open  
8:00 - 3:00 pm Marketplace open  
8:45 am Opening Session/Welcome-K. Hunter  
9:00 am Efficiency Maine  
9:00 am Creating an Experience:Maine 200  
Exhibition halls,museums,etc  
9:00 am Agritourism: Your fair is a destination  
9:00 am Maine Assoc of Livestock Exhibitors  
10:00 - 2:00pm Entertainment showcase  
10:00 am Fundraising ideas: roundtable  
10:00 am Volunteer Programs (MOFGA)  
10:00 am Homeland Security: Keep Your Fair Safe  
11:15 am Keynote Speaker: Michael Bradley: IAFE  
"Creating Disney Magic and Big Fun at Any Fair"  
12:00 pm Registration desk closes  
12:15 pm Lunch on Your Own  
1:15 pm Expert panel: DHS, Public Health,etc  
1:15 pm IT and Website launch  
1:15 pm Junior Advisory Board Meeting  
1:15 pm Goats at the Fairs: Informational  
2:00 pm General Session:  
-National Anthem  
-Moment of Silence  
-Flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance  
-Roll Call of Fairs  
-MAAF Executive Director's report: Barry W.Norris  
-MAAF Treasurer's report: Rayma Ashby  
-MAAF Legislative Liaison: Catharine Damen  
-Maine Harness Racing Commissioner:Henry Jennings  
-Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry: Melissa Jordan  
-Old Business  
-New Business  
-President Kathryn R. Hunter's remarks  
-Nominating Committee report: Rachel Damon  
-Election of MAAF Officers and Directors  
-Adjournment  
5:00 pm Banquet  
5:45 pm Introduction of Queens and guests  
6:15 pm Dinner

Following dinner, a special entertainment program :

Well known Maine Comedian  
**BirdieGoogins**  
(a/k/a The Marden's Lady)

Don't Miss the MAAF **Friday** Afternoon Auction .  
Dick Brown, Auctioneer.  
Contact Darcy Winslow let her know what you will  
bring for your auction item.

Starts PROMPTLY at **3:30 pm** - Marketplace.

**Fair Activity in the Off Season**  
**Skowhegan Fairgrounds** will be the site of Maine's First  
Skijor Skowhegan. Teams time trials where a horse and  
rider pull a snowboarder or alpine skier down a 1,000  
foot track of gates and jumps. Part of Somerset  
Snowfest. February 28-March 1. somersetsnowfest.org.

**Waterford World's Fair.** January 4, 2020  
5-6:30 PM Homemade Turkey Dinner. North Waterford  
Congregational Church. \$10 per person. 50/50 raffle.



### 2019 IAFE Convention: San Antonio, Texas

“Champions of Change” was the theme for the annual convention. MAAF members representing 6 Maine fairs traveled to Texas to spend five days learning new and exciting ideas to share with our home fairs. One featured speaker challenged us to consider “ A man without a vision is a man without a future. A man without a future returns to his past”. Any successful endeavor requires a vision. We learned about a program in New York titled Ag Insider . Folks at agricultural fairs were interviewed, 1-2 minutes, to provide the answers to those questions , such as “ How do you give a chicken a bath?” and “What’s the difference between Open Class and 4-H ?” Urban farming was a well attended program, as was how to create a visual for how many 1/4 pounders in a 1,200 # steer. Trough Talk from the Tulsa State Fair in Oklahoma could easily be added to the educational offerings in Maine fairs. Presentations on e coli, E-gaming, ticketing, fair security, food and beverage rules and regulations, how to maximize your cash flow by introducing non-fair facility rental opportunities and emergency planning. The opportunities for networking with other fair people were plentiful. There are scholarships available to attend the IAFE annual convention in 2020 - Clear Vision is their theme. Consider adding this event to your “bucket list”.

### IAFE Zone 1 Meeting May 7, 8 &9 York, Pennsylvania

Travel to York, Pennsylvania to meet with members of the IAFE Zone 1 . Kathryn Hunter, outgoing MAAF president, was recently selected to be the Zone 1 director and has assured us that this program will be outstanding. Included in the itinerary is a field trip to the Gettysburg battlefield. MAAF is looking into contracting with a tour bus to transport those persons who may be interested. See the sign up in the Marketplace during the January conference.



### “Creating an Experience”

The Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs is preparing to celebrate Maine's Bicentennial 1820-2020. Join with us to showcase the many agricultural aspects of Maine's history. From baskets made from ash wood to blueberry barrens and their unique hand raking, from Moxie to earmuffs, from harness racing and the amazing standardbred trotter, Nelson to the logging camps in the far north, from our many apple orchards to toothpick factories...all of these and many more. Highlight one special event during your fair or consider a daily “Bicentennial moment”. The official Bicentennial website will include your event(s) in all of their publicity. FMI: Maine200.org will make sure you receive ongoing promotion at no cost to your fair.

**MAAF Scholarship Recipient Chosen for 4-H Youth Development Professional Position**  
**UMaine Extension Waldo County Office**

**Sadee Mehuren**, a Dean's List graduate of the University of Maine and a past recipient of the MAAF scholarship, was recently chosen to work as the 4-H Youth Development Professional in Waldo County. Sadee, from Faithful Venture Organic Dairy Farm in Searsmont, Maine, will be working with youth ages 5 to 18, and helping them to work on the four values of Head, Heart, Hands and Health through fun "learning by doing" activities and projects. She will offer 4-H curricula for community clubs, school, after school settings and other positive youth development organizations. Come meet **Sadee at the 50-50 raffle table** during the January conference. Our 50-50 raffle sales are a major contributor to our MAAF scholarship Program.

**Report from the Legislative Liaison: Katie Damren**

The upcoming legislative session will commence on January 8th. I have been traveling to the state house two to three times a week to discuss issues of interest to the fairs, however there have been no legislators present. There may, or may not, be a bill introduced by Senator Carpenter regarding horse pulling, however MDACF is unaware, at this point, of any proposed legislation. I look forward to talking with you all at the Ag Show in Augusta January 14,15 and 16. Our booth is #20 located to the left of the floor entrance into the Augusta Civic Center

**Report from the Executive Director: Barry W. Norris**

I want to wish all of you a very Happy New Year as we enter 2020. Our MAAF conference program is complete and promises to have many opportunities for everyone on your fair board to learn from professionals in the field as well as to network with other attendees.

I was part of a group of MAAF board members and others who traveled to attend the IAFE Convention in San Antonio, Texas earlier this month. Included in our team was the first Maine graduate of the Institute of Fair Management (Melissa Jordan), the newly appointed IAFE Zone 1 director (Kathryn Hunter) and others working towards their certification in the Institute of Fair Management program (Steve Graustein and David Andrews). David Byras, Hope Ricker and Rayma Ashby focused their attention on programs for education and children, while Darcy Winslow attended programs highlighting websites and internet technology. Ray Lafrance spent considerable time attending security seminars and programs on emergency planning. Some of our team attended a seminar that targeted sponsorships and how to create a foundation, while others were present at the e-coli program. We were fortunate to hear keynote speakers who motivated and inspired us, as well as affirming that we were on the right path with our MAAF goals and objectives. Our experiences were captured through the watchful eye ( lens) of Rachel Damon who was always present - with a warm and kind smile behind her camera !

I look forward to seeing you in Portland at the 2020 MAAF Conference !