



Minnesota

• STATE FAIR •

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Sam Torpin 2024



TABLE of CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Report of the Executive Vice President/CEO	2
Our Mission, Board of Managers	3
Admission.....	4
Attendance	5
Agriculture, Animals and Competition	6
Contests and Activities.....	6
New Entertainment, Exhibits and Elements	7
Awards and Accolades	8
Minnesota State Fair Scholarships, 50 Year Awards, Best Awards	9
Grandstand.....	10
Free Entertainment.....	11
Fun Facts	12
Did You Know?.....	13
Sponsors.....	14
Financial Highlights.....	15

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Auditor's Report.....	16
Management Discussion and Analysis	20
Statement of Net Position	22
Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position.....	24
Statement of Cash Flows.....	26
Footnotes.....	27
Required Supplementary Information.....	36
Supporting Schedule — Revenues and Expenses.....	38
Auditor's Report on Internal Control and Compliance	42
Meeting Minutes	44

REPORT of the EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/CEO



As I reflect on my first full year serving as CEO of the Minnesota State Fair, I do so with immense pride and gratitude. The 2024 fair was a true testament to the resilience, creativity and heart of this extraordinary community.

We faced our share of challenges this year, from powerful summer storms to the impacts of H5N1 and more. And yet, in true State Fair fashion, our dedicated staff, committed volunteers and hardworking vendors and exhibitors pulled together to ensure the tradition continued with strength and spirit. What could have been a difficult year instead became an inspiring reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together.

More than 1.9 million guests joined us in celebrating the very best of Minnesota. From agriculture and art to food, fun, music and education, the 2024 State Fair was more than just an event, it was a vibrant expression of community, connection and shared pride in who we are.

In addition to the energy and excitement of the 12 days of the fair, we also made meaningful long-term investments in our infrastructure. In 2024 alone, more than \$10 million was dedicated to capital improvements and maintenance across our 322-acre fairgrounds as part of our mission to ensure that we care for our historic buildings, tree-lined streets and critical systems that keep the fairgrounds running safely and smoothly. Looking ahead, we are preparing to begin a \$20 million renovation of the iconic Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum. This 75-year-old building will undergo a major transformation with a new roof, upgraded electrical systems and lighting, modern restrooms, new seating and improved accessibility. Preserving and restoring our historic buildings while updating them to meet today's needs is essential to ensuring the State Fair remains a cherished, functional and welcoming place for generations to come. All of this investment is done through the fair's operating funds and the generous support of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, as we do not receive government appropriations of any kind.

Thank you to everyone who made this year possible. Your dedication and passion are what keep the Great Minnesota Get-Together thriving year after year. I look forward to building on this momentum as we continue to honor tradition, embrace change and create even more unforgettable experiences together.

Renee Alexander

Executive Vice President/CEO, Minnesota State Fair

OUR MISSION

To educate and involve our guests by providing a world-class showcase that is innovative, entertaining and fun. We strive to:

- Showcase Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry
- Present an unparalleled forum for knowledge and ideas
- Provide outstanding customer service
- Offer exceptional value
- Provide a safe, clean environment that is accessible to all
- Create unique experiences



STATE FAIR BOARD of MANAGERS

The State Fair is governed by the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, which is charged exclusively with governance of the State Fair. Society delegates are from each of the state's county fairs, plus representatives of more than 40 statewide associations representing agriculture, horticulture and education. At its annual meeting each January, this group of delegates elects a 10-member board of managers to set policy and provide oversight for the fair. Nine members represent the Agricultural Society's nine regional districts and the 10th member (the president) serves at large. Pictured left to right: Ray Erspamer, Steve Storck, Kirk Peysar, Sara Donaldson, Wally Wichmann, Gail Johnson, Dan Grunhovid, Gordy Toenges and Jeff Hawkins. Not pictured: Kent Harbison.

Ray Erspamer
Hibbing, Minn.
8th District Manager

Steve Storck
Morris, Minn.
7th District Manager

Kirk Peysar
Aitkin, Minn.
6th District Manager

Sara Donaldson
Minneapolis, Minn.
5th District Vice President

Wally Wichmann
Balaton, Minn.
President

Gail Johnson
Anoka, Minn.
3rd District Manager

Dan Grunhovid
Gary, Minn.
9th District Manager

Gordy Toenges
Alden, Minn.
1st District Manager

Jeff Hawkins
Inver Grove Heights, Minn.
2nd District Manager

Kent Harbison
Roseville, Minn.
4th District Vice President



ADMISSION

PRE-FAIR DISCOUNT ADMISSION PRICE

- All ages \$15

REGULAR FAIR-TIME ADMISSION PRICE

- Adults (13-64) \$18
- Seniors (65+) \$16
- Kids (5-12) \$16
- Children (4 & under) FREE

OPENING DAY

AUG. 22

- Adults (13-64) \$16
- Seniors (65+) \$13
- Kids (5-12) \$13
- Children (4 & under) FREE

SENIORS DAYS

AUG. 26 & 29

- Seniors (65+) \$13

KIDS DAYS

AUG. 28 & SEPT. 2

- Kids (5-12) \$13
- Children (4 & under) FREE

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

AUG. 27

- Active military, retired military and veterans receive an admission discount when they purchase a ticket at the gate and present valid documentation of military service \$13

BLUE RIBBON BARGAIN BOOK

- \$5

MIGHTY MIDWAY & KIDWAY RIDE & GAME TICKET PRICING

- Online Advance Discount Fun Card
 - 25-ticket Fun Card \$20
 - 50-ticket Fun Card \$40
 - 100-ticket Fun Card \$80
 - 200-ticket Fun Card \$160
- Cub/Ticket Outlet Advance Discount Fun Card
 - 50-ticket Fun Card \$40
- Fair-time Fun Card
 - 70-ticket Fun Card \$60
 - 33-ticket Fun Card \$30
 - Single ticket \$1

VEHICLE PARKING

- \$20

MOTORCYCLE PARKING

- \$15

BIKE PARKING

- Free



TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,925,904

THURSDAY, AUG. 22

Opening Day: 138,875*

High: 73 Low: 60

Precipitation: .14 in.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23

171,233*

High: 81 Low: 64

Precipitation: .01 in.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24

184,564

High: 85 Low: 65

Precipitation: none

SUNDAY, AUG. 25

134,644

High: 87 Low: 73

Precipitation: none

MONDAY, AUG. 26

Seniors Day: 80,546

High: 92 Low: 70

Precipitation: .74 in.

TUESDAY, AUG. 27

Military Appreciation

Day: 124,777

High: 79 Low: 67

Precipitation: 1.01 in.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

Kids Day: 145,531*

High: 76 Low: 64

Precipitation: trace

THURSDAY, AUG. 29

Seniors Day: 81,231

High: 89 Low: 66

Precipitation: .37 in.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

225,521*

High: 79 Low: 61

Precipitation: none

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

207,078

High: 85 Low: 61

Precipitation: none

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

Friends of the Fair

Day: 256,015*

High: 74 Low: 56

Precipitation: none

MONDAY, SEPT. 2

Kids Day: 175,889

High: 75 Low: 56

Precipitation: none

**New daily attendance record*

AGRICULTURE, ANIMALS and COMPETITION



AGRICULTURAL AND CREATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- The Minnesota State Fair's agricultural and creative competitions drew more than 34,000 entries in 2024, with competitors vying for a share of ribbons, trophies and special awards and nearly \$2 million in prize money. Competitions included events for livestock, horses, school projects, baked and canned goods, fruit, vegetables, crafts, bee and honey products, fine arts, farm crops, flowers, dairy products and more.
- The very popular Crop Art and Farm Crops Exhibit in the Agriculture Horticulture Building received an update. This newly re-imagined space allowed for optimized viewing for fair guests.
- This year's fair saw the addition of a new competition for fermented products in the canned and preserved foods division. Entries for fermented cucumbers (pickles), kimchi (traditional Korean side dish) and fresh fermented vinegars all competed for coveted blue ribbons.
- New competition themes included favorite Minnesota mascots for Quilt On-A-Stick; Minnesota authors and books for Cake Decorating; hats for Decorated Cookies; Minnesota birds for Decorated Cupcakes; Minnesota Loves Feasts, Fests and Fun for the Minnesota State Fair Flower Show; Climate Change and Landscape for Drought for FFA Landscape Design and Construction.
- The award-winning CHS Miracle of Birth Center welcomed 159 newborn animals, including 134 piglets and 25 lambs. There were no live dairy cow births amid concerns about the spread of the H5N1 virus.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH PROGRAMS

- In its fourth year, the Beginning Exhibitor Livestock Learning Experience (BELLE) Grant program awarded 15 grants to youth livestock exhibitors who participated in the Minnesota State Fair for the first time in 2024. With funding from the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, large-animal exhibitors received \$500 and small-animal exhibitors received \$250 each to help offset feed, animal care, transportation, supplies, lodging and other costs of exhibiting livestock at the State Fair. Exhibitors were also paired with a youth mentor to help guide them through their experience.
- The Minnesota State Fair partnered with Minnesota FFA and local agriculture commodity groups to connect food back to farms for more than 1,200 Minneapolis and Saint Paul third-graders who attended Urban Ag Day 2024 from May 4-6. Since 2016, this field trip event has taught young students that food does not simply come from the grocery store or refrigerator, but from farmers and their fields. It has featured an up-close look at live animals, including swine, beef and dairy cattle, dairy goats and sheep. Throughout each day, the youth learn from students involved in the FFA Organization, farmers and other agriculturalists. Students are guided through learning stations, each with a unique take-away - Feed the Cows (what cows eat and how their diet is similar to the human diet); Ready, Set, Grow! (growing food in your own garden); Busy Bees (a lesson on the importance of pollinators); Farm to Fork (how beef becomes lunch) and The Amazing Soybean (the versatile crop and what it's used for).

FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

- In 2023 a donation was made to the Minnesota State Fair Foundation to replace the windows and doors of the historic Fine Arts Center. In all, 38 8-foot-tall windows and 12 11-foot-tall doors were custom made to replace the existing elements for the 2024 fair. Additional restoration projects on this 117-year-old building also included exterior painting, new entryway concrete, gallery wall painting, landscaping and a new welcome desk.
- The State Fair's Fine Arts Exhibition featured the largest juried art show in Minnesota. The 2024 People's Choice Award – Adults' Choice went to "Mallards Facing Winter," a photo by Omar Ghayeb of Minneapolis, Minn. Kristin Williams of Minneapolis, Minn., won the Kids' Choice Award for "Sprout," a needle felt sculpture.

CONTESTS and ACTIVITIES

MSF AMATEUR TALENT CONTEST

Nearly 4,000 fans cheered on the best amateur talent in the state at the MSF Amateur Talent Contest Finals held Sept. 1, at the Grandstand. Contestants competed for more than \$20,000 in prize money. Winners were:

Open Division:

First place: Dante Carlson of Woodbury, Minn., cello solo, "Julie-O"

Second place: Angelina Elliott of Brooklyn Park, Minn., dance solo, "Anamorphosis"

Third place: Cypher Side Dance School of St. Paul, Minn., dance group, "Hip Hop Mix"

Teen Division:

First place: Aaliyah Dixon of St. Michael, Minn., dance solo, "Burden Down"

Second place: Danica Scofield of Blaine, Minn., piano solo, "Chopin Ballade No. 1"

Third place: Matthew Woody of Farmington, Minn., vocal solo, "Rainbow"

Preteen Division:

First place: Brandt Montag of Alexandria, Minn., vocal solo with guitar, "Movies"

Second place: Matinly Conrad and Chase Lang of Shoreview, Minn., dance performance, "When I Was Your Man"

Third place: Tillie Kuhl of Shoreview, Minn., dance solo, "Escape the Weight"

MILK RUN

John Curley of Duluth, Minn., and Heather Kampf of Minneapolis, Minn., were the overall male and female 5K Milk Run winners with times of 16:00 and 17:39, respectively. The Milk Run was held May 25, 2024, during the Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event, and was sponsored by Midwest Dairy, Giggles' Campfire Grill, Giant Slide, TCRunning Company, Prairie Farms and Planet Fitness.

NEW ENTERTAINMENT, EXHIBITS and ELEMENTS

WHAT'S NEW

New additions and highlights for 2024 included: Minnesota State Fair Featured Design available on merchandise at the State FairWear gift shops; creation of the Official MN State Fair App; Cats & Dogs The Exhibition at the North End Event Center; Minnesota State Fair Foundation's Welcome Wall (pictured below); two new Midway rides; State Fair History Snapshots (15-minute history presentations); guest experience enhancements (re-designed Crop Art Exhibit space, new windows and doors in the historic Fine Arts Center and updates to The Garden and Dan Patch Park); new competitions & themes in Creative Activities and Ag-Hort; 90 years of the Streetcar Arch; 90 years of the DNR Building & Park; transportation expansions; the addition of nearly 40 new merchandise vendors, 63 new specialty sips, 33 official new foods and six new food vendors; and more.

TRANSPORTATION

Each year the fair partners with several transportation organizations to provide and expand the free or low-cost bus options to bring guests from throughout the Twin Cities to the fair. In 2024, more than 41 percent of the fair's 1.926 million guests used some form of public transportation to get to and from the event.

Express Bus partners that provide free parking and rides to the fair for a small fee from farther-out suburbs saw increases in 2024:

- Metro Transit: Ridership of 299,400, a 24 percent jump over 2023
- Minnesota Valley Transit Authority: Ridership of 127,220, a 15 percent increase
- SouthWest Transit: Ridership of 100,635, a 30 percent increase
- Metro Mobility: 1,800 rides, a 3.5 percent increase

The State Fair Park & Ride service, operated in partnership with Lorenz Bus Service to provide free parking and free rides from lots closer to the fairgrounds, gave more than 1 million one-way rides, a 12 percent increase over 2023.

The fair funds its multimillion-dollar transportation and parking operation without receiving state appropriation. Our partners also contribute sizeable resources. Fair staff engages in year-round

transportation planning to serve not only guests, but livestock exhibitors, employees, vendors, performers, and other fair participants as well.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

The fair offers a variety of accessibility services so that fair guests can make the most of their visit. Additions to accessibility and guest services in 2024 included:

- Aira: The Aira app provided live human-to-human professional visual assistance via smartphones for guests who are blind or have low vision.
- Pre-recorded audio description of select works at the popular crop art exhibit was available via QR codes.
- Joy Mobile: A one-stop sensory-friendly experience helped guests reset and re-engage.
- KaiBi Mobile Family Care Center: A climate-controlled mobile facility provided caregivers with privacy and comfort to feed, change diapers and pump.
- An additional adult-size changing table was located in Care & Assistance.

FAIRGROUNDS & FACILITIES UPGRADES

In 2024, nearly \$10.2 million was invested in maintenance and capital work. Among the dozens of projects were: New windows and doors in the Fine Arts Center, upgrades to the Kidway lot, construction of a new ticket office outside the Grandstand, installation of new doors and additional fans in the Horse Barn, upgrade to the fiber optic system, safety and security investments, tree care and landscaping, purchase of additional bike racks, installation of water bottle fill stations, improvements to outdoor lighting, addition of shade umbrellas to Dan Patch Park, east Grandstand elevator work, miscellaneous paint, electrical, roofing, ventilation, sewer, street and sidewalk projects, and more. All projects were funded through State Fair operating income and grants from the Minnesota State Fair Foundation. The fair is financially self-supporting and receives no government aid.



AWARDS and ACCOLADES



HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

The Minnesota State Fair annually elects one individual for honorary life membership in the Minnesota State Agricultural Society. Chuck Schwartau of Goodhue, Minn., was the 2024 honoree.

Schwartau began his involvement with the Minnesota State Fair in 1963 as a youngster participating in the 4-H swine competition. He went on to a career with University of Minnesota Extension, which has kept

him involved with 4-H at the fair every year since. Even during a seven-year period away from the university, he judged 4-H exhibits and demonstrations at the fair. Upon returning to Extension in 1985, he worked with, and often managed, various 4-H livestock shows and has been involved with the 4-H Dairy Show every year since 1986. In 1986, Schwartau joined the staff of the fair's Open Class Beef Show and led it as superintendent from 1992 to 2021. His main goal in those 35 years was to provide the most positive experience possible for exhibitors and the visiting public. Even after official retirement, he worked with the new department leadership for a smooth transition. Over the years, Schwartau has been a director and president of the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs, a director and secretary for the Goodhue County Fair for 32 years, an active member of First Lutheran Church in Red Wing, and township clerk for Featherstone Township in Goodhue County. He proudly adds this honorary life membership recognition to his Minnesota State Fair 50 Year Award, which he received in 2015.

DOUGLAS K. BALDWIN AWARD

The Douglas K. Baldwin Award for FFA livestock show participation and leadership went to Tayler Franz of Windom FFA.

MSF MVP WINNERS

Five Minnesota State Fair employees were awarded the MSF All-Star MVP Award for exceeding expectations and providing outstanding service. Winners for 2024 are pictured below left to right: Liz Page (Lost & Found), Ashley Nichols (Ag-Hort), Shelby Ruiz (Employment), Alec Harder (CHS Miracle of Birth Center) and Randi Kallas (Marketing).



PRINCESS KAY

Rachel Visser of Hutchinson, Minn., representing McLeod County, was crowned the 71st Princess Kay of the Milky Way in an evening ceremony Aug. 21 on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Throughout her year-long reign, she serves as the official goodwill ambassador for nearly 1,800 Minnesota dairy farm families. Princess Kay brings dairy to life through conversations, classroom visits and various speaking engagements about the nutritional benefits of dairy and dairy farmers' continual commitment to environmental sustainability. Her first official duty was to sit in a rotating cooler in the Dairy Building to have her likeness sculpted in a 90-pound block of butter by Minnesota artist and butter sculptor Gerry Kulzer.

IEBA FAIR OF THE YEAR AWARD

IEBA (International Entertainment Buyers Association), the leading trade organization for live entertainment industry professionals, awarded the Minnesota State Fair the 2024 Fair/Expo of the Year Award. The fair's Entertainment Director Theresa Weinfurter and Entertainment Supervisor Nate Dungan accepted the honor in October 2024 at IEBA's annual conference in Nashville, Tenn.

IAFE HERITAGE AWARD

Hundreds of volunteer fair management personnel have worked long and hard to see that the annual event they are associated with can continue as a valuable community showcase. Each year, the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) presents Heritage Awards to recognize the achievements of the exceptional volunteer fair leaders who do just that. Minnesota State Fair board member Gail Johnson of Anoka, Minn., was presented with the IAFE's Heritage Award on Dec. 3, 2024, at the IAFE Convention and Trade Show held in Phoenix, Ariz. This award recognized her decades of involvement and leadership with the Hennepin County Fair, the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs and the Minnesota State Fair board of managers. Johnson has represented the Minnesota State Agricultural Society's third district since 2016.





MINNESOTA STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Minnesota State Fair has long been invested in the educational endeavors of young adults from greater Minnesota and offers scholarship opportunities to deserving youth based on their leadership and achievement in youth livestock programs, as well as their involvement in the local community. The Minnesota State Fair Scholarship was established in 1994 and annually awards up to 22 scholarships of \$1,000 each. In addition, two \$2,000 Trade Scholarships are awarded to a person of any age entering a skilled trade career or furthering their training. Since its inception, nearly \$600,000 has been awarded. The Minnesota State Fair Scholarships are funded by the Minnesota State Fair Foundation. These scholarships were available to rural youth or those enrolled in an agriculture program in 2023-24. The 22 recipients of the Minnesota State Fair Scholarship were:

- Rachael Dose – Arlington
- Allison Foss – Cambridge
- Wyatt Glessing – Waverly
- Kaleb Heins – Morris
- Alexis Hoefs – New Prague
- Kiera Lafferty – Springfield
- Shelby Lang – Buffalo Lake
- Mackenzie Moline – Saint Peter
- Carly Olson – Ortonville
- Lyndsey Penegor – Watertown
- Tyler Ratka – Cold Spring
- Emma Rowen – Rochester
- Lucas Ruen – Lanesboro
- Jacy Saemrow – Waterville
- Ava Schoenfeld – Lake Benton
- Mikayla Skiba – North Branch
- Britney Smith – Norwood Young America
- Sadie Sullivan – West Concord
- Abigail VanPelt – Austin
- Katherine VanPelt – Austin
- Hannah Wetzel – Faribault
- Katelyn Zeug – Lucan

The two Trade Scholarship recipients were:

- Jazlyn Geerdes – Fairmont
- Sidney Leonard – Millville



50 YEAR AWARDS

Twenty-one dedicated individuals and organizations with a combined 1,200-plus years of involvement at the State Fair were presented with a 50 Year Award during the 2024 fair. This award honors those who have been actively involved in the fair for at least 50 years. Recipients were: Douglas Beise of Loretto, Minn.; Crossroads Chapel of St. Paul, Minn.; Jim Ertl of Rosemount, Minn.; Larry Hofmann of Janesville, Minn.; John Illg of Woodbury, Minn.; Dean Jirousek & Family of Ellendale, Minn.; John Magnuson of St. Paul, Minn.; Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors of St. Paul, Minn.; Minnesota 4-H State Arts-In of St. Paul, Minn.; Minnesota Blue Flame Gas Association of Eagan, Minn.; Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation of St. Paul, Minn.; Minnesota Turkey Growers of Buffalo, Minn.; Bret Oelke of Barrett, Minn.; Fay Peterson Kotilinek of White Bear Lake, Minn.; Plunkett's Pest Control of Fridley, Minn.; Edward Terry of Northfield, Minn.; David Thompson of Starbuck, Minn.; Molly Voita of Minneapolis, Minn.; Weavers Guild of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.; Chuck Will of Underwood, Minn.; and Jim Zieba of St. Anthony, Minn.



BEST AWARDS

The State Fair's 2024 Best Awards recognized 12 outstanding vendors, attractions and commercial exhibits. Winners were: Anderson Bros Outdoors, The Blue Barn, Caricatures by Cindy, Crazy Mouse owned by Wood Entertainment, Demetri's Fine Greek Foods, Homespun Gifts and Décor, Milk Can Game owned by Coy Heatherly Concessions, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Orange Treet, Pria Handmade Accessories, Puppy Express owned by Prime Pacific, and Tot Boss.



GRANDSTAND

Thursday, Aug. 22

BECKY G with special guest LOS APTOS

7 p.m. • \$44, \$61, \$71 (all reserved seating) & \$88 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 4,422

Friday, Aug. 23

CHANCE THE RAPPER

7 p.m. • \$48, \$68, \$88, \$108, \$128, \$148 (all reserved seating)
& \$96 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 4,110

Saturday, Aug. 24

NATE BARGATZE: The Be Funny Tour

7 p.m. • \$77, \$97, \$107, \$197 (all reserved seating) & \$154 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 13,570 (sold out)

Sunday, Aug. 25

BLAKE SHELTON with special guest EMILY ANN ROBERTS

7 p.m. • \$77, \$97, \$127, \$207 (all reserved seating) & \$154 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 11,156

Monday, Aug. 26

HAPPY TOGETHER TOUR 2024 featuring THE TURTLES, JAY AND THE AMERICANS, THE ASSOCIATION, BADFINGER, THE VOGUES AND THE COWSILLS

7 p.m. • \$33 (all reserved seating) & \$66 (Party Deck)
(canceled due to severe weather)

Tuesday, Aug. 27

LUDACRIS & T-PAIN

7 p.m. • \$44, \$51, \$61 (all reserved seating) & \$88 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 14,005 (sold out)

Wednesday, Aug. 28

JON PARDI with special guest DILLON CARMICHAEL

7 p.m. • \$44, \$51, \$61 (reserved seating); \$71 (general admission pit)
& \$88 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 9,292

Thursday, Aug. 29

MÖTLEY CRÜE with special guest WHITE REAPER

7 p.m. • \$77, \$97, \$127, \$207 (all reserved seating) & \$154 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 8,769

Friday, Aug. 30

MATCHBOX TWENTY with special guest BEAUTY SCHOOL DROPOUT

7 p.m. • \$67, \$77, \$87 (all reserved seating) & \$134 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 12,774

Saturday, Aug. 31

STEPHEN SANCHEZ with special guest MADI DIAZ

7 p.m. • \$34, \$44, \$54, \$64 (all reserved seating) & \$68 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 4,081

Sunday, Sept. 1

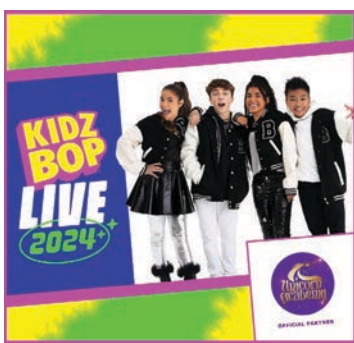
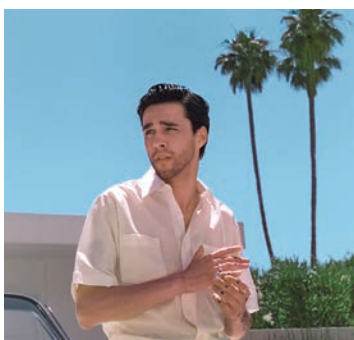
MINNESOTA STATE FAIR AMATEUR TALENT CONTEST FINALS

7:30 p.m. • Free
Attendance: 4,000

Monday, Sept. 2

KIDZ BOP LIVE 2024

3 p.m. • \$24, \$29, \$39 (all reserved seating) & \$48 (Party Deck)
Attendance: 4,545



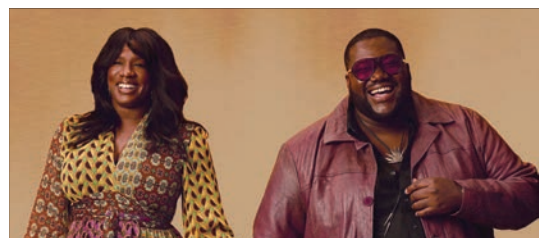
FREE at the BANDSHELL TONIGHT! CONCERT SERIES



AUG. 22 & 23 • PHIL VASSAR



AUG. 24 & 25 • MAGGIE ROSE



AUG. 26 & 27 • THE WAR & TREATY



**AUG. 28 & 29 • MARKY RAMONE
PLAYS THE RAMONES CLASSICS**



AUG. 30 & 31 • MOON TAXI



SEPT. 1 & 2 • SEMISONIC

MORE FREE STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

■ LEINIE LODGE BANDSHELL

- **Aug. 22 – 31:** MSF Amateur Talent Contest Semifinals
- **Aug. 22 & 23:** Church of Cash, Tommy Prine, The Men of Motown
- **Aug. 24 & 25:** The Dryes, Kazual, McKinley James
- **Aug. 26 & 27:** The 34th Infantry Division "Red Bull" Band, Radius, Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience
- **Aug. 28 & 29:** Renata The Band, Ben Goldsmith, Mariachi Campanas de America
- **Aug. 30 & 31:** Ginger Commodore, Jonny Lyons & the Pride, Lucas Hoge
- **Sept. 1 & 2:** Monroe Crossing, Screaming Orphans, Los Texmaniacs

■ INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR STAGE

- **Aug. 22 & 23:** Alma Andina, New Primitives
- **Aug. 24 & 25:** Pan Dimensions, Rumba Nueva
- **Aug. 26 & 27:** Doctor Kielbasa, iLLism
- **Aug. 28 & 29:** McNasty Brass Band, Maurice Jacox & We Still R
- **Aug. 30 & 31:** Kickin' It Irish with O'Shea Irish Dance, DiaToti
- **Sept. 1 & 2:** World Jazz Collegium, Native Pride Dancers

■ BAZAAR AFTER DARK

- **Aug. 22 & 23:** The 70's Magic Sunshine Band
- **Aug. 24 & 25:** Tropical Zone Orchestra
- **Aug. 26 & 27:** PopROCKS
- **Aug. 28 & 29:** The Cedar Cultural Center Presents The Global Get-Together
- **Aug. 30 & 31:** International Reggae All Stars
- **Sept. 1 & 2:** Grupo Esplendor Norteño

■ FAMILY FAIR STAGE AT BALDWIN PARK

- **Aug. 22 – Sept. 2:** Monster Shop Bump'n
- **Aug. 22 – Aug. 31:** MSF County Fair Talent Contest
- **Aug. 22 – 25:** Mark Hayward
- **Aug. 22 – 27:** The Chipper Experience! Where Comedy & Magic Collide!
- **Aug. 26 – 29:** Tuey
- **Aug. 28 – Sept. 2:** Alléz-OOPS! Circus. Comedy. Spectacle.
- **Aug. 30 – Sept. 2:** Kidsdance
- **Sept. 1 & 2:** Lizzy – Comedy Stage Hypnosis

■ SCHELL'S STAGE AT SCHILLING AMPHITHEATER

- **Aug. 22 – Sept. 2:** MNHS presents History On-A-Schtick
- **Aug. 22 & 23:** Clare Doyle, Mick Sterling and Cate Fierro
- **Aug. 24 & 25:** High & Rising, Alexander Craig
- **Aug. 26 & 27:** The Robb Henry Trio, The Scarlet Goodbye
- **Aug. 28 & 29:** PK Mayo Band, The Jorgensens
- **Aug. 30 & 31:** Jiggs Lee Invasion, Gregg Hall & The Wrecking Ball
- **Sept. 1 & 2:** Faith Boblett, LAAMAR

■ WEST END AT SUNSET

- **Aug. 22 & 23:** Tina Schlieske & Friends
- **Aug. 24 & 25:** Mae Simpson
- **Aug. 26 & 27:** L.A. Buckner & BiG HOMiE
- **Aug. 28 & 29:** Corey Medina & Brothers
- **Aug. 30 & 31:** First Avenue Goes To The Fair
- **Sept. 1 & 2:** The Brothers Allmanac

■ THE NORTH WOODS

- **Aug. 22 – Sept. 2:** All-Star Stunt Dogs Splash, Timberworks Lumberjack Show



FUN FACTS



FOOD & SPECIALTY SIPS

Nearly 300 food vendors and 1,600 food items could be found at the fair in 2024. There were six new food vendors, 33 official new foods and 63 brand-new specialty beverages premiering or found exclusively at the fair.



COMPETITION NUMBERS

There were more than 34,000 competition and agriculture entries this year, with competitors vying for a share of ribbons, trophies and special awards and nearly \$2 million in prize money. That impressive entry number in 2024 included 5,508 entries in open class livestock, 4,228 baked goods entries, 777 crop art and scarecrow entries, and many more.



RIDES & GAMES

More than 60 rides thrilled fair guests at Mighty Midway and Kidway, including two new rides debuting at Mighty Midway – The Kraken and The Defender.



EDUCATION

Learning is all over the fairgrounds. There were 330 hours of interactive educational exhibits, presentations and demonstrations—the equivalent of 55 school days—offered every single day at the fair.

DID YOU KNOW?

KICKOFF TO SUMMER AT THE FAIR

For the fourth year, Kickoff to Summer at the Fair was held in a portion of the iconic Minnesota State Fairgrounds over the Memorial Day weekend – May 23-26, 2024. This slice-of-the-fair event included food, brews, music, shopping, family fun, free parking and limited attendance each day so guests could have space to stroll and savor the experience. Tickets were \$13 in advance online (fees and tax included) and \$16 at the gate (fees and taxes included). Nearly 50,000 people attended the event, with Saturday reaching capacity.

SEVERE WEATHER IMPACT

On three days during the 2024 fair, severe weather caused fair guests to seek shelter and admission gates, rides, attractions and vendors to temporarily close. On Monday, Aug. 26, the Happy Together Tour concert at the Grandstand was canceled due to high winds and lightning in the evening. On Tuesday, Aug. 27, the fair delayed its opening from 7 to 9 a.m. to assess damage and clean up debris after an early-morning storm blew down numerous trees, branches, tents and signs. Staff, vendors and contractors pitched in to open the gates as soon as possible. Then, on Thursday, Aug. 29, a late-afternoon storm with heavy rain, lightning, hail and high winds paused all fair operations. When Mother Nature took over, the fair went from the Great Minnesota Get-Together to the Great Minnesota Pulls-Together to keep everyone safe and get fair guests back to enjoying their fair traditions.

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR FOUNDATION

The Minnesota State Fair Foundation is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that preserves and improves the historic Minnesota State Fairgrounds and supports State Fair educational programs. In 2024, the Foundation granted \$2 million to the fair, providing funding for projects across the fairgrounds, including improvement to the historic Fine Arts Center and the

addition of the Welcome Wall at Gate 9. Other Foundation grants during the year supported projects and programs in agriculture, education and accessibility, to name a few. Also in 2024, after 15 years, the Foundation sunsetted its recognition bench and table program. This popular program provided much-needed seating with 2,600 benches and tables placed throughout the grounds. Since its inception, the Foundation has granted more than \$20 million to the Minnesota State Fair.

SAFETY & SECURITY

The State Fair's comprehensive public safety plan is developed and implemented in partnership with multiple agencies and experts at local, state and federal levels. In 2024, the plan included the State Fair Police Department with nearly 190 licensed officers and deputies from 65 urban, suburban and rural agencies across the state, plus more than 100 officers from all levels of law enforcement; additional support and resources provided through partnerships with Saint Paul Police Department, Saint Paul Fire Department, Minneapolis Police Department, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Region's Hospital, Metro Transit Police Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, National Weather Service, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, community ambassadors, and four security firms, among others; safety and security measures throughout the fairgrounds such as enhanced fenceline, additional perimeter security, more cameras, metal detectors at gate entrances, bag checks as necessary, vehicle barricades, emergency communication systems, on-site medical services and more; and dedicated 911 dispatchers for the State Fairgrounds to respond to calls regarding police, fire and medical situations.



THANK YOU to our SPONSORS

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- Allina Health | Aetna
- August Schell Brewing Co.
- Bremer Bank
- Cal Spas
- Cargill
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- Good Health Saunas
- Green Mill Restaurant
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- KaiBi Mobile
- Kems
- Kwik Trip
- LeafFilter
- Leinenkugel Brewing Co.
- Mall of America
- Mattress Firm
- Mazda
- Midwest Dairy
- Minnesota Corn Growers Association
- Minnesota Lottery
- Minnesota Rusco
- Minnesota Senior Linkage Line
- Minnesota Star Tribune
- Mintahoe Catering & Events
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- Paddle North
- PaintCare
- Planet Fitness
- Prairie Farms
- Re-Bath
- Renewal by Andersen
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- Xcel Energy
- Xfinity



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The information provided below highlights significant activities as of October 31, 2024, illustrating the Society's statement of revenue, expenses and changes in net position.

BUDGET		ACTUAL
\$67,442,000	OPERATING REVENUE	\$71,223,041
\$66,141,500	OPERATING EXPENSES	\$69,093,414
\$1,300,500	OPERATING INCOME	\$2,129,627
\$2,745,500	CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$4,345,941



The October 31, 2024 financial information presented above is derived from our audited financial statements and does not include the notes that are integral to a full presentation of our financial position. The complete audited financial statements can be found on the following pages.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Managers and Management
Minnesota State Agricultural Society

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPINIONS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities and the discretely presented component unit of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society (dba Minnesota State Fair) (the Society) as of and for the year ended October 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Society's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the other auditor, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities and the discretely presented component unit of the Society as of October 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation (the Foundation), a discretely presented component unit whose statements reflect total assets, net assets, and expenses of \$17,749,748, \$17,616,613, and \$3,262,290, respectively, which represents 100 percent of the discretely presented component unit as of and for the year ended October 31, 2024. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports have been furnished to us. Our opinion on the basic financial statements, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Foundation as a component unit of the Society, is based solely on the report of the other auditor.

BASIS FOR OPINIONS

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Society, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions. The financial statements of the Foundation were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

(continued)

EMPHASIS OF MATTER

Change in Accounting Principle

As described in Note 1 to the basic financial statements, in fiscal 2024, the Society adopted new accounting guidance in capitalizing purchases of groups of similar assets in the current year. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Society's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Society's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

(continued)

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, which follows this report letter, and the required supplementary information (RSI), which follows the notes to basic financial statements, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Society's basic financial statements. The accompanying Supporting Schedule – Revenues and Expenses is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Supporting Schedule – Revenues and Expenses is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

OTHER INFORMATION

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the general information and meeting minutes but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

(continued)

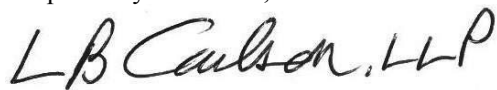
PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A. previously audited the Society's 2023 financial statements and they, with reliance on other auditors, expressed unmodified audit opinions on the respective financial statements of the business-type activities and the discretely presented component unit in their report dated April 26, 2024. In our opinion, based on their audit and the report of the other auditor, the partial comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended October 31, 2023 is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 6, 2025 on our consideration of the Society's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Society's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LB Carlson, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LB CARLSON, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 6, 2025

■ MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Minnesota State Agricultural Society produces the annual Minnesota State Fair and manages the State Fairgrounds. The Society operates with no public subsidy of any kind, for any purpose. The costs to produce the annual State Fair and all capital and maintenance improvements to the historic State Fairgrounds are financed with revenue earned by the Society and State Fair Foundation donations. The following is an analysis of the Society's financial activities and performance during the fiscal years ended October 31, 2024 and 2023, along with detailed financial statements and supplementary information.

The Minnesota State Fair Foundation was established in 2002 as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation with the exclusive mission of raising accessible funds to significantly assist the Society in improving and maintaining the State Fairgrounds. Therefore, comparative Foundation financial statements for fiscal years 2024 and 2023 are presented as a component unit of the Society.

■ OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Society's financial statements are accounted for as an enterprise fund, which operates in a manner similar to a private business enterprise. The Statement of Net Position outlines the Society's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Additionally, this statement includes detailed discussion of capital assets – namely, the State Fairgrounds and its facilities. Next, income and expenses for the year are presented in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position; this statement serves to determine if the Society has earned an acceptable level of operating income. Finally, the Statement of Cash Flows provides information on cash receipts and payments generated from operations, as well as finance and investment activities that occurred during the year.

■ NET POSITION

The Condensed Statement of Net Position provides a quick look at the Society's overall financial position. Net position increased to \$77.8 million during fiscal 2024. This increase of \$4.3 million was the result of operating income, non-operating revenue (expenses), and capital contributions. This excludes the change in accounting principle in the current year.

Approximately 88 percent of the Society's net position - \$68.6 million - represents the Society's continual investment in capital assets (building, equipment and infrastructure) that are absolutely essential to the Society's ability to present the annual exposition and conduct a busy schedule of non-fair events year-round.

The decrease in current and other assets mainly correlates with the decrease in accounts payable. The increase in capital assets is the result of continued investment in the Society's property and structures. The decrease in other liabilities and notes payables are from normal operations. The change in the Society's share of the Minnesota State Retirement Systems (MSRS) pension plan contributed to the change in other liabilities.

During the year ended October 31, 2024, the Society implemented new accounting guidance for capitalizing purchases of groups of similar assets. This recent change in authoritative literature, which provides new guidance on accounting and financial reporting for capital assets, requires capitalization of groups of similar assets purchased at or near the same time, that are individually below the Society's capitalization threshold, if the aggregate cost is significant. In prior periods, the Society only capitalized assets whose individual cost exceeded the capitalization policy threshold. The implementation of this new guidance resulted in the Society reporting certain groups of similar capital assets acquired in previous years and the related accumulated depreciation. See Notes 1 and 3 of the accompanying financial statements for additional details on this change in the current year.

■ INCOME AND EXPENSE

The State Fair realized an increase in net position of \$4.3 million (excluding the Change in Accounting Principle) in fiscal 2024 based upon gross revenues of \$72.6 million, gross expenses of \$69.5 million and capital contributions of \$1.1 million. State Fair income is earned primarily from three sources: ticket sales, licensing of commercial exhibit space and the rental of fair facilities for non-fair events. In 2024, the ticket sales total of \$45.3 million was earned chiefly through sales of outside gate and parking tickets (\$29.3 million), Mighty Midway and Kidway tickets (\$9.7 million) and Grandstand tickets (\$6.1 million).

As with most business enterprises, expenses are very diverse. The State Fair provides extensive services to fair visitors that include police protection, sanitation, Park & Ride bus service, guest services and parking (\$12.5 million). This category increase of \$1.7 million in fiscal 2024 is a result of increases in police protection (\$584 thousand), sanitation (\$245.4 thousand) and Park & Ride bus service (\$948.1 thousand). Other expenses include Grandstand and free entertainment (\$11.0 million), carnival activities and support (\$6.2 million), fairgrounds plant operations and maintenance (\$12.5 million) and administration (\$7.3 million).

Accounting for pensions increased the net position due to the required recognition of the Society's portion of the overall unfunded pension liability of the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS). As a result of this required pension reporting, the Society recognized a decrease of \$499.3 thousand in pension expense in the current year.

A detailed breakdown of the State Fair's income and expenses is included in the Revenues and Expenses Supporting Schedule on pages 38-41.

■ CAPITAL ASSETS (THE STATE FAIRGROUNDS)

The State Fair's capital assets consist of: 126 fair-owned structures, land and improvements to the land, personal property, leased personal property and infrastructure including an intricate network of electricity, communications, gas, water and sewer distribution systems.

Structures include everything from small permanent information and ticket booths to the Coliseum and the massive Grandstand. Most of the State Fair's significant structures and utilities date back to Works Progress Administration (WPA) days in the '30s and very early '40s. Some buildings are even older, such as the Grandstand (1909), Fine Arts Center (1907) and Progress Center (1907).

In 2024, the State Fair invested \$6.4 million in capital assets. This amount includes \$2.0 million for the renovation of 1640 Como, \$444 thousand for the installation of the Welcome Wall and digital signage, \$908 thousand for improvements to the Fine Arts Center, \$638 thousand for the roof replacement of the Arcade building, \$160 thousand for upgrades to the east Grandstand elevator, \$119 thousand for upgrades to the electrical system and \$1.0 million for improvements to streets and sidewalks.

Additional information on capital assets can be found in Note 3 of the accompanying financial statements.

■ LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

During 2024, the Society did not utilize a previously established draw-down note for cash flow purposes. Scheduled debt payments on notes in the current year reduced the Society's outstanding note payable balance by \$1.1 million. Additional information on long-term debt can be found in Note 4 of the accompanying financial statements.

■ STATE FAIR FOUNDATION

Please refer to Note 10 in the accompanying financial statements for information on the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and for information on how Foundation financial statements can be obtained.

■ FACTORS BEARING ON THE SOCIETY'S FUTURE

The Society is not economically dependent on an industry or company. The primary source of revenue is related to ticket sales, which include fair admission, midway ride passes and grandstand entertainment from millions of people who pay a relatively small fee to attend the Fair. As a result, the overall state of the economy will affect the amount of disposable income individuals have and are able to spend at the fair.

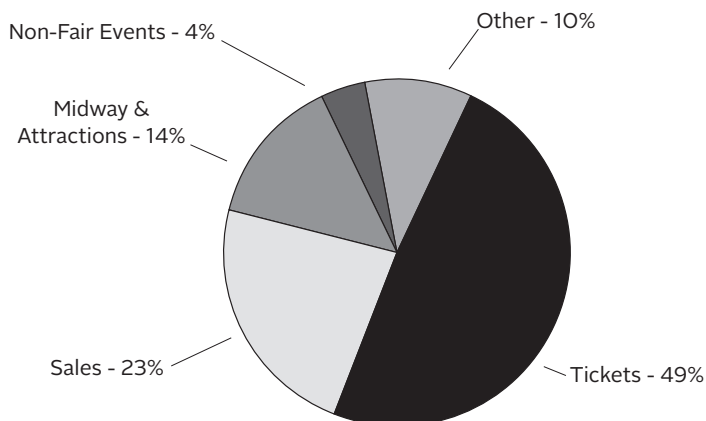
REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Ticket sales	\$45,341,994	\$45,220,987
Activities	19,429,061	18,574,642
Other	6,451,986	6,387,950
Non-operating revenue		
Investment income	402,273	248,275
Grant revenue	873,287	679,683
Non-employer pension contribution	168,932	-
Gain on sale of capital assets	1,240	-
Total revenue	72,668,773	71,111,537
Expense		
Activities, support and administrative	47,904,547	45,106,640
General operations	17,067,407	17,197,194
Depreciation/amortization	4,492,969	3,891,665
Total expense	69,464,923	66,195,499
Income before capital contributions	3,203,850	4,916,038
Contributed capital - grants	1,142,091	537,191
Contributed capital asset	-	261,721
Change in net position	4,345,941	5,714,950
Beginning net position, as previously reported	73,036,553	67,321,603
Change in accounting principle	453,150	-
Beginning net position, restated	73,489,703	67,321,603
Ending net position	\$77,835,644	\$73,036,553

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

	2024	2023
Current & other assets	\$ 19,435,598	\$ 21,193,216
Capital assets, net	80,373,463	78,141,246
Total assets	99,809,061	99,334,462
Deferred outflows of resources	2,019,219	2,339,769
Notes payable	11,499,000	12,601,000
Other liabilities	9,088,401	13,075,071
Total liabilities	20,587,401	25,676,071
Deferred inflows of resources	3,405,235	2,961,607
Net investment in capital assets	68,645,929	65,232,447
Restricted	1,368,078	1,458,383
Unrestricted	7,821,637	6,345,723
Total net position	\$ 77,835,644	\$ 73,036,553

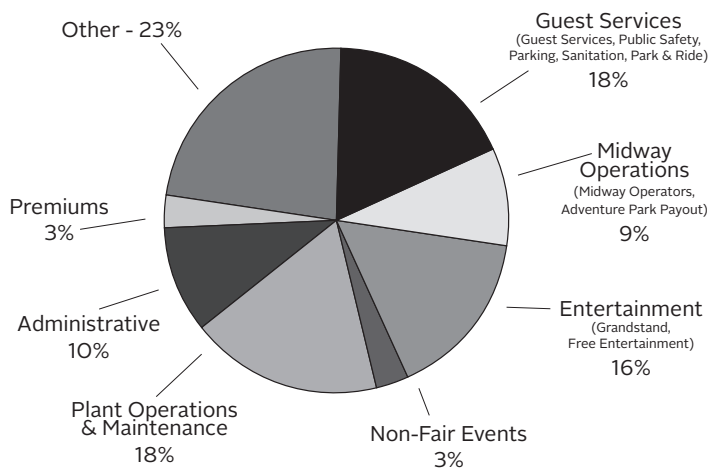
■ 2024 INCOME (\$72.7 million)



■ 2024 Income (in millions)

- Tickets - \$35.4
(Gate, Grandstand, Parking)
- Sales - \$16.4
- Midway & Attractions - \$10.0
(Midway, MSF Attractions)
- Non-Fair Events - \$3.1
- Other - \$7.8
(Beef Expo, Self Produced Event, Other)

■ 2024 EXPENSE (\$69.5 million)



■ 2024 Expense (in millions)

- Guest Services - \$12.5
(Guest Services, Public Safety, Parking, Sanitation, Park & Ride)
- Midway Operations - \$6.2
(Midway Operations, Adventure Park Payout)
- Entertainment - \$11.0
(Grandstand, Free Entertainment)
- Non-Fair Events - \$2.0
- Plant Operations & Maintenance - \$12.5
- Administrative - \$7.3
- Premiums - \$2.0
- Other - \$16.0
(Other, Depreciation/Amortization)

■ MINNESOTA STATE FAIR STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

As of October 31, 2024

(with partial comparative information as of October 31, 2023)

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 15,337,057	\$ 17,223,227
Accounts receivable	1,438,284	1,470,954
Prepaid expenses	<u>859,902</u>	<u>559,706</u>
Total current assets	\$ 17,635,243	\$ 19,253,887
Non-current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	\$ 1,368,078	\$ 1,458,383
Leases receivable	432,277	480,946
Capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized	3,177,022	2,880,234
Capital assets, net of related depreciation/amortization	<u>77,196,441</u>	<u>75,261,012</u>
Total non-current assets	\$ 82,173,818	\$ 80,080,575
Total assets	\$ 99,809,061	\$ 99,334,462
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pension plan deferments - MSRS	\$ 1,956,299	\$ 2,318,084
Other post-employment benefit deferments	<u>62,920</u>	<u>21,685</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	\$ 2,019,219	\$ 2,339,769
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ 101,828,280	\$ 101,674,231
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,874,279	\$ 7,322,262
Accrued salaries	366,695	254,615
Unearned revenue	451,513	423,019
Note interest payable	41,378	45,229
Lease - current	79,171	79,265
Note payable - current	1,042,000	1,102,000
Compensated absences - current	596,063	570,900
Other post-employment benefit liability - current	<u>62,920</u>	<u>21,685</u>
Total current liabilities	\$ 7,514,019	\$ 9,818,975
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Lease	\$ 149,363	\$ 228,534
Note payable	10,457,000	11,499,000
Compensated absences	392,680	298,504
Other post-employment benefit liability	2,000,826	1,842,201
Net pension liability - MSRS	<u>73,513</u>	<u>1,988,857</u>
Total non-current liabilities	\$ 13,073,382	\$ 15,857,096
Total liabilities	\$ 20,587,401	\$ 25,676,071
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pension plan deferments - MSRS	\$ 2,972,958	\$ 2,480,661
Lease revenue for subsequent years	<u>432,277</u>	<u>480,946</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	\$ 3,405,235	\$ 2,961,607
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	\$ 23,992,636	\$ 28,637,678
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 68,645,929	\$ 65,232,447
Restricted for:		
Debt service	1,367,625	1,457,930
Capital improvements	453	453
Unrestricted	<u>7,821,637</u>	<u>6,345,723</u>
Total net position	\$ 77,835,644	\$ 73,036,553
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position	\$ 101,828,280	\$ 101,674,231

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

■ MINNESOTA STATE FAIR FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of October 31, 2024

(with partial comparative information as of October 31, 2023)

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,389,361	\$ 4,029,384
Investments	3,122,487	2,317,719
Contributions receivable, net	220,178	195,882
Prepaid expenses and other assets	14,120	13,758
Merchandise inventory	3,329	3,744
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$6,540 and \$6,437, respectively	<u>273</u>	<u>376</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 17,749,748</u>	<u>\$ 6,560,863</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,912	\$ 4,064
Accrued expenses	77,062	75,624
Payables due to the Minnesota State Agricultural Society	<u>50,161</u>	<u>50,376</u>
Total liabilities	133,135	130,064
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	3,580,321	2,919,271
Board-designated endowment	158,278	126,574
Board-designated for fine arts	124,496	107,243
Board-designated for 4-H Building	<u>13,399</u>	<u>-</u>
Total without donor restrictions	3,876,494	3,153,088
With donor restrictions	<u>13,740,119</u>	<u>3,277,711</u>
Total net assets	<u>17,616,613</u>	<u>6,430,799</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 17,749,748</u>	<u>\$ 6,560,863</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

■ MINNESOTA STATE FAIR STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

For the years ended October 31, 2024

(with partial comparative information as of October 31, 2023)

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUES		
Ticket sales	\$ 45,341,994	\$ 45,220,987
Activities	19,429,061	18,574,642
Other	<u>6,451,986</u>	<u>6,387,950</u>
Total operating revenues	\$ 71,223,041	\$ 70,183,579
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Administrative	\$ 7,293,663	\$ 6,893,904
Activities and support	40,610,884	38,212,736
Premiums	2,014,893	2,081,132
Plant operations	9,299,490	8,626,851
Plant maintenance	3,203,859	3,992,853
Other	2,177,656	2,007,583
Depreciation/amortization	<u>4,492,969</u>	<u>3,891,665</u>
Total operating expenses	\$ 69,093,414	\$ 65,706,724
Operating income	\$ 2,129,627	\$ 4,476,855
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)		
Investment income	\$ 402,273	\$ 248,275
Grant revenue	873,287	679,683
Non-employer pension contribution	168,932	-
Gain on sale of capital assets	1,240	-
Loss on sale of capital assets	-	(30,944)
Interest expense	<u>(371,509)</u>	<u>(457,831)</u>
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	\$ 1,074,223	\$ 439,183
Income before capital contributions	\$ 3,203,850	\$ 4,916,038
Contributed capital grants	1,142,091	537,191
Contributed capital asset	<u>-</u>	<u>261,721</u>
Change in net position	\$ 4,345,941	\$ 5,714,950
Net position, beginning of year, as previously reported	\$ 73,036,553	\$ 67,321,603
Change in accounting principle	<u>453,150</u>	<u>-</u>
Net position, beginning of the year, restated	\$ 73,489,703	\$ 67,321,603
Net position, end of year	\$ 77,835,644	\$ 73,036,553

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

■ MINNESOTA STATE FAIR FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the Years Ended October 31, 2024

(with partial comparative information as of October 31, 2023)

	2024			2023		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES						
Contributions	\$ 813,457	\$ 11,799,045	\$ 12,612,502	\$ 969,532	\$ 1,810,703	\$ 2,780,235
In-kind support from the Minnesota State Agricultural Society	205,545	-	205,545	191,871	-	191,871
In-kind contributions	118,251	-	118,251	150,653	-	150,653
Special events, net of direct benefits of \$119,133 and \$110,338, respectively	253,547	-	253,547	180,597	-	180,597
Interest and dividends	287,695	-	287,695	141,962	-	141,962
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	28,833	554,114	582,947	-	99,207	99,207
Miscellaneous	54,877	-	54,877	50	-	50
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>1,890,751</u>	<u>(1,890,751)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,166,281</u>	<u>(1,166,281)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	3,652,956	10,462,408	14,115,364	2,800,946	743,629	3,544,575
Merchandise sales and commissions	457,961	-	457,961	446,201	-	446,201
Less: cost of goods sold	<u>(125,221)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(125,221)</u>	<u>(148,918)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(148,918)</u>
Net merchandise sales and commissions	<u>332,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>332,740</u>	<u>297,283</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>297,283</u>
Total revenues	3,985,696	10,462,408	14,448,104	3,098,229	743,629	3,841,858
EXPENSES						
Program	2,361,741	-	2,361,741	1,562,882	-	1,562,882
Management and administrative expenses	399,210	-	399,210	328,480	-	328,480
Fundraising expenses	<u>501,339</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>501,339</u>	<u>579,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>579,349</u>
Total expenses	3,262,290	-	3,262,290	2,470,711	-	2,470,711
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	723,406	10,462,408	11,185,814	627,518	743,629	1,371,147
Net assets - beginning of year	<u>3,153,088</u>	<u>3,277,711</u>	<u>6,430,799</u>	<u>2,525,570</u>	<u>2,534,082</u>	<u>5,059,652</u>
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 3,876,494	\$ 13,740,119	\$ 17,616,613	\$ 3,153,088	\$ 3,277,711	\$ 6,430,799

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

■ MINNESOTA STATE FAIR STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the years ended October 31, 2024

(with partial comparative information as of October 31, 2023)

	2024	2023
Cash flow from operating activities		
Cash received from operations		
Ticket sales	\$ 45,368,718	\$ 45,674,641
Activities	19,429,164	18,271,701
Other	6,486,323	6,620,439
Cash payment for operating expenses		
To suppliers for goods or services	(54,535,341)	(46,045,654)
To employees for services	(13,259,469)	(13,323,355)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 3,489,395	\$ 11,197,772
Cash flow from capital and related financing activities		
Payments for acquisition and construction of capital assets	\$ (6,016,723)	\$ (5,423,603)
Principal payments on revenue note	(1,102,000)	(2,772,000)
Principal payments on lease liability	(79,265)	(94,161)
Interest payments on revenue note	(375,360)	(475,618)
Proceeds from sales of capital asset	31,000	-
Contributed capital grants	825,170	269,415
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related financing activities	\$ (6,717,178)	\$ (8,495,967)
Cash flow from non-capital financing activities		
Grant revenue	849,035	637,692
Cash flow from investing activities		
Interest earnings	402,273	248,275
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,976,475)	3,587,772
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	18,681,610	15,093,838
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 16,705,135	\$ 18,681,610
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Operating income	\$ 2,129,627	\$ 4,476,855
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation/amortization	4,492,969	3,891,665
Other non-operating revenues	341,173	309,767
Changes in assets, deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows		
Assets: (increase) decrease		
Accounts receivable	32,670	161,112
Lease receivable	48,669	45,920
Prepaid expenses	(300,196)	(52,264)
Deferred outflows of resources: (increase) decrease		
Pension plan deferments - MSRS	361,785	385,657
Other post-employment benefit deferments	(41,235)	67,935
Liabilities: increase (decrease)		
Accounts payable	(2,733,056)	2,750,926
Accrued salaries	112,080	45,990
Compensated absences	119,339	(30,421)
Unearned revenue	28,494	222,090
Other post-employment benefit liability	199,860	(314,871)
Net pension liability - MSRS	(1,746,412)	(1,116,945)
Deferred inflows of resources: increase (decrease)		
Pension plan deferments - MSRS	492,297	400,276
Lease revenue for subsequent years	(48,669)	(45,920)
Total adjustments	\$ 1,359,768	\$ 6,720,917
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 3,489,395	\$ 11,197,772

Supplemental disclosure of non-cash transactions

For fiscal year 2024 and 2023, accounts payable included capitalized expenses of \$52,285 and \$337,358, respectively. For fiscal year 2024 and 2023, the Society received in-kind contributions totaling \$341,173 and \$309,767, respectively. The Society has non-employer pension contributions toward net pension liability-MSRS of \$168,932. The Society also received contributed capital assets of \$261,721 in 2023. The Society also issued leases totaling \$329,664 for leased personal property in 2023. The Society also had \$153,909 of leases forgiven in 2023.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

■ FOOTNOTES

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Minnesota State Agricultural Society (dba Minnesota State Fair) is charged with the conduct of the annual State Fair and the management of the State Fairgrounds, as outlined by Chapter 37 of Minnesota Statutes. The financial activities of the Society are accounted for as an enterprise fund which operates in a manner similar to a private business enterprise. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are presented using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. The Society's accounting practices conform to generally accepted accounting principles as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the time of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

This report includes the Minnesota State Fair Foundation financial statements. Although a legally separate organization, the Foundation is considered a component unit of the Society given its resources entirely, or almost entirely benefit the Society, the Society is entitled to these resources, and the resources are significant to the Society's operations. The Foundation is presented as a discretely presented component unit in these financial statements.

The Foundation is a private nonprofit organization that reports under Financial Accounting Standards Board standards. As such, certain revenue recognition criteria and presentation features are different from GASB revenue recognition criteria and presentation features. No modifications have been made to the Foundation's information in the Society's financial reporting entity for these differences.

Enterprise funds distinguish operating from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses result from providing services or producing and delivering goods in connection with the enterprise fund's principal operations. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses and the depreciation/amortization of capital assets. All other revenues and expenses are reported as non-operating items.

For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Society considers all highly liquid debt instruments with an original maturity from the time of purchase by the Society of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

When necessary, the Society utilizes an allowance for uncollectible accounts to value its receivables. However, the Society considers all of its receivables to be collectible. The only receivables not expected to be fully collected within one year are leases receivable.

Certain payments to vendors reflect cost applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid expenses in the Society's proprietary funds. Prepaid expenses are reported using the consumption method and recorded as an expense at the time of consumption.

Costs of newly acquired assets are capitalized at historical cost and written off as depreciation charges over their estimated useful lives. Costs of improvements and renovations that add to the original value or materially extend the useful life to the related asset are capitalized and written off as depreciable over their estimated useful life. Lease assets are recorded based on the measurement of payments applicable to the lease term. Individual purchases over \$5,000 or \$10,000 in aggregate, with an estimated useful life exceeding one year are capitalized. Groups of similar assets acquired at or near the same time for a single objective, with individual acquisition costs below this threshold, are also capitalized if cost of the assets is considered significant in the aggregate. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized. Lease assets are amortized over the term of the lease or, if future ownership is anticipated, over the useful life of the applicable asset class. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated acquisition value at the date of donation. Depreciation/amortization is computed by the straight-line method. Land and construction in progress are not depreciated. The provision for depreciation is calculated based on the following lives:

Land improvements:

Fence & fixtures	20 years
Land improvements.....	20 to 30 years
Structures	20 to 50 years

Utility systems:

Electrical system.....	30 years
Gas distribution system	30 years
Sewer system.....	20 years
Water distribution system.....	20 to 50 years

Personal property:..... 3 to 10 years

In addition to assets, Statements of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents a consumption of net assets that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until that time. The Society has one item that qualifies for reporting in this category. This relates to pensions and other post-employment benefit plans reported in the Statement of Net Position. This deferred outflow results from differences between expected and actual experience, changes of assumptions, the difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments, changes in proportion and from contributions to the plan subsequent to the measurement date and before the end of the reporting period. These amounts are deferred and amortized as required under pension and other post-employment benefit standards.

In addition to liabilities, Statements of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Society has two items which qualify for reporting in this category. Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions is reported in the Statement of Net Position. This deferred inflow results from differences between expected and actual experience, changes of assumptions, the difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments and changes in proportion. These amounts are deferred and amortized as required under pension standards. The Society reports deferred inflows of resources related to leases receivable, which

requires lessors to recognize deferred inflows of resources to correspond to leases receivable. These amounts are deferred and amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the term of the lease.

Compensated absences consist of employee vacation and sick leave benefits. These benefits are determined based on a formula with a maximum number of hours accumulated and are payable upon death, termination, or retirement. All compensated absences expected to be paid on termination of employment are accrued when incurred.

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) and additions to/deductions from MSRS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by MSRS, except that MSRS' fiscal year end is June 30. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Society is exposed to various risks of loss related to the theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; natural disasters; and workers compensation for which the Society carries insurance. Settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. There were no significant reductions in the Society's insurance coverage in fiscal year 2024.

Equity is classified as net position and is presented in three components:

1. Net investment in capital assets - consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization and any outstanding debt that is attributable to the purchase, construction or improvement of those assets.
2. Restricted net position - consists of net position (funds) that are reported separately due to restrictions in place required by debt obligations or enabling legislation that mandate how these funds are applied by the Society. These assets are for debt service payments and capital improvements.
3. Unrestricted net position - consists of all other assets that do not meet the criteria of restricted or net investment in capital assets.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Society's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position include prior year partial comparative information in total but not at the level of detail required for a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the Society's financial statements for the year ended October 31, 2023 from which the summarized information was derived. Also, certain amounts presented in the prior year have been reclassified in order to be consistent with the current year's presentation.

Change in Accounting Principle

During the year ended October 31, 2024, the Society implemented new accounting guidance for capitalizing purchases of groups of similar assets. This recent change in authoritative literature, which provides new guidance on accounting and financial reporting for capital assets, requires capitalization of groups of similar assets purchased at or near the same time, that are individually below the Society's capitalization threshold, if the aggregate cost is significant. In prior periods, the Society only capitalized assets whose individual cost exceeded the capitalization policy threshold. Certain amounts necessary to fully restate prior fiscal years financial information are not determinable; therefore, prior year comparative amounts have not been restated. The implementation of this new guidance resulted in the Society reporting certain groups of similar capital assets acquired in previous years and accumulated depreciation thereon, increasing beginning net position by \$453,150 in the financial statements in the current year. See Note 3 for additional details on this change in the current year.

NOTE 2: CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Society's cash balance is invested in deposit accounts in accordance with Minnesota Statute 37. Minnesota State Statute Section 118A.03 requires that deposits by municipalities, including public corporations, be secured by depository insurance, or a combination of depository insurance and collateral security. The statute further requires that total collateral computed at its fair market value be at least 10 percent more than the amount on deposit in excess of any uninsured portion at the close of the business day. On October 31, 2024, the Society had a bank balance of \$19,368,097. After adjusting the bank balance for outstanding checks, deposits in transit, and other reconciling items, the carrying value of deposits totaled \$16,705,135. At October 31, 2024, all deposits were fully covered by federal depository insurance, surety bonds, or collateral held by the Society's agent in the Society's name.

Cash and Cash Equivalents of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society for the year ended October 31, 2024 were:

Cash equivalents - restricted	
Building account	\$ 453
Debt reserve account	<u>1,367,625</u>
Total Restricted Cash Equivalents	1,368,078
Cash equivalents - unrestricted	<u>15,337,057</u>
Total cash equivalents	<u>\$ 16,705,135</u>

Restricted cash equivalents represent funds restricted in application by revenue note covenant requirements.

NOTE 3: PROPERTY, STRUCTURES, UTILITIES & EQUIPMENT

	Beginning Balance 11/01/23	Change In Accounting Principle*	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance 10/31/24
Capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized:					
Land	\$ 2,799,432	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	2,799,432
Construction in progress	<u>80,802</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>377,590</u>	<u>(80,802)</u>	<u>377,590</u>
Total capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized	2,880,234	-	377,590	(80,802)	3,177,022
Capital assets, being depreciated/amortized:					
Land improvements	137,390,142	-	4,533,880	(31,000)	141,893,022
Utility systems	18,382,868	-	119,714	-	18,502,582
Personal property	3,062,840	662,826	1,351,414	-	5,077,080
Leased personal property	<u>383,869</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>383,869</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated/amortized	159,219,719	662,826	6,005,008	(31,000)	165,856,553
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization for:					
Land improvements	(70,025,923)	-	(3,444,119)	1,240	(73,468,802)
Utility systems	(11,083,600)	-	(428,787)	-	(11,512,387)
Personal property	(2,750,850)	(209,676)	(536,183)	-	(3,496,709)
Leased personal property	<u>(98,334)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(83,880)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(182,214)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	(83,958,707)	(209,676)	(4,492,969)	1,240	(88,660,112)
Total capital assets, being depreciated/amortized, net	<u>75,261,012</u>	<u>453,150</u>	<u>1,512,039</u>	<u>(29,760)</u>	<u>77,196,441</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ 78,141,246</u>	<u>\$ 453,150</u>	<u>\$ 1,889,629</u>	<u>\$ (110,562)</u>	<u>\$ 80,373,463</u>

* The change in accounting principle was required by new guidance in financial reporting on group purchases of assets implemented in the current year.

NOTE 4: LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

	Balance 11/01/23	Additions	Deletions	Balance 10/31/24	Due Within One Year
Refunding revenue note series 2020A	\$ 9,402,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,402,000	\$ -
Refunding revenue note series 2020B	3,199,000	-	(1,102,000)	2,097,000	1,042,000
Lease liability	<u>307,799</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(79,265)</u>	<u>228,534</u>	<u>79,171</u>
Total long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 12,908,799</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (1,181,265)</u>	<u>\$ 11,727,534</u>	<u>\$ 1,121,171</u>

The Refunding Revenue Note Series 2020A and 2020B was issued to finance the retirement (refunding) of prior note issues. These notes are special, limited liability obligations of the Society and are not secured by the full faith and credit of the Society. The notes are payable solely from the revenues of the State Fair. Operating revenues for the year ended October 31, 2024 were \$71,223,041 which exceeds the amount required for payment of principal and interest in 2025. The Series 2020A refunding revenue note principal amount at original issue was \$9,402,000 with an interest rate of 2.85% and matures September 15, 2032. The Series 2020B refunding revenue note principal amount at original issue was \$5,609,000 with an interest rate of 2.75% and matures September 15, 2026.

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for the State Fair Refunding Revenue Note, Series 2020A is as follows:

	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ -	\$ 267,957
2026	100,000	267,957
2027	1,459,000	265,107
2028	1,501,000	223,526
2029	1,543,000	180,747
2030	1,587,000	136,772
2031	1,633,000	91,542
2032	<u>1,579,000</u>	<u>45,001</u>
	<u>\$ 9,402,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,478,609</u>

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for the State Fair Refunding Revenue Note, Series 2020B is as follows:

	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 1,042,000	\$ 57,667
2026	<u>1,055,000</u>	<u>29,012</u>
	<u>\$ 2,097,000</u>	<u>\$ 86,679</u>

Upon the occurrence of any event of default specified in the Society's revenue note resolutions, the certificate holders may declare the future debt payments due and payable immediately. The Society shall make available for inspection the books of records and accounts and all other records relating to the State Fairgrounds for the use of certificate holders, agents and their attorneys. During the continuance of an event of default, the Society shall allocate all money, securities, funds and revenues in the following order: expense of fiduciaries, operating expenses, principal or redemption price, and interest and subordinated indebtedness.

Lease Liabilities

The Society has obtained the use of certain equipment through lease financing agreements. The total amount of underlying lease assets by major classes and related accumulated amortization is presented in note 3. Annual principal and interest on these agreements will be paid from the operating funds and the agreement is secured by the original property. The lessor may repossess the property and seek full recovery of the losses upon default. The Society currently has the following lease liability obligations outstanding:

Lease Description	Interest Rate	Lease Date	Final Maturity	Principal Outstanding
Konica Copiers	4.10%	2/1/2023	1/31/2028	\$ 203,547
CAT Wheeled Loader	8.49%	5/1/2023	6/1/2026	14,547
CAT Skid Steers	2.17%	2/1/2021	7/1/2025	10,440
				<u>\$ 228,534</u>

Minimum annual principal and interest payments required to retire the lease liabilities are as follows:

	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 79,171	\$ 8,217
2026	67,856	4,892
2027	64,870	2,132
2028	<u>16,637</u>	<u>114</u>
	<u>\$228,534</u>	<u>\$ 15,355</u>

Compensated Absences

	Balance 11/01/23	Additions	Retirements	Balance 10/31/24	Due Within One Year
Severance benefits payable	\$ 375,062	\$ 68,503	\$ (23,679)	\$ 419,886	\$ 71,369
Vacation benefits payable	<u>494,342</u>	<u>610,487</u>	<u>(535,972)</u>	<u>568,857</u>	<u>524,694</u>
	<u>\$ 869,404</u>	<u>\$678,990</u>	<u>\$ (559,651)</u>	<u>\$ 988,743</u>	<u>\$ 596,063</u>

NOTE 5: SHORT-TERM OBLIGATIONS

In August 2024, the Society renewed a \$3 million revolving line of credit to be used for possible short-term financing of fair operations. The interest rate is the prime interest rate plus .25 percentage points, with a minimum rate of 3.5 percent and matures on July 31, 2025. No short-term financing was necessary in fiscal 2024. Upon an event of default, including failure to pay upon final maturity, the interest rate on this note shall be increased by adding an additional 2.00 percentage point margin ("default rate margin"). The default rate margin shall also apply to each succeeding interest rate change that would have applied had there been no default. During the continuance of an event of default, the holder may declare the entire unpaid principal balance under this note and all accrued unpaid interest immediately due, and the Society will pay that amount.

NOTE 6: RETIREMENT PENSION PLAN

Plan Description

The State Employees Retirement Fund (SERF) is administered by the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), and is established and administered in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 352. SERF includes the General Employees Retirement Plan (General Plan), a multiple-employer, cost-sharing defined benefit plan, and three single-employer defined benefit plans: the Military Affairs Plan, the Transportation Pilots Plan, and the Fire Marshal's Plan. Only certain employees of the Department of Military Affairs, the Department of Transportation and the Office of the State Fire Marshal are eligible to be members of those plans, but all state of Minnesota employees who are not members of another plan are covered by the General Plan. The Transportation Pilots Plan has been closed to new entrants since July 1, 2008 and there are no active contributing members.

MSRS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained at www.msrs.state.mn.us/financial-information; or by writing to MSRS at 60 Empire Drive, #300, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55103; or by calling 651-296-2761 or 1-800-657-5757.

Benefits Provided

MSRS provides retirement, disability and death benefits through the State Employees Retirement Fund. Benefit provisions are established by state statute and can only be modified by the state legislature. Benefits are based on a member's age, years and months of service, and the highest average salary for any sixty successive months of available service at termination of service. Benefit increases are provided to benefit recipients each January, and are related to the funded ratio of the plan. Benefit recipients receive annual 1.5 percent benefit increases. Retirees who have been receiving a benefit for at least 12 full months as of June 30 of the calendar year immediately before the post-retirement benefit increase adjustment will receive the full increase. Members receiving benefits for at least one month, but less than 12 full months, will receive a pro rata increase. An additional one-time non-compounding benefit increase of 1.0 percent will be paid in the spring of 2024 to retirees who have been receiving a benefit for at least 12 full months as of June 30, 2023.

Retirement benefits can be computed using one of two methods: the Step formula and the Level formula. Members hired before July 1, 1989, may use the Step or Level formula, whichever is greater. Members hired on or after July 1, 1989, must use the Level formula. Each formula converts years and months of service to a certain percentage. Under the Step formula, members receive 1.2 percent of the high-five average salary for each of the first 10 years of allowable service, plus 1.7 percent for each year thereafter. It also includes full benefits under the Rule of 90 (age plus years of service equals 90). In contrast, the Level formula does not include the Rule of 90. Under the Level formula, members receive 1.7 percent of the high-five average salary for all years of allowable service, and full benefits are available at normal retirement age.

In 2024, the Legislature allocated funding for a one-time lump-sum payment to the State Employees Retirement Fund of \$76.4 million. Eligibility criteria and the payment amount is specified in statutes. The one-time payment is noncompounding towards future benefits.

Contributions

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 352 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. Eligible General Plan members and participating employers were required to contribute 5.5 percent and 6.25 percent, respectively, of the annual covered salary through the pay period ending June 30, 2024. The employee contribution percent will be 6.0 percent starting July 1, 2025. The Society's contribution to the General Plan for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2024 was \$585,347. These contributions were equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by state statute.

Actuarial Assumptions

The Society's net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The total pension liability was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.25 percent per year
Active Member Payroll Growth	3.00 percent per year
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent

Changes in actuarial assumptions and plan provisions:

- The adjustments applied to the mortality table rates were modified slightly, and the mortality improvement scale was updated from AP-2019 to MP-2021.
- Assumed rates of salary increases were modified, resulting in a decrease in gross salary increase rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were changed, resulting in slightly higher unreduced (Normal) retirement rates, slightly lower Rule of 90 rates, slightly higher early retirement rates for Tier 1 members, and slightly lower early retirement rates for Tier 2 members.
- Assumed rates of withdrawal were changed as recommended, reflecting more assumed terminations for males and fewer terminations for females.
- Assumed rates of disability were lowered.
- Assumed percent married for retirees was changed from 80 to 75 percent for males and from 60 to 65 percent for females.
- Minor changes to form of payment assumptions and missing participant data assumptions were made.

Salary increases were based on a service-related table. Mortality rates for active members, retirees, survivors and disabilitants were based on Pub-2010 mortality tables using projection scale MP-2021 generational mortality tables for males or females, as appropriate, with adjustments to match fund experience. Benefit increases for retirees were established in state statutes and no assumptions are required.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 valuation were based on the last experience study, dated June 30, 2024, a review of inflation and investment return assumptions dated September 11, 2017, and a recent asset liability study obtained by the State Board of Investment (SBI).

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is 7.00 percent. This rate was approved by the MSRS board based on analysis and recommendation of the actuary.

The SBI, which manages the investments of MSRS, prepares an analysis of the reasonableness of the long-term expected rate of return on a regular basis using a building-block method. Best estimates of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These asset class estimates and target allocations are combined to produce a geometric, expected long-term rate of return as summarized in the following table:

Asset class	Target allocation	SBI's long-term expected real rate of return (geometric mean)
Domestic equity	33.5%	5.10%
International equity	16.5%	5.30%
Fixed income	25.0%	0.75%
Private markets	25.0%	5.90%

All MSRS defined benefit funds use a long-term expected rate of return assumption of 7.00 percent, and a municipal bond rate of 3.97 percent, as published by the Fidelity Index in June 2024. The projection of cash flows used to determine the single discount rates assumes that plan member and employer contributions will be made at the current statutory contribution rates. For the State Employees Fund, the fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members through fiscal year 2124. Therefore, the discount rate is the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments, which was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent.

Net Pension Liability

At October 31, 2024, the Society reported a liability of \$73,513 for its proportionate share of MSRS' net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Society's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Society's contributions received by MSRS during the measurement period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of MSRS' participating employers. At June 30, 2024, the Society's proportion was 0.221 percent.

Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following represents the Society's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the discount rate section above, as well as what the proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	1% decrease in discount rate (6.00%)	Discount rate (7.00%)	1% increase in discount rate (8.00%)
Society's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$5,058,317	\$73,513	(\$4,066,957)

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the MSRS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, available on the MSRS website (www.msrs.state.mn.us/financial-information).

Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

For the year ended October 31, 2024, the Society recognized pension expense of \$(314,360). In addition, the Society recognized an additional \$168,932 of grant revenue and reduction of the net pension liability, for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's contribution of \$76.4 million to the SERF. At October 31, 2024, the Society reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred outflows of resources	Deferred inflows of resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 539,054	\$ 5,916
Changes of assumptions	\$ 828,827	\$ 1,343,960
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on investments	\$ -	\$ 1,367,785
Changes in proportion and differences between actual contributions and proportionate share of contributions	\$ 310,886	\$ 255,297
Contributions paid to MSRS subsequent to the measurement date	\$ 277,532	\$ -
Total	\$ 1,956,299	\$ 2,972,958

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Society contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended October 31, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended October 31	Pension expense amount
2025	(\$589,353)
2026	\$191,370
2027	(\$583,373)
2028	(\$312,835)

Deferred Compensation

All Society employees are eligible to participate in the Minnesota Deferred Compensation Plan for public employees. Deferred compensation is a voluntary plan that allows employees to place a portion of their earnings into a tax deferred investment program for long-term savings to supplement retirement and other benefits. The deferred compensation plan is administered by the Minnesota State Retirement System.

NOTE 7: OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT LIABILITY

Plan Description

The Society provides retirees, who meet certain defined requirements, payments for a portion of medical insurance premiums until they reach the age of 65. This type of benefit is classified as an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB), a single-employer defined benefit plan administered by the Society. The plan does not issue a publicly available financial report.

All retirees of the Society upon retirement have the option under state law to continue their medical insurance coverage through the Society. For certain employees, the Society pays a portion of the premium. Employee eligibility for this benefit is the earlier of age 60 and 20 years of service or the Rule of 90 (only employees hired before July 1, 1989 are eligible for the Rule of 90). Retirees not eligible for this Society paid premium benefits must pay the full Society premium rate for their coverage.

The Society is legally required to include any retirees for whom it provides health insurance coverage in the same insurance pool as its active employees until the retiree reaches Medicare eligibility, whether the premiums are paid by the Society or the retiree. Consequently, participating retirees are considered to receive a secondary benefit known as the "implicit rate subsidy". This benefit is related to the assumption that the retiree is receiving a more favorable premium rate than they would otherwise be able to obtain if purchasing insurance on their own, due to being included in the same pool with the Society's younger and statistically healthier active employees.

Funding Policy

The required contribution is based on projected pay-as-you-go financing requirements. The Society has not established a trust fund to finance these OPEB benefits.

Membership

Membership in the plan consisted of the following as of the latest actuarial valuation:

Active employees electing coverage	77
Active employees waiving coverage	3
Retirees electing coverage	<u>1</u>
Total members	<u>81</u>

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial study with a valuation date as of October 31, 2023 and a measurement date as of October 31, 2023, using the alternative measurement method, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Discount rate	4.91%
20-year municipal bonds	4.91%
Inflation rate	2.50%
Healthcare cost trend rate	7.60% grading to 3.9% through 2076

Mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 mortality tables for general employees with projected mortality improvements based on scale MP-2018, and other adjustments.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 4.91 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate was determined by estimating the long-term investment yield on the employer funds that will be used to pay benefits as they come due. The Society discount rate used on the prior measurement date was 4.62 percent.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

	Total OPEB liability
Beginning balance	\$ 1,863,886
Changes for the year	
Service cost	106,020
Interest	90,474
Differences between expected and actual experience	17,491
Changes of assumptions	9,049
Benefit payments	(23,174)
Total net changes	199,860
Ending Balance	\$ 2,063,746

Assumption changes since the prior measurement date include the following:

- The discount rate was changed from 4.62 percent to 4.91 percent based on updated 20-year municipal bond rates.
- Healthcare trend rates were reset to reflect updated cost increase expectations.
- Medical per capita claims costs were updated to reflect recent experience.
- The payroll growth rate was updated from 3.00% to 3.25% to adjust for the difference in inflation assumptions between this valuation and the 7/1/2023 Minnesota State Retirement System State Employee Retirement Fund valuation.

Total OPEB Liability Sensitivity to Discount and Healthcare Cost Trend Rate Changes

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Society, as well as what the Society's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	1% decrease in discount rate	Discount rate	1% increase in discount rate
OPEB discount rate	3.91%	4.91%	5.91%
Total OPEB liability	\$2,237,935	\$2,063,746	\$1,903,640

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Society, as well as what the Society's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	1% decrease in healthcare cost trend rates	Healthcare cost trend rates	1% increase in healthcare cost trend rates
Healthcare cost trend rate	6.6% grading to 2.9% through 2076	7.6% grading to 3.9% through 2076	8.6% grading to 4.9% through 2076
Total OPEB liability	\$1,848,488	\$2,063,746	\$2,319,327

OPEB Expense and Related Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources

The Society recognized OPEB expense of \$223,034 in the current year, and at year-end reported the following deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred outflows of resources	Deferred inflows of resources
Society's contributions subsequent to the measurement date	\$ 62,920	\$ -

NOTE 8: DISAGGREGATION OF RECEIVABLE & PAYABLE BALANCES

Receivables: Accounts receivable balances as of
October 31, 2024 were:

Activities	\$ 1,357,670
Other	77,198
Tickets	<u>3,416</u>
Total receivables	<u>\$ 1,438,284</u>

Payables: Accounts payable balances as of
October 31, 2024 were:

Administration	\$ 160,687
Activities	2,941,777
Plant operations	1,115,047
Capitalized	52,285
Other	<u>604,483</u>
Total payables	<u>\$ 4,874,279</u>

NOTE 9: LEASE RECEIVABLE

The Society has entered into three lease receivable agreements for antenna placement on Society grounds. These agreements are reported as a \$432,277 lease receivable and offsetting deferred inflow of resources. These leases are reported using an incremental borrowing rate of 4.10 percent with a final maturity in fiscal 2041. During the current year, the Society received principal and interest payments on these leases of \$69,398.

The Society has entered into four long-term variable rate lease agreements with concessionaires for annual licenses during the fair and off-season parking lot usage. These agreements have final maturity dates ranging from fiscal 2031 to fiscal 2032. The future revenue to be received by the Society on these variable rate agreements, which are determined by a percentage of future sales, are not included in the measurement of lease receivable. During the current year, the Society received principal payments on these leases totaling \$498,064.

NOTE 10: FOUNDATION

The Minnesota State Fair Foundation is a supporting organization of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society and is a not-for-profit corporation exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and applicable Minnesota regulations. The Foundation was established in June 2002 following passage of enabling legislation signed into law by the governor, and governed by a board of directors. The Foundation's mission is to secure and provide funding and gifts-in-kind all of a nature acceptable to the Society to be used for the preservation, restoration and improvement of the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, and to support the Society's educational, agricultural and scientific programs. The Foundation is supported primarily from public and private contributions, merchandise sales, in-kind contributions and volunteer time. Foundation financial statements can be obtained by writing to: Minnesota State Fair Foundation, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

The following are significant notes to the Minnesota State Fair Foundation financial statements:

Financial Statement Presentation

Net assets, revenues, expenses, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets of the Foundation and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Without Donor Restrictions - Net assets available for use in general operations and not subject to donor (or certain grantor) restrictions. Designated amounts represent those revenues that the board of directors (board) has set aside for a particular purpose.

With Donor Restrictions - Net assets subject to donor (or certain grantor) imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

Contributions Receivable

Pledges to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at their net realizable value. Pledges that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value of the amounts expected to be collected. The discounts on those amounts are computed using an imputed interest rate applicable to the year in which the pledge is received. Amortization of the discount is included in contribution revenue. No allowance for doubtful contributions receivable was recorded as of October 31, 2024.

Contributions receivable at October 31, 2024 represent the present value of receivables due. Present value is determined using discount rates ranging from 4.10% to 4.82%. The expected collection periods of the contributions receivable at October 31, 2024 are as follows:

Year ending October 31	Amount
2025	\$ 175,200
2026	22,000
2027	<u>28,000</u>
Total	225,200
Less: unamortized discount	<u>5,022</u>
Total	<u>\$220,178</u>

Revenue Recognition

Contributions and support from the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, including unconditional promises to give, are recognized as without donor

restricted or with donor restricted support, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions.

All donor-restricted support is reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the nature of the restriction. When a restriction expires (i.e., when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities and changes in net assets as net assets released from restrictions.

Unconditional contribution pledges are recognized as revenues or gains in the period received and as assets, decreases in liabilities, or expenses depending on the form of the benefits received. Conditional contributions are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Gifts and bequests are recognized when it has been determined that there is a legal right to the gift or bequest and the actual amount to be received has been determined.

Donated Services

The Society has made significant contributions of its employee's time to the Foundation's activities. These donated services are included in the agreement between the Society and the Foundation. Additionally, volunteers have donated time to the Foundation in various capacities. For the year ended October 31, 2024, volunteer hours were 3,780. No amounts have been reflected in the statement for donated services, since the services do not meet established criteria for recognition. These criteria require that the donated services create or enhance the nonfinancial assets, require specialized skills which would be purchased if not donated, and have an objective basis for measurement.

Fair Value Measurements

The Foundation has categorized its financial instruments based on the priority of the inputs of the valuation technique, into a three-level fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

If the inputs used to measure the financial instrument fall within different levels of the hierarchy, the categorization is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value of the instrument. Financial assets recorded on the statement of financial position are categorized based on the inputs to the valuation techniques as follows:

Level 1 - Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market that the Foundation has the ability to access (examples include active exchange-traded equity securities, listed derivatives, and most U.S. Government and agency securities).

Level 2 - Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or model inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement. These inputs reflect management's own assumptions about the assumptions a market participant would use in pricing the asset or liability (examples include certain private equity investments).

Income Taxes

The Foundation is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and applicable Minnesota regulations.

The Foundation follows the accounting standard for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an entity's financial statements. This standard clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an entity's financial statements and prescribes a recognition threshold for the financial statement recognition of tax positions taken, or expected to be taken, on a tax return that are not certain to be realized. This standard had no impact on the Foundation's financial statements. The Foundation's tax returns are subject to review and examination by federal authorities.

Investments

The Foundation's investments are comprised of mutual funds. Investments are stated at fair value. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the statement of activities and changes in net assets. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall market volatility. Due to the volatility of the market with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the future statement of activities and changes in net assets.

Merchandise Inventory

The Foundation maintains inventories of merchandise held for resale, which are recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Contributions of inventory are recorded at fair value. Inventories are expensed in the statement of activities and changes in net assets as they are sold.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost, if purchased, and at fair value, if donated. The Foundation depreciates property and equipment over their estimated useful lives (3 to 10 years) by the straight-line method of depreciation.

NOTE 11: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In accordance with an agreement between the Foundation and the Society, the Society has provided the following:

- Full use and occupancy of a fairground building rent-free, including equipment usage and computer services.
- Payroll and limited staff support services.

At October 31, 2024, the Foundation had outstanding payables due to the Society for payroll and other compensation-related expenses in the amount of \$50,161. The Society contributed payroll expenses to the Foundation of \$159,960 during fiscal 2024. The Society also contributed food, beverage and other event support totaling \$118,251 during fiscal 2024.

Grants to the Minnesota State Agricultural Society

During the year ended October 31, 2024, the Foundation granted \$849,938 towards building and landscaping improvements to the Fine Arts Center; Horse Barn improvements valued at \$78,864; Swine Barn improvements valued at \$2,470; fair-time educational enrichment and artistic experiences valued at \$54,449; grants and scholarships valued at \$38,000; environmental applications valued at \$214,618 including \$28,500 for universal

changing tables and other services to improve the fair experience for guests with disabilities and \$66,617 for improvements to the Crop Art Exhibit; recognition pavers and benches valued at \$322,098; installation of the Welcome Wall at Gate 9 valued at \$425,000; and various other miscellaneous gifts valued at \$29,941, for a total of \$2,015,378 during fiscal 2024.

NOTE 12: CONTINGENCIES

The Society has the usual and customary legal claims pending at year-end. Although the outcomes of these lawsuits are not presently determinable, the Society believes that the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on its financial position.

NOTE 13: CONSTRUCTION COMMITMENTS

At October 31, 2024, the Society had outstanding contract commitments totaling \$8,591,653 for the 4-H Building roof replacement and Coliseum improvements.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Schedule of Society's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability – State Employees Retirement Fund

Minnesota State Retirement System:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Society's proportion of the net pension liability	<u>0.221%</u>	<u>0.2070%</u>	<u>0.1890%</u>	<u>0.1780%</u>	<u>0.2080%</u>	<u>0.2180%</u>	<u>0.2110%</u>	<u>0.2120%</u>	<u>0.2080%</u>	<u>0.2050%</u>
Society's proportionate share of the net pension liability	<u>\$ 73,513</u>	<u>\$ 1,988,857</u>	<u>\$ 3,105,802</u>	<u>\$ 145,119</u>	<u>\$ 2,762,555</u>	<u>\$ 3,066,935</u>	<u>\$ 2,924,002</u>	<u>\$ 15,725,964</u>	<u>\$ 25,789,681</u>	<u>\$ 3,155,757</u>
Society's covered payroll	<u>\$ 8,892,335</u>	<u>\$ 7,406,903</u>	<u>\$ 6,393,274</u>	<u>\$ 5,859,148</u>	<u>\$ 6,769,358</u>	<u>\$ 6,383,768</u>	<u>\$ 6,297,473</u>	<u>\$ 6,081,370</u>	<u>\$ 5,636,409</u>	<u>\$ 5,455,335</u>
Proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	<u>0.83%</u>	<u>26.85%</u>	<u>48.58%</u>	<u>2.48%</u>	<u>40.81%</u>	<u>48.04%</u>	<u>46.43%</u>	<u>258.59%</u>	<u>457.56%</u>	<u>57.85%</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	<u>99.82%</u>	<u>94.54%</u>	<u>90.60%</u>	<u>99.53%</u>	<u>91.25%</u>	<u>90.73%</u>	<u>90.56%</u>	<u>62.73%</u>	<u>47.51%</u>	<u>88.32%</u>

Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Schedule of Society Contributions – State Employees Retirement Fund

Minnesota State Retirement System:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Statutorily required contribution	\$ 585,347	\$ 537,506	\$ 426,037	\$ 388,374	\$ 393,577	\$ 402,455	\$ 354,822	\$ 330,738	\$ 318,863	\$ 301,287
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contributions	<u>585,347</u>	<u>537,506</u>	<u>426,037</u>	<u>388,374</u>	<u>393,577</u>	<u>402,455</u>	<u>354,822</u>	<u>330,738</u>	<u>318,863</u>	<u>301,287</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Society's covered payroll	<u>\$ 9,365,556</u>	<u>\$ 8,600,033</u>	<u>\$ 6,816,568</u>	<u>\$ 6,213,957</u>	<u>\$ 6,297,234</u>	<u>\$ 6,703,946</u>	<u>\$ 6,316,155</u>	<u>\$ 6,013,418</u>	<u>\$ 5,797,508</u>	<u>\$ 5,477,929</u>
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	<u>6.25%</u>	<u>6.25%</u>	<u>6.25%</u>	<u>6.25%</u>	<u>6.25%</u>	<u>6.00%</u>	<u>5.62%</u>	<u>5.50%</u>	<u>5.50%</u>	<u>5.50%</u>

Note 1: For both of these tables, the Society fiscal year-end date is October 31, and the MSRS fiscal year-end date (measurement date) is June 30.

Note 2: 2016 changes in actuarial assumptions. Benefit increases for retirees was changed from 2.0 percent every January 1 through 2015 and 2.50 percent thereafter to 2.0 percent per year for all future years. The long-term expected rate of return was changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent. The single discount rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 4.17 percent.

Note 3: 2017 changes in actuarial assumptions. The single discount rate was changed from 4.17 percent to 5.42 percent.

Note 4: 2018 changes in actuarial assumptions. The single discount rate was changed from 5.42 percent to 7.5 percent.

2018 changes to plan provisions. Effective July 1, 2018, the employer contributions increased from 5.5 percent to 5.875 percent and the member contributions increased from 5.5 percent to 5.75 percent. Post-retirement benefit increases were changed from a 2.0 to 2.5 percent per year increase based upon funded ratio, to a fixed rate of 1.0 percent for five years beginning January 1, 2019, and 1.5 percent per year thereafter.

Note 5: 2019 changes to plan provisions. Effective July 1, 2019, the employer contributions increased from 5.875 percent to 6.25 percent and member contributions increased from 5.75 percent to 6.0 percent. Post-retirement benefits will increase 1.0 percent annually until January 1, 2024, at which time they will increase to 1.5 percent.

Note 6: 2020 changes in actuarial assumptions. The price inflation assumption was decreased from 2.50 percent to 2.25 percent. The payroll

growth assumption was decreased from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent. The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 General Mortality table, with adjustments. The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2015 to Scale MP-2018.

Note 7: 2021 changes in actuarial assumptions. The single discount rate was changed from 7.5 percent to 6.5 percent.

Note 8: 2022 changes in actuarial assumptions. The single discount rate was changed from 6.5 percent to 6.75 percent.

Note 9: 2023 changes in actuarial assumptions. The single discount rate was changed from 6.75 percent to 7.00 percent. 2023 changes to plan provisions. Effective July 1, 2023, the member contribution rate decreased from 6.00 percent to 5.50 percent. A one-time direct state aid contribution of \$76.4 million will be contributed to the Plan on October 1, 2023. The benefit increases delay for early retirements on or after January 1, 2024 was eliminated. A 1.00 percent one-time, non-compounding benefit increase will be payable in a lump sum by March 31, 2024. The vesting period for members hired after June 30, 2010 was changed from five years to three years.

Note 10: 2024 changes in actuarial assumptions. The adjustments applied to the mortality table rates were modified slightly, and the mortality improvement scale was updated from AP-2019 to MP-2021. Assumed rates of salary increases were modified, resulting in a decrease in gross salary increase rates. Assumed rates of retirement were changed, resulting in slightly higher unreduced (Normal) retirement rates, slightly lower Rule of 90 rates, slightly higher early retirement rates for Tier 1 members, and slightly lower early retirement rates for Tier 2 members. Assumed rates of withdrawal were changed as recommended, reflecting more assumed terminations for males and fewer terminations for females. Assumed rates of disability were lowered. Assumed percent married for retirees was changed from 80 to 75 percent for males and from 60 to 65 percent for females. Minor changes to form of payment assumptions and missing participant data assumptions were made.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Other Post-Employment Benefits Plan – Schedule of Changes in the Society's Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios

Year Ended October 31, 2024

	Fiscal Year Ended October 31						
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total OPEB Liability							
Service cost	\$ 106,020	\$ 155,795	\$ 241,894	\$ 217,519	\$ 168,404	\$ 179,393	\$ 175,377
Interest	90,474	49,229	80,924	87,089	104,574	96,337	88,610
Differences between expected and actual experience	17,491	(15,054)	340,105	(25,984)	(51,078)	-	-
Changes of assumptions	9,049	(415,221)	(1,459,693)	110,872	248,836	(197,223)	(35,917)
Changes in benefit terms	-	-	-	-	(9,277)	-	-
Benefit payments	(23,174)	(89,620)	(144,362)	(131,079)	(171,469)	(175,993)	(105,412)
Net change in total OPEB liability	199,860	(314,871)	(941,132)	258,417	289,990	(97,486)	122,658
Total OPEB liability - beginning of year	1,863,886	2,178,757	3,119,889	2,861,472	2,571,482	2,668,968	2,546,310
Total OPEB liability - end of year	\$ 2,063,746	\$ 1,863,886	\$ 2,178,757	\$ 3,119,889	\$ 2,861,472	\$ 2,571,482	\$ 2,668,968
Covered payroll	\$ 6,638,920	\$ 5,893,905	\$ 5,206,682	\$ 5,506,740	\$ 5,859,372	\$ 5,674,182	\$ 5,402,854
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll	31.1%	31.6%	41.8%	56.7%	48.8%	45.3%	49.4%

Note 1: The Society implemented GASB Statement No. 75 in fiscal 2018. This information is not available for previous fiscal years.

Note 2: The Society has not established a trust fund to finance GASB Statement No. 75 related benefits.

Note 3: 2018 changes in actuarial assumptions. The discount rate was changed from 3.32 percent to 3.49 percent.

Note 4: 2019 changes in actuarial assumptions. The discount rate was changed from 3.49 percent to 3.94 percent.

Note 5: 2020 changes in actuarial assumptions. The discount rate was changed from 3.94 percent to 2.89 percent. Healthcare cost trend rates were reset to reflect updated cost increase expectations, including the repeal of the Affordable Care Act's Excise Tax on high-cost health insurance plans. Medical per capita claims costs were updated to reflect recent experience. Mortality rates were updated from the RP-2014 headcount-weighted tables to the rate used in the 2019 MSRS Actuarial Valuation. Salary increase rates were updated from the rates used in the 2017 MSRS Actuarial Valuation to the rates used in the 2019 MSRS Actuarial Valuation. The inflation assumption was changed from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent.

Note 6: 2021 changes in actuarial assumptions. The discount rate was changed from 2.89 percent to 2.46 percent.

Note 7: 2022 changes in actuarial assumptions. The discount rate was changed from 2.46 percent to 2.15 percent. Healthcare trend rates were reset to reflect updated cost increase expectations. Medical per capita claims costs were updated to reflect recent experience. Withdrawal, mortality and salary increase rates were updated from the rate used from the 2019 MSRS Actuarial Valuation to the rates used from the 2021 MSRS Actuarial Valuation. The assumed retirement age was increased from 60 to 62 to reflect recent plan experience..

Note 8: 2023 changes in actuarial assumptions. The discount rate was changed from 2.15 percent to 4.62 percent.

Note 9: 2024 changes in actuarial assumptions. The discount rate was changed from 4.62 percent to 4.91 percent. Healthcare trend rates were reset to reflect updated cost increase expectations. Medical per capita claims costs were updated to reflect recent experience. The payroll growth rate was updated from 3.00% to 3.25% to adjust for the difference in inflation assumptions between this valuation and the 7/1/2023 Minnesota State Retirement System State Employee Retirement Fund valuation.

■ MINNESOTA STATE FAIR SUPPORTING SCHEDULE - REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For the years ended October 31

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUE		
Ticket sales:		
Carnival	\$ 9,699,827	\$ 9,450,406
MSF attractions	260,618	278,007
Grandstand	6,100,839	7,373,102
Outside gate	27,572,274	26,259,892
Parking	1,708,436	1,859,580
Total ticket sales	\$ 45,341,994	\$ 45,220,987
Activities:		
Campground	\$ 191,289	\$ 190,913
Carnival	159,717	158,321
Competition	447,992	442,408
Entertainment	95,390	92,020
Fine arts	90,199	111,191
Forage	196,788	194,395
4-H auction	1,276,828	1,327,660
Public safety	1,168	1,959
Sales	16,407,000	15,375,652
Ticket office	562,689	680,123
Total activities	\$ 19,429,061	\$ 18,574,642
Other:		
Beef Expo	\$ 183,346	\$ 177,676
Licensee utilities	345,340	321,047
Miscellaneous	107,917	55,813
MSF Events	751,406	723,290
Non-fair events	3,111,975	3,267,413
Sale of bulk milk	6,006	7,742
Sale of market animals	67,756	74,516
Sponsorships	1,598,121	1,564,400
Telephone	(4,898)	5,005
Utility assessments	285,018	191,048
Total other	\$ 6,451,986	\$ 6,387,950
Total operating revenues	\$ 71,223,041	\$ 70,183,579
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Administrative:		
Administrative services	\$ 631,887	\$ 660,358
Annual meeting	60,008	59,980
Audit services	70,675	64,434
Computer	663,003	572,623
Dues and subscriptions	18,353	20,287
Insurance	909,685	783,370
Legal services	230,139	103,319
Managerial services	450,412	470,211
Medical insurance	1,442,952	922,416
Paid leave	1,139,901	1,104,512
Postage and mailing service	89,582	87,160
Printing and supplies	77,951	102,141
Retirement fund	(314,360)	184,934
Social Security	1,030,111	959,525
Telephone	255,218	332,772
Travel expense	117,874	127,789
Unemployment compensation	70,274	34,111
Workmans' compensation	349,998	303,962
Total administrative	\$ 7,293,663	\$ 6,893,904

	2024	2023
Activities and Support:		
Admissions	\$ 297,315	\$ 282,821
Advertising	731,584	716,980
Archives	58,637	51,993
Bee culture	35,312	23,876
Beef Expo	215,335	165,735
Campground	82,251	98,995
Carnival	7,214,733	7,345,085
Cattle	107,726	92,642
Christmas trees	7,991	8,926
Competition	1,077,920	1,037,748
Creative activities	113,504	103,234
Dairy products	2,018	1,960
Dog trial	2,292	2,444
Education programming	774,702	770,841
Farm crops	61,904	26,802
FFA	67,655	62,581
Finance	392,917	371,455
Fine arts	41,968	41,499
Flower and agriculture shows	99,034	93,134
Flowers	14,301	15,083
Forage	276,556	307,654
4-H club	278,450	276,784
Free entertainment	1,954,681	1,878,522
Fruit	15,701	13,195
Gate tickets	275,437	216,514
Goats - Boer	5,867	6,157
Goats - Dairy	7,235	7,208
Grandstand - concerts	9,078,390	8,976,785
Guest services	198,601	201,633
Heritage exhibits	18,044	8,545
Horse and rodeo	187,216	212,806
K-12 competition	40,251	37,067
Llamas	3,539	4,146
Marketing	492,404	408,654
MSF attractions	87,243	93,719
Park & Ride	4,199,540	3,251,419
Parking	218,985	279,032
Poultry	17,200	18,101
Publications	490,479	479,461
Public safety	5,689,125	5,105,037
Sales	1,903,386	1,601,239
Sanitation	2,203,872	1,958,424
Senior citizens & recognition programs	2,753	5,638
Sheep	10,624	11,483
Swine	20,814	17,288
Ticket office	1,086,123	1,044,808
Ticket promotion	330,422	355,012
Trams	48,000	48,000
Transportation	57,462	64,154
Vegetables	13,385	10,417
Total activities and support	\$ 40,610,884	\$ 38,212,736
Premiums:		
Bee culture	\$ 3,412	\$ 3,376
Beef Expo	32,056	32,017
Cattle	93,543	100,860
Christmas trees	2,185	2,155

	2024	2023
Creative activities	8,952	8,478
Dairy products	940	1,590
Dog trials	990	860
K-12 competition	750	660
Farm crops	3,937	3,957
Fine arts	16,375	16,920
Fine arts sales	90,199	110,871
Flowers	3,710	3,456
4-H auction	1,279,828	1,327,660
4-H club	35,000	35,000
Fruit	2,322	2,302
FFA	72,933	65,645
Goats - Boer	2,704	2,481
Goats - Dairy	14,517	14,021
Horse	126,730	111,775
Llama	3,670	3,480
Poultry	5,653	5,223
Rural youth scholarships	32,750	31,250
Sale of bulk milk	6,006	7,739
Sale of market animals	69,175	76,689
Sheep	27,654	28,100
Swine	43,433	49,125
Talent contest	31,375	30,900
Vegetables	4,094	4,542
Total premiums	\$ 2,014,893	\$ 2,081,132
Plant operations:		
Architectural and engineering	\$ 562,767	\$ 434,435
Fire and police service	666,541	519,674
Fuel, oil and gasoline	80,637	86,936
Greenhouse	383,996	319,914
Operations	2,242,081	1,962,023
Salaries and contract services	1,191,896	996,195
Set-up and take-down	2,411,734	2,086,296
Signs	213,575	208,223
Supplies	36,604	45,689
Utilities	1,195,225	1,708,210
Water and sewer	314,434	259,256
Total plant operations	\$ 9,299,490	\$ 8,626,851
Plant maintenance:		
Electric system	\$ 539,228	\$ 579,035
Fence and fixtures	409,453	358,790
Gas system	1,666	4,575
Land	126,616	48,318
Personal property	164,609	538,034
Sewer system	62,179	119,451
Streets and sidewalks	265,423	252,510
Structures	1,376,048	1,858,996
Vehicles	163,142	107,961
Water system	95,497	125,183
Total plant maintenance	\$ 3,203,859	\$ 3,992,853
Other:		
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,555	\$ 2,772
MSF events	227,584	158,798
Non-fair events	1,896,734	1,805,047
Veterinarian service	45,783	40,966
Total other	\$ 2,177,656	\$ 2,007,583

	2024	2023
Depreciation/amortization:		
Electric service	\$ 396,875	\$ 396,538
Fence and fixtures	185,803	181,340
Land improvement	434,779	434,950
Personal property	536,183	137,734
Sewer system	11,930	26,755
Streets & sidewalks	169,888	118,979
Structures	2,653,649	2,491,451
Water system	19,982	20,038
Leased personal property	83,880	83,880
Total depreciation/amortization	\$ 4,492,969	\$ 3,891,665
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 69,093,414	\$ 65,706,724
Operating income	\$ 2,129,627	\$ 4,476,855
NON-OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSES)		
Investment income	\$ 402,273	\$ 248,275
Grant revenue	873,287	679,683
Non-employer pension contribution	168,932	-
Gain on sale of capital assets	1,240	-
Loss on sale of capital assets	-	(30,944)
Interest expense	<u>(371,509)</u>	<u>(457,831)</u>
Total non-operating revenue (expenses)	\$ 1,074,223	\$ 439,183
Income before capital contributions	\$ 3,203,850	\$ 4,916,038
Contributed capital grants	1,142,091	537,191
Contributed capital asset	<u>-</u>	<u>261,721</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	<u>\$ 4,345,941</u>	<u>\$ 5,714,950</u>



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Managers and Management
Minnesota State Agricultural Society

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities and the discretely presented component unit of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society (dba Minnesota State Fair) (the Society) as of and for the year ended October 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Society's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 6, 2025. Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of Minnesota State Fair Foundation (the Foundation), as described in our report on the Society's financial statements. The financial statements of the Foundation were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and accordingly, this report does not include reporting on internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters associated with the Foundation or that are reported on separately by those auditors who audited the financial statements of the Foundation.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Society's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Society's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

(continued)

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Society's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Society's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LB Carlson, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LB CARLSON, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 6, 2025

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Jan. 11-14, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Bloomington

The 165th annual meeting of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, held in conjunction with the conventions of the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs and the Midwest Showmen's Association opened Jan. 11, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, Minn.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

10:15 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2024

Members present: Joe Scapanski, president; Joe Fox, vice president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovd; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Gordy Toenges; Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander, secretary.

Also present: Debbie Edman; Patrick Schoen; Christine Noonan; Lara Hughes; Maria Hayden; Tim Dybevik; Mary Chung; Bailey Anderson; Danielle Dullinger; Wally LeVesseur; Brian Hudalla; Mike Hagen; Cory Franzmeier; Sean Casey; Nikki Hines; Jennifer Holmes; Shannon Buchda; Nick Juare; Jake Bryant; Emily Quam; Julie Samec; Erin Parnell; Pam Simon; Shana Zaiser; Danyl Vavreck; Michelle Butler; Theresa Weinfurtnr; Jill Nathe; Blaire Huneke; Samantha Gilbertson; Heather Brady; Joe Bagnoli; Andrea Rau.

President Joe Scapanski called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

State Fair counsel Joe Bagnoli and Andrea Rau from Winthrop & Weinstine reported on the upcoming Minnesota legislative session and potential issues that may impact the Society.

Alexander and LeVesseur reviewed the financial history of the Society and the proposed operating budget and year-end cash position for 2024. Information only; no action taken.

Alexander and Weinfurtnr provided details on the entertainment outlook for the 2024 Minnesota State Fair as well as the Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event. Information only; no action taken.

Nathe provided details on agriculture and creative competitions. Information only; no action taken.

Chung provided an update on the Minnesota State Fair Foundation that included details on the end of the popular bench program, as the need for seating on the fairgrounds has been met. Information only; no action taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. on a motion by Fox, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE SALES & PLANNING COMMITTEES

1:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2024

Members present: Wally Wichmann, chair; Sara Donaldson; Ray Erspamer; Joe Fox; Dan Grunhovd; Gail Johnson; Jeff Hawkins; Kirk Peysar; Gordy Toenges. Ex officio: President Joe Scapanski; Secretary Renee Alexander; Wally LeVesseur; Pam Simon; Bailey Anderson; Danielle Dullinger; Nikki Hines.

Also present: Patrick Schoen; Debbie Edman; Blaire Huneke; Samantha Gilbertson; Erin Parnell; Jill Nathe; Michelle Butler; Theresa Weinfurtnr; Danyl Vavreck; Shana Zaiser; Mary Chung; Nick Juare; Julie Samec; Heather Brady; Jake Bryant; Tim Dybevik; Emily Quam; Lara Hughes; Maria Hayden; Shannon Buchda; Mel Varriano; Christine Noonan; Jennifer Holmes; Cory Franzmeier; Mike Hagen; Brian Hudalla; Sean Casey.

Chair Wichmann called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Simon provided an update on activities in the sales department. Information only; no action taken.

Simon presented the following commercial exhibitors for multiple-site consideration for the 2024 fair:

CONCESSION-EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	SITES
American Dairy Association of the Midwest	Ice Cream, Milk, Dairy Foods	3
Bandstand Concessions, Inc., Bandstand Merchandise, Inc.	Grandstand Food & Beverage, Grandstand Artist Merchandise	2
Big Dog Corn Dogs – Bobick Concessions	Corn Dogs, Footlong Hot Dogs, Beverages	2
Butcher Boys F&W Concessions, Inc.	London Broil Sandwiches, Sausages	2
Candy Factory – George's Fun Food	Candy, Caramel Corn, Popcorn, Apples On-a-Stick,	2
Cenaiko Enterprises, Inc.	Shami Cloths, JD Salsa	2
Cotton Candy, L. Immerman	Cotton Candy	3
Cotton Candy, K. Yahr	Cotton Candy	3
Cumulus (KQRS, KXXR, WGVX)	Radio Stations	3
Crutchee-s, Inc.	Cheese On-a-Stick, Lemonade	2
Dandy Souvenirs	Novelties, Souvenirs, Toys	8
Delrick Enterprises	Popcorn, Caramel Corn, Caramel Apples, Beverages	2
Fresh French Fries	Fresh Cut French Fries	2
Giant Ride, Inc.	Giant Slide, Cheese On-a-Stick	2
Gopher State Ice Co., Abdo	Big Fat Bacon, Ice (wholesale permit only)	2
G-Two Concessions, Inc.	Root Beer	4
HomeTown Mobility	Wheelchair, Scooter & Wagon Rental	5
Hubbard Broadcasting (myTalk, SKOR North)	Radio Stations	2
The Icee Company	Icee Frozen Beverages	3
iHeart Radio (K102, KDWB, KFAN)	Radio Stations	2
Lancer Food and Beverage	Burgers, Sandwiches, Beer & Wine, Craft Brewers	5
Midtown Global Market	Rotating Food Vendors, Global Merchandise	2
Midwest ATM	ATM Service	27
Minnesota Honey Producers Association	Honey, Honey Ice Cream, Honey Candy	2
Minnesota State Fair Foundation	State FairWear & Merchandise, Bargain Books, Memberships, BINGO	5
Minnekabob	Kabobs	2
Netterfield Food Court	Popcorn, Caramel Corn, Sausage, Corn Dogs, Hamburgers	2
Orange Treet, Etc.	Orange Treets, Smoothies, Ice Cream, Dairy Products	2
Paddle North	Paddle Boards, Kayaks, Logo Apparel	2
Perfect Pickle – KWF, Inc.	Deep-Fried Pickles, Pickles On-a-Stick	2
Poncho Dog, Leah O'Neil	Hot Dogs On-a-Stick	3
Schroder Concessions	Popcorn, Caramel Corn, Caramel Apples, Cheese Curds, Bratwurst	4
Syndicate Sales Corp.	Ratchet Pruners, Salsa Makers, Magic Play Sand	4

The locations were approved on a motion by Grunhovd, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Dullinger recommended the following concessionaires be approved for malt beverage and wine licenses for the 2024 Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event and the Minnesota State Fair:

CONCESSIONAIRE	BLOCK	LOCATION
American Restaurant Consultants, Inc. dba RC's BBQ (Randy Jernberg, Charles Torgerson)	Block 28	1801 W. Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
Andrus Concessions, Inc. dba Andy's Grille (Joseph and Michael Andrus)	Block 42	1774 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages
Ball Park Cafe, Inc. (David and Daniel Theisen)	Block 35	1312 Underwood St. Malt Beverages & Cider
Bandstand Concessions, Inc. (Jacob Severson, Ryan Caulfield)	Block 28	1755 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Blue Plate Restaurant Company dba Blue Barn (Stephanie Shimp, David Burley)	Block 27	1839 W. Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
Chi-Dogs, Inc., Chicago Dogs (Anne Chesin)	Block 35	1670 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
CMK Investment Co., dba Leinie Lodge (Robert J. Kirschner)	Block 34	1302 Cooper St. Malt Beverages
Coasters (Paul and Diana Hohenwald)	Block 42	1804 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Cuisine Concepts, dba Tejas Express (Mark Haugen, Wayne Kostroski)	Block 35	1670 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
Dino's Festivals, Inc. dba Dino's Gyros (Constantin and Jason Adamidis, Alysia Anderson)	Block 36	1701 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Cider
The Firefly Group dba LuLu's Public House (Charlie Burrows, Mike Brennan)	Block 27	1843 W. Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Cider
French Crêperie (Marc Vezies, Tracy Anderson)	Block 36	1711 Carnes Ave. Minn. Wine
Giggles' Campfire Grill, LLC (Timothy Weiss)	Block 19	1520 Cooper St. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
GSH Food Services, Inc., dba The Hideaway (Bryan and Jennie Enloe)	Block 38	1755 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
The Hangar Group, LLC (Nathan and Stephanie Janousek)	Block 12	1673 Murphy Ave. Malt Beverages & Cider
HMH of St. Paul, Inc., dba Shanghai Henri's (Henry, Ellen and Megan Hanten)	Block 47	1658 Judson Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Lancer Food and Beverage, LLC dba Aldo's Burgers; Sabino's Pizza Pies; Snack House; Swine & Spuds (Tony Arvidson, Brittany Mayer-Schuler)	Block 50	1784 Judson Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Lancer Food and Beverage, LLC dba Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild (Tony Arvidson, Brittany Mayer-Schuler)	Block 45	1263 Cooper St. Malt Beverages
Mancini's al Fresco, LLC (Pasquale and Kathryn Mancini)	Block 36	1715 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine

Midway Mens Club (Tom Thomas)	Block 30	1354 Underwood St. Malt Beverages
Mintahoe dba Minnesota Wine Country (James and Shawn McMerty)	Block 44	1271 Underwood St. Minn. Wine
MJ Financial Group dba Ragin Cajun (Ronald Jacob)	Block 35	1670 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
O'Gara's Bar & Grill, Inc. (Daniel and Kris O'Gara)	Block 34	1626 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Tres-C, Inc. dba Cafe Caribe (Joel, Mary and Jennifer Chesin)	Block 42	1770 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Werner's Frontier, Inc. dba The Frontier (Richard Werner)	Block 42	1790 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages

The licenses were approved as recommended on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Fox and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Dullinger recommended the following caterers be approved for malt beverages and wine licenses during the 2024 non-fair event season:

2024 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR BEER & WINE CONCESSIONS - CATERING

1. Kabob by Dangerfield's (Gus Khwice)
2. Mintahoe (Shawn McMerty)
3. Shakopee House (Heather Williams)
4. Tinucci's Catering (Mark Tinucci Jr.)

The licenses were approved as recommended on a motion by Fox, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Hines recommended the following ticketed attraction percentage structures be approved for the 2024 Minnesota State Fair:

CONCESSIONAIRE	ATTRACTION	2023%	2024%
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Turbo Bungy</u>	25%	25%
Biggest Wheel, LLC	Ferris Wheel	30%	30%
Can Can Wonderland	Mini Golf	30%	30%
D.M.C., Inc.	Skyride	25%	25%
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Rock Climbing Wall</u>	25%	25%
Giant Ride, Inc.	Giant Slide	30%	30%
Hot Shot Thrill Rides	<u>Sling Shot</u>	25%	25%
K & M Recreation, Inc.	Haunted House	30%	30%
Krazy Maze, LLC	Krazy Maze	25%	25%
Mighty Midway and Kidway	Kidway Rides and Shows	43%	43%
	Midway Rides and Shows	41%	41%
	Games of Skill	23%	23%
Skyfair, Inc.	SkyGlider	30%	30%
Skyscraper Two, Ltd.	Skyscraper*	25%	25%
Spineless Wonders	Butterfly House	20%	20%
Tinsley Amusements, Inc.	Carousel	40%	40%
Ventnor Place, Inc.	Space Tower	25%	25%

Attractions underlined are located at Adventure Park

The percentage fees above represent the fee(s) payable to the Minnesota State Fair on receipts from ticket sales associated with operation of the preceding attractions. Percentages are applied as follows: State sales tax (8.375%) is deducted from gross receipts, and reconciliation between the Minnesota State Fair and concessionaires is made on the net of tax balance.

The percentages were approved as recommended on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Fox and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Hines recommended the following ticketed attraction pricing structures be approved for the 2024 Minnesota State Fair:

CONCESSIONAIRE	ATTRACTION	2023 TICKET PRICES(S)	2024 TICKETS PRICES(S)
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Turbo Bungy</u>	\$7	\$7
Biggest Wheel, LLC	Ferris Wheel	\$7	\$7
Can Can Wonderland	Mini Golf	\$10	\$10
D.M.C., Inc.	Skyride	\$6 one way \$10 rd trip	\$6 one way \$10 rd trip
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Rock Climbing Wall</u>	\$7	\$7
Giant Ride, Inc.	Giant Slide	\$4	\$4
Hot Shot Thrill Rides, Inc.	<u>Sling Shot</u>	\$35/rider Early bird: \$28 per rider from opening to 1:00 p.m.	\$35/rider *no early bird
K & M Recreation, Inc.	Haunted House	\$5	\$5
Krazy Maze, LLC	Krazy Maze	\$5	\$5
Mighty Midway/Kidway	Rides & Games of Skill	\$1 single \$30 for 33 tickets (\$.9091 per ticket) \$60 for 70 tickets (\$.8571 per ticket)	\$1 single \$30 for 33 tickets (\$.9091 per ticket) \$60 for 70 tickets (\$.8571 per ticket)
	Advance Purchase	\$20 for 25 tickets (\$.80 per ticket)	\$20 for 25 tickets (\$.80 per ticket)
Skyfair, Inc.	SkyGlider	\$6 one way \$10 rd trip	\$6 one way \$10 rd trip
Skyscraper Two, Ltd.	<u>Skyscraper</u>	\$35/rider Early bird: \$28 per rider from opening to 1:00 p.m.	\$35/rider *no early bird
Spineless Wonders	Butterfly House	\$4	\$4
Tinsley Amusements, Inc.	Carousel	\$3	\$3
Ventnor Place, Inc.	Space Tower	\$5	\$5

Attractions underlined are located at Adventure Park and operate on a central ticket system.

The pricing was approved as recommended on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Quam reviewed the 2024 non-fair events calendar, followed by requests for alcohol sales licenses for Bandstand Concessions, LLC (St. Patrick's Day Event, March 16) and Chop Liver Craft Beer Festivals, Inc. (St. Paul Beer Fest, June 8). The licenses were approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

The sales committee meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m. on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Gordy Toenges, chair; Sara Donaldson; Ray Erspamer; Joe Fox; Dan Grunhovd; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Wally Wichmann. Ex officio: President Joe Scapanski; Secretary Renee Alexander; Brian Hudalla; Wally LeVesseur; Jill Nathe; Sean Casey.

Also present: Patrick Schoen; Debbie Edman; Blaire Huneke; Samantha Gilbertson; Erin Parnell; Michelle Butler; Theresa Weinfurtnr; Danyl Vavreck; Shana Zaiser; Mary Chung; Nick Juaire; Julie Samec; Heather Brady; Jake Bryant; Tim Dybevik; Pam Simon; Emily Quam; Nikki Hines; Lara Hughes; Maria Hayden; Shannon Buchda; Mel Varriano; Christine Noonan; Danielle Dullinger; Jennifer Holmes; Mike Hagen; Bailey Anderson.

Chair Toenges called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Alexander and Hudalla reviewed the amount of capital and maintenance work that has been made to the fairgrounds since 2000 which equals a more than \$179 million investment into the fairgrounds.

Hudalla reviewed the capital and maintenance projects completed in 2023.

Hudalla presented the capital and maintenance project recommendations for 2024 totaling \$10.18 million.

A summary of the project list follows and includes projects previously approved at the Nov. 16, 2023, meeting of the board:

2024 CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE BUDGET SUMMARY	
A. Structure Improvements	\$ 4,245,000
B. Land Improvements	
BI. Fencing & Fixtures	600,000
BII. Land	-
BIII. Sewer System	-
BIV. Streets & Sidewalks	1,012,000
BV. Water Distribution System	-
BVI. Gas Distribution System	-
BVII. Land Purchases	-
Total Land Improvements	1,612,000
C. Personal Property	543,000
D. Electric Plant	100,000
TOTAL Improvements	\$ 6,500,000
E. Structure Maintenance	\$ 1,537,000
F. Land Maintenance	
FI. Fencing & Fixtures	408,000
FII. Land	125,000
FIII. Sewer System	125,000
FIV. Streets & Sidewalks	250,000
FV. Water Distribution System	90,000
FVI. Gas Distribution System	2,000
Total Land Maintenance	1,000,000
G. Personal Property Maintenance	457,000
H. Vehicle Maintenance	130,000
I. Electric Plant Maintenance	559,000
Total Maintenance	\$ 3,683,000
Total Improvements & Maintenance	\$10,183,300

After review and discussion, Fox moved, Hawkins seconded, and the motion was carried that the 2024 capital improvement and maintenance budget be approved by the committee as presented and recommended to the full board for approval (Aye-8; Nay-0). Included in the motion was staff authority to adjust, shift, add or cancel specific line items as appropriate to accommodate changes that occur throughout the budget year.

The planning committee meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
2:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2024

Members present: Joe Scapanski, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Joe Fox, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovd;

Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Gordy Toenges; Wally Wichmann.

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by President Scapanski and declared in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned by President Scapanski at 4 p.m.

DISTRICT CAUCUSES OF THE SOCIETY

11:15 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024

Delegates from the seventh and ninth districts met in caucus to certify nominees for election to the Minnesota State Agricultural Society's board of managers during the Society's general business session on Sunday, Jan. 14. Selected were Steve Storck of Morris, Minn. (seventh district), and Dan Grunhoyd of Gary, Minn. (ninth district).

GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION OF THE SOCIETY

8:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024

Delegates, staff and friends of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society (governing body of the Minnesota State Fair) met for breakfast and convened in general session at 8:33 a.m. President Scapanski opened the meeting and asked State Fair CEO Renee Alexander for her report. Her report was accepted by the delegation.

Longtime and recently retired Minnesota State Fair CEO Jerry Hammer was inducted into the Minnesota State Fair Hall of Fame and recognized for his tremendous contributions to the Minnesota State Fair over the course of his lifelong career.

Longtime Minnesota State Agricultural Society's board of managers fourth district Vice President Joe Fox was inducted into the Minnesota State Fair Hall of Fame and recognized for his impactful and important service on the board of managers.

President Scapanski called for a report of the credential committee by Mary Kovich of So. St. Louis County Fair. The committee report was presented as follows and adopted as read:

REPORT OF CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Credential forms submitted to the State Agricultural Society have been inspected by the full committee.

All credentials have been found to be in order with the following exceptions:

- There were two statewide associations that did not file with the secretary of state as required by Dec. 20, 2023.
- There were two statewide associations whose credential forms were not completed correctly.
- There were 16 county fair credential forms that were not completed correctly.
- Ramsey County Fair designated on their credential form that they did not meet eligibility requirements to vote per Minnesota statute.

Members of the credential committee do attest to the actions noted above on the 13th day of January, 2024.

President Scapanski called for a report of the resolutions committee. Committee member Joy Schmitt of Scott County presented the following resolutions for consideration by the Society's delegation:

2024 Approved and Adopted Resolutions

1. Whereas, the Minnesota State Fair truly showcased its resilience in 2023 after the challenges of the past nearly four years, and the time-honored tradition known as the Great Minnesota Get-Together is on solid footing and prepared for an enduring and prosperous future; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, on behalf of its members,

- a. Recognizes that the 2023 Minnesota State Fair was an incredible success by all measures due to the extraordinary work, determination and conviction of concessionaires, vendors, agriculturalists, livestock and horse exhibitors, performers, artists, sponsors, donors, competitors, demonstrators, volunteers, contractors, public safety officers, state and local agencies and officials, local and national media, neighbors, the boards and staff of the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, and 1,835,826 guests – making 2023 the sixth-highest-attended fair in its history. The Society does not take for granted that the ongoing success of the fair is dependent on the commitment and support of so many.
- b. Pledges our unwavering best efforts to present an exposition of the highest quality that is beloved by millions and worthy of international acclaim. The Minnesota State Fair strives to: educate, engage and entertain people through a culturally rich world-class showcase of agriculture, food, industry, performances, arts and crafts and the exchange of knowledge and ideas; present innovative, top-notch, diverse and fun programs and initiatives; provide outstanding customer service in a safe, clean, well-maintained fairgrounds environment that is accessible to all; offer exceptional value while maintaining its financial independence through sound and fiscally responsible management; and above all, celebrate each other and our common humanity.
- c. Reaffirms that, as a leader in the fair industry and as a major attraction in the region, it is imperative that we continue partnerships with other expositions, industry associations and allied organizations committed to professional improvement and helping our industry thrive, including 4-H, FFA, the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, Minnesota Federation of County Fairs, Outdoor Amusement Business Association, National Independent Concessionaires Association, International Entertainment Buyers Association, Midwest Showmen's Association and others.

2. Whereas, the Minnesota State Fair's top priority is to create a safe and secure environment for all who attend and participate in the fair; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society remains steadfast in its commitment to: bring together law enforcement officers and deputies from throughout the state to serve as part of the Minnesota State Fair Police Department; vigorously pursue partnerships with public safety and security agencies and experts at the local, state and federal levels; and dedicate the necessary resources to develop, implement and continuously evaluate and strengthen its comprehensive public safety plan.

3. Whereas, the Minnesota State Fair is dedicated to providing an unparalleled guest experience that begins even before guests arrive; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society will continue to take extensive measures – unmatched in the region – to provide and coordinate a variety of affordable, efficient and safe transportation options to and from its gates, including Park & Ride and Express bus service, ride share locations, on-site parking, bike and motorcycle parking, employee and vendor parking, accessible bus and van services, and others; and to work tirelessly to explore possibilities for expanding and enhancing how guests travel to and from the State Fair.

4. Whereas, the State Fair provides enormous social impact and nearly \$300 million in economic impact in the Twin Cities alone plus immeasurable reach throughout the region; and Whereas, the State Fair supports more than 12,000 full-time, seasonal and part-time jobs; and Whereas, the State Fair is Minnesota's largest classroom offering incomparable learning opportunities for people of all ages; and Whereas, the State Fair offers young people excellent employment

opportunities; and Whereas, the State Fair is but a part of the state's significant tourism and hospitality industries; and Whereas, all would suffer greatly if traditional summer was cut short by early school opening; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society, whose membership includes stakeholders from every corner of the state, urges ongoing support for current state law requiring Minnesota's schools to open after Labor Day.

5. Whereas, the beautiful park-like fairgrounds and grand, historic buildings are treasured assets that make the Minnesota State Fair an iconic destination; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society will continue to dedicate substantial financial resources to maintaining, preserving and improving the historic 322-acre State Fairgrounds, keeping this a critical priority because, as stewards of these grounds and facilities, the Society understands that these are the cornerstones that enable rigorous pursuit of the State Fair's mission.

6. Whereas, the Minnesota State Fair's success is made possible by the efforts of countless individuals over the years; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society recognizes the contributions of these Society members and associates and these State Fair friends who passed away in the last year, including:

Jeff Alexander, leader in the development of the Taste of the Midtown Global Market booth in the International Bazaar; Levi "Lee" Bahr, former operator of family-owned The Lunch Box, Mexican Hat and Italian Junction food concessions; John Barber, auctioneer for the 4-H Auction for 40 years; David Biedermann, Little Farm Hands staff member for 8 years; Clifford Bussler, involved in the McLeod County Fair for 65 years, serving on its board, and member of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association Hall of Fame; Beverly Cottman, Arts A'Fair performer with Black Storytellers Alliance for 8 years; Florence Dehn, secretary of the Mille Lacs County Fair board since 2012; Steven DuBois, longtime IATSE stagehand; Robin Goldstein, web and publications manager with 21 years of service; Heidi Grika, owner of Birchberry Native Arts and Food at the State Fair for 20 years; Jim Haberkorn, attraction ticket taker for 8 years; Barry Immerman, the B of the L & B Cotton Candy concession; Rex Ingram, Cattle Patrol and Milking Parlor employee who received the One Goal Plus Award in 2000; Jim Jungbauer, gate captain and ticket taker in the admissions department for 55 years and a 50 Year Award recipient in 2014; Michael Kane Sr., Minnesota State Fair Police Department officer for more than 12 years; Roy Kollos, attraction ticket taker for 7 years; Larry Kriedberg, owner of the Ribbon Fair and Puzzles by Ribbon Fair merchandise booth; Conrad Kvamme, dairy cattle exhibitor, 50 Year Award recipient in 2017 and Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association board member; Myron "Cowboy" Loughlin, member of the Mounted Patrol for many years; Bob Marzolf, 7-year assistant superintendent, overseeing FFA landscape design and construction, and competition department liaison with superintendents in the Ag-Hort Building; Elsa "Mickey" Neck, longtime proprietor of Mickey's Grill; Jim "Fitz" Pfitzinger, IATSE stagehand and sound engineer at the Grandstand with 39 years of service; Patrick "Emmett" Quinn, IATSE stagehand and sound engineer with 45 years of service; Gerald Sagstetter, parking employee with 14 years of service; Rodney Schmidt, husband of Life Member Clarice Schmidt and whose 60-year association with the State Fair includes being a 4-H exhibitor and 4-H potato judge; Keith Sonnenberg, president of the Becker County Fair and 40-year board member; Eleanor Thatcher, crowned the first Princess Kay of the Milky Way in 1954; Jane Baxter Vivona with Cumberland Valley Shows, Mighty Midway ride operator; Phyllis Wilcox, 8-year employee in the telephone department; Esther Wirtz, admissions employee for 18 years; Tou Ger Xiong, founder and organizer of Hmong Minnesota Day at the Minnesota State Fair, which was first held in 2015; and Nothando Zulu, Arts A'Fair performer with Black Storytellers Alliance for 8 years.

7. Whereas, important work was accomplished and valuable

connections were made at the Minnesota State Agricultural Society's 165th annual meeting; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society extends its gratitude to the many people and organizations who planned and participated in today's program.

The resolutions were adopted as read.

President Scapanski conducted the election of Society president for the term of one year. Wally Wichmann, the Minnesota State Agricultural Society's seventh district board of manager from Balaton, Minn., was nominated by Gordy Toenges and seconded by Dan Grunhøvd. The election was held with no opposition and Wichmann assumed the chair.

Gordy Toenges from the Minnesota State Agricultural Society's board of managers nominated immediate past chair Joe Scapanski for election to Honorary Life Membership in the Society. Society Life Member Paul Merkins seconded the nomination. Scapanski was duly elected and presented with his award by Chair Wichmann and Vice Presidents Donaldson and Fox.

President Wichmann then conducted elections as follows: Kent Harbison of Roseville, Minn., was elected to complete the remaining year of a two-year term as vice president representing the fourth district; Sara Donaldson of Minneapolis, Minn., was re-elected to a two-year term as vice president representing the fifth district; Steve Storck from Morris, Minn., was elected to a three-year term as seventh district representative and Dan Grunhøvd of Gary, Minn., was re-elected to a three-year term as the ninth district representative.

There being no further business before the Society, President Wichmann declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

10:15 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhøvd; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; Renee Alexander, secretary.

Also present: Patrick Schoen; Kim Scibak; Debbie Edman; Grace Woodis; Danyl Vavreck; Andrew Ostapowycz; Julian Schadeck; Wally LeVesseur; Michelle Butler; Beth Schuldt; Maria Hayden; Christine Noonan; Heather Brady; Nate Dungan; Theresa Weinfurter; Shannon Buchda; Mel Varriano; Jennifer Holmes; Shana Zaiser; Brett Ward; Nick Juare; Erik Klingner; Jake Bryant; Jim Rougier; Mike Hagen; Cory Franzmeier; Danielle Dullinger; Emily Quam; Bailey Anderson; Brian Hudalla; Jill Nathe; Lara Hughes; Pam Simon; Mary Chung; Sean Casey; Leah Janus; Dan Miller; Jim Sadler; John Mueller; Rochelle Olson; Dana Ferguson.

President Wichmann called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

Edman administered the oath of office to the newly elected board members as follows:

Wally Wichmann of Balaton, Minn., president (one-year term); Kent Harbison of Roseville, Minn., fourth district vice president (completing final year of two-year term); Sara Donaldson of Minneapolis, Minn., fifth district vice president (two-year term); Steve Storck of Morris, Minn., seventh district representative (three-year term), Dan Grunhøvd of Gary, Minn., ninth district representative (three-year term).

On a motion by Toenges, seconded by Donaldson and carried, Renee Alexander was re-appointed as CEO and secretary of the Society (Aye-9, Nay-0). Edman administered the oath of office to Alexander.

Minutes of the board meeting conducted on Nov. 16, 2023, were reviewed and approved on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Minutes of the interim activities covering the period of Nov. 16, 2023, through Jan. 14, 2024, were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

LeVesseur presented the financial statement for Dec. 31, 2023, as follows:

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
CASH TRANSACTION SUMMARY
Month Ending Dec. 31, 2023**

OPERATING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:

Balance-November 30, 2023		\$ 13,121,389
Add: Cash deposits	\$ 2,805,145	
Less: Payroll ending Dec. 8	(311,574)	
Payroll ending Dec. 22	(315,964)	
Cash disbursements	<u>(5,443,187)</u>	
		(3,265,580)
Balance-December 31, 2023		\$ 9,855,809

BUILDING FUND ACTIVITY:

Balance-November 30, 2023		\$ 453
Add: Interest earned	-	
Securities purchased	-	
Less: Securities redeemed	-	
Balance-December 31, 2023		\$ 452

CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT:

Balance-November 30, 2023		\$ -
Add: Note proceeds		
Interest	-	
Less: Disbursements	-	
Balance-December 31, 2023		\$ -

CASH BALANCES FOR MONTH ENDING:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating account	\$ 7,195,488	\$ 9,855,809
Petty cash	6,100	6,100
Building fund	452	453
Construction account (note proceeds)	<u>1,506,781</u>	-
Total cash balances	<u>\$ 8,708,821</u>	<u>\$ 9,862,362</u>

After review, the statement was approved as submitted on a motion by Grunhvd, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The following recommendations for the Society's designated depository, signature authorization and security funds transfer were presented by LeVesseur:

Bremer Bank as the depository for the Society's operating account, payroll account and premium fund account with the following signatory authority: Operating account – Renee Alexander and Wally LeVesseur with “Alexander/LeVesseur” signature imprint authorized for operating account; regular and fair-period payroll account – Renee Alexander and Wally LeVesseur with “Alexander” signature imprint authorized for payroll funds; Premium account – Renee Alexander and Jill Nathe with “Alexander” signature imprint authorized for premium account; Security funds transfer resolution – Renee Alexander or Wally LeVesseur. The preceding was approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The following standing committee assignments for 2024 and 2025 were presented by President Wichmann.

COMMITTEES 2024-2025

Finance - Johnson, chairperson; Donaldson; Grunhvd; Toenges; Peysar; Haribson; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; LeVesseur, ex officio; Brady, ex officio.

Foundation Nominating - Grunhvd, chairman; Donaldson; Hawkins; Alexander.

Governmental Affairs - Hawkins, chairman; Erspamer; Johnson; Peysar; Toenges; Storck; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; Hudalla, ex officio; Nathe, ex officio.

Honors - Donaldson, chairperson; Noonan; Hudalla; Nathe; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio.

Life Member Advisory - Scapanski, chairman; Baker; Foss; Keenan; Krueger; Lake; Merkins; Oleheiser; Paulson; Prokosch; Schmidt; Simon; Wenzel; Wessel; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; Edman, ex officio.

Operations - Toenges, chairman; Donaldson; Erspamer; Grunhvd; Hawkins; Johnson; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; Hudalla, ex officio; Hagen, ex officio; Casey, ex officio; Franzmeier, ex officio.

Planning - Grunhvd, chairman; Donaldson; Erspamer; Hawkins; Peysar; Toenges; Harbison; Storck; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; Hudalla, ex officio; Nathe, ex officio; LeVesseur, ex officio; Casey, ex officio.

Public Affairs - Hawkins, chairman; Erspamer; Johnson; Peysar; Toenges; Harbison; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; Noonan, ex officio.

Rules & Premiums - Erspamer, chairman; Donaldson; Grunhvd; Johnson; Peysar; Storck; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; Samantha Gilbertson, ex officio; Nathe, ex officio; LeFebvre, ex officio.

Sales - Toenges, chairman; Donaldson; Erspamer; Grunhvd; Hawkins; Johnson; Peysar; Harbison; Storck; Wichmann, ex officio; Alexander, ex officio; Dullinger, ex officio; LeVesseur, ex officio; Hines, ex officio; Simon, ex officio.

The appointments were approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Grunhvd and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

President Wichmann declared the meeting in recess for committee meetings.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Toenges called the meeting to order.

Alexander presented the following gate admission policy for the 2024 State Fair for consideration:

Entry into the Minnesota State Fair shall be contingent solely upon the presentation of a valid ticket of admission in accordance with the most current schedule of gate prices as established by the board of managers.

The gate admission policy was adopted as presented on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The operations committee meeting was adjourned on a motion by Grunhvd, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order.

Ex officio committee member Noonan presented the 2024 marketing and creative division budgets. After discussion, the budgets were approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The public affairs committee meeting was adjourned on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

RULES & PREMIUM LIST COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Erspamer called the meeting to order.

Authority was granted to Alexander's delegates to make adjustments in rules, release dates and premium allocations for competitive departments in accordance with guidelines established by the Society's 2024 operating budget on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Grunhvd and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order.

The 2024 operating, capital and maintenance budgets, reviewed in detail earlier in the weekend by the board, were approved on a motion

by Toenges, seconded by Grunhovd and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The authority to implement flexible pricing for Grandstand events was approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The finance committee meeting adjourned on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Grunhovd and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

President Wichmann reconvened the meeting of the board.

Action taken earlier by the sales, planning, operations, public affairs, rules & premium list and finance committees was approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Toenges and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

After discussion, the following admission fee schedule for the 2024 Minnesota State Fair was approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Adults (13-64)	\$18
Seniors (65 and over)	\$16
Children (5-12)	\$16
Kids (4 and under)	Free
All-ages pre-fair discount	\$15
Seniors & Kids Days promotions	\$13
Opening Day Adults	\$16
Opening Day Children & Seniors	\$13
Military Appreciation Day*	\$13
Auto parking	\$20
Motorcycle parking	\$15
Vendors & competitors discount	\$14

*Discount applies to active military, spouses and kids; retired military and spouses; and military veterans and spouses. All must present valid documentation of military service.

Hudalla reviewed the status of current agreements with building trades contractors J.B. Nelson & Son, Inc. painters; Toltz, King, Duvall & Anderson architects & engineers; Collins Electric, Inc. electricians; Maertens-Brenny Construction carpenters; and Spriggs Mechanical plumbing & heating. The contractor agreements were approved on a motion by Grunhovd, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Alexander was authorized to set staff salaries according to the following job classifications and pay ranges on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Operating Classification

Title: Specialist

Minimum \$800 - \$1,620 weekly (\$41,600 - \$84,240 yearly)

Intermediate & Professional Classification

Title: Supervisor

Minimum \$982 - \$1,785 weekly (\$51,064 - \$92,820 yearly)

Middle Management Classification *

Title: Manager

Minimum \$1,400 - \$2,430 weekly (\$72,800 - \$126,360 yearly)

Executive Classification *

Titles: Director, Deputy Director, Executive Administrator, Deputy GM

Minimum \$1,720 - \$3,750 weekly (\$89,440 - \$195,000 yearly)

* Exempt from overtime

The Society's legal representation by Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. and Winthrop & Weinstine was approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m. on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES

Jan. 11 through April 3, 2024

January

11-14 - The 165th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, Minn.

17 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held traffic stop training on Machinery Hill. Dullinger attended a YPI steering committee via Zoom for the IAFE.

19 - Noonan attended a board meeting of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

20-21 - The Twin Cities Invitational Gymnastics Meet was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

22 - Edman and Schoen attended a virtual Zone 4 planning meeting.

23 - Alexander and Chung attended a Breakfast with the Mayors event hosted by the St. Paul Area Chamber at the Delta Hotel in Minneapolis.

24 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held scenario training in the North End Event Center.

24 - Alexander and Schadeck participated in a virtual meeting with Rep. Kelly Moller & Sen. Matt Klein regarding ticketing legislation.

26-28 - The Legacy Luau Gymnastics Invitational was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

26-Feb. 4 - The Saint Paul Winter Carnival's Minnesota State Snow Sculpting Competition was held at the Kidway Lot.

28 - The Saint Paul Winter Carnival Fire & Ice Run/Walk was held at the North End Event Center and State Fair roadways.

29 - A full-time staff meeting was held in the History & Heritage Center.

31 - Scibak held a First Aid/CPR training course in which several full-time staff participated.

February

1 - Alexander, Dungan, Dybevik, Noonan and Vaquerano attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at OMG Studios in St. Paul.

2 - Schoen and Woodis met with the International Institute of Minnesota to discuss employment opportunities at the fair. The Minnesota State Fair Foundation held its annual board meeting and retreat at the Minnesota Humanities Center in St. Paul, Minn.

4 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training in the North End Event Center.

5 - Edman, Schoen, Scibak and Woodis attended a virtual Zone 4 planning committee meeting. Schoen met with staff at the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps to discuss employment opportunities at the fair.

6 - Alexander spoke at the St. Cloud Rotary meeting in St. Cloud, Minn.

7 - Full-time staff held a business meeting and participated in activities at Can Can Wonderland. Holmes, LeVesseur, Samec and Simon met with H&W Insurance regarding the fair's policy coverage.

8 - Schoen met with staff at Ujamaa Place to discuss opportunities for employment at the fair. Brady and LeVesseur met with members from Bremer Bank to review cash and treasury management as well as State Fair branch operations. Noonan met with Shevek McKee, executive director of the District 10 Community Council.

9 - Schoen met with staff at World Youth Connect to discuss employment opportunities at the fair.

10 - The North Star Roller Derby was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum. The Girl Scouts held a cookie pickup event in Block 55.

12 - Alexander attended an open house at Winthrop & Weinstine to learn about the upcoming state legislative session.

12-13 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held drone training in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

13 - The Minnesota Horse Council held a meeting in the FFA Chapter House. Edman and Schoen attended a meeting with the St. Paul Human Resources group at Gabe's By The Park. Bower and Nathe attended Minnesota Pork Congress and the Minnesota Purebred Swine Breeders meeting in Mankato.

14 - Huneke, Noonan, Simon and Varriano met with Joy Collaboration to discuss a sensory site for 2024.

16 - Noonan attended a board meeting of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

19 - Schoen attended a virtual Zone 4 planning committee meeting.

20 - Alexander & Chung participated in a meeting of the Foundation's governance committee.

21 - Alexander & Chung met with board members of the Philando Castile Peace Garden Foundation. Schoen attended a Zoom prep meeting for Central High School Job Fair. Franzmeier and Schoen met with the staff at Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps to discuss employment opportunities at the fair. Dullinger attended a YPI steering committee meeting via Zoom for the IAFE.

20-22 - The Saint Paul Police Department held drone training in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

22 - Schoen and Woodis represented the fair at the Minnesota Private Colleges Job Fair. Klingner, LeVesseur, Rougier and Ward toured the facility of Arctic Wolf, the fair's cybersecurity partner, in Eden Prairie, Minn. Alexander, LeVesseur and Simon met with the AFL-CIO to discuss plans for the 2024 fair. Alexander, Hudalla, Nathe and Simon met with Clever Architecture to discuss their firm's capabilities for minor Ag-Hort building design needs.

23 - Noonan spoke to four AVID classes at Sanford Middle School about marketing careers.

23-25 - Schoen taught the IAFE Institute of Fair Management's Human Resources I course at the Zone 5 meeting.

24 - The Winter Beer Dabbler was held in the Midway Lot and the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

26 - Alexander attended the International Entertainment Buyers Association Mixer in Nashville, Tenn. Schoen and Woodis represented the fair at the University of Minnesota Job & Internship Fair. The State Fair's accessibility committee met.

27 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds.

28 - Hughes participated in a Visit Roseville board meeting.

29 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds. Schoen and Woodis represented the fair at the West St. Paul Career Force Job Fair.

March

1 - Schoen and Woodis represented the fair at the Central High School Job Fair in St. Paul.

1-3 - The Twin Cities Regional Science Fair was held in the Lee & Warner Coliseum.

2 - Noonan attended the Midway Chamber of Commerce Annual Celebration. A sneaker convention was held in the North End Event Center.

4 - Noonan attended a meeting of the Visit Saint Paul Strategic Planning Task Force.

6 - Alexander and Joe Bagnoli of Winthrop & Weinstine met with Rep. Rick Hansen to discuss State Fair transportation legislation. Saint Paul Police Academy K-9 training was held throughout the fairgrounds. Edman, Schoen, Scibak and Woodis attended a virtual Zone 4 planning committee meeting.

8-10 - George's Minnesota Muskie Expo was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

11 - Alexander and Joe Bagnoli of Winthrop & Weinstine met with House Agriculture Committee Chair, Rep. Vang to make introductions and discuss State Fair transportation legislation. Samec and Simon met with Minnesota Purebred Association planning their partnership for the 2024 fair.

12 - The Minnesota State Fair Police Department held a planning meeting with law enforcement partners in the History & Heritage Center. Five years ago today, the southeast portion of the roof of the Cattle Barn collapsed due to snow load. The Minnesota Horse Council held a meeting at the FFA Chapter House.

14 - Alexander testified at a House Agriculture Committee hearing regarding State Fair transportation. Alexander also met with Sen. Aric Putnam, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, to make introductions and discuss the State Fair transportation bill. Butler, LeFebvre and Nathe attended the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association Hall of Fame Banquet in Roseville, Minn.

15 - Noonan attended a board meeting of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

15-17 - Schoen taught the IAFE's Institute of Fair Management Human Resources I course at the Zone 3 meeting.

17 - The Carol Renaud Boy Scout Project took place in the North End Event Center Gallery.

17-19 - Staff members Alexander, Dullinger, Edman, Franzmeier, Hedin, Holmes, Schoen, Scibak and Woodis, along with board members Donaldson, Erspamer, Grunhovd, Peysar and Chair Wichmann attended the IAFE Zone 4 meeting in St. Cloud, Minn. Schoen taught the IAFE's Institute of Fair Management Human Resources I course at the Zone 4 meeting.

19 - Alexander, Nathe, Vavreck & Zaiser attended the 2024 Ag Day Gala held in the North End Event Center.

20 - The Midway Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon in the History & Heritage Center.

21-22 - Bryant, Juare, Quam and Vavreck attended the MNFEA Annual Conference in St. Louis Park, Minn.

21-24 - The 100th Annual Saint Paul Osman Shrine Circus was held at the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

25 - Scibak held a First Aid/CPR course for MSF police and reserve staff in the Libby Conference Center.

26 - Noonan and Hayden met with the Marketing Coalition to discuss digital advertising and social media recap of 2023 and strategies for 2024.

27 - Noonan and Bowser attended a meeting of the Roseville Business Council.

26-28 - Alexander attended the Mid-West Fairs convention in Santa Fe, N.M.

27 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds. Noonan and Varriano attended a community relations lunch at the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center.

April

2 - Schoen spoke to high school students about employment opportunities at Humboldt High School. Noonan spoke to two marketing classes at Mounds View High School.

3 - The Saint Paul Police Department held training in the North End Event Center and the Grandstand.

4 - Scibak and Woodis represented the fair at the Washington Technology Magnet Job Fair.

**MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
MEETINGS OF THE SALES & PLANNING
COMMITTEES AND OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

9 a.m. Thursday, April 4, 2024

History & Heritage Center, State Fairgrounds

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Dan Grunhovd, chair; Sara Donaldson; Ray Erspamer; Kent Harbison; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges. Ex officio: Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander; Brian Hudalla; Sean Casey; Jill Nathe; Wally LeVesseur.

Also present: Patrick Schoen; Debbie Edman; Marilyn Mangan; Shannon Buchda; Theresa Weinfurtnier; Michelle Butler; Beth Schuldt; Julian Schadeck; Mike Hagen; Andrew Ostapowycz; Danyl Vavreck; Blaire Huneke; Danielle Dullinger; Bailey Anderson; Emily Quam; Nick Juaire; Erin Parnell; Samantha Gilbertson; Virginia Mold; Cory Franzmeier; Lara Hughes; Christine Noonan; Maria Hayden; Tim Dybevik; Jake Bryant; Mary Chung; Pam Simon; Julie Samec; Nikki Hines; Jennifer Holmes; Mel Varriano; Heather Brady; Jim Rougier; Erik Klingner; Keri Huber; Leah Janus.

Chair Grunhovd called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Hudalla and Casey reviewed the progress of 2024 capital and maintenance projects. Information only; no action taken.

Hudalla provided details on the planning process for the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum roof replacement and other potential improvements that may take place in the building in conjunction with the roof replacement. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2025. After review and discussion, plans to proceed with the budgeting and scheduling of the project were approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

The planning committee meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m. on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE SALES COMMITTEE

Members present: Gordy Toenges chair; Sara Donaldson; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovd; Kent Harbison; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck. Ex officio: Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander; Wally LeVesseur; Pam Simon; Danielle Dullinger; Nikki Hines.

Also present: Brian Hudalla; Sean Casey; Jill Nathe; Patrick Schoen; Debbie Edman; Marilyn Mangan; Shannon Buchda; Theresa Weinfurtnier; Michelle Butler; Beth Schuldt; Julian Schadeck; Mike Hagen; Andrew Ostapowycz; Danyl Vavreck; Blaire Huneke; Bailey Anderson; Emily Quam; Nick Juaire; Erin Parnell; Samantha Gilbertson; Virginia Mold; Cory Franzmeier; Lara Hughes; Christine Noonan; Maria Hayden; Tim Dybevik; Jake Bryant; Mary Chung; Julie Samec; Jennifer Holmes; Mel Varriano; Heather Brady; Jim Rougier; Erik Klingner; Keri Huber; Leah Janus.

Chair Toenges called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m.

LeVesseur and Simon provided an update on the business activities of the sales department. Information only, no action taken.

Sling Shot owner and operator Hot Shot Thrill Rides, Inc. and Skyscraper owner and operator Skyscraper Two, Ltd. were each granted a \$5 per rider increase during standard operating hours and a \$2 per rider increase during early bird hours on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

After discussion, the following multiple-site licenses were approved:

American Amusements Arcades, owner and operator of Playland, was approved for the addition of a photo booth kiosk in Baldwin Park on a motion by Grunhovd, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

G-Two Concessions, Inc. was approved for an additional soft drink concession site on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Kelly Miller, owner and operator of Strawberries N' Creme, was approved

for the addition of a flavored iced tea concession on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Orin Gaul, owner and operator of the Tom Thumb Donuts concession located at Kidway on Cooper Street, was approved for a second location at the corner of Carnes Avenue and Underwood Street on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

After discussion and on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0), Bandstand Merchandise, Inc. was approved to operate and sell Grandstand artist merchandise under the following guidelines: Artist merchandise sales to be split 80/20 with 80% to the artist. Of the remaining 20%, Bandstand Merchandise, Inc. to pay Society 10% of gross sales less state sales tax and 5% credit card fee up to \$1,000,000.00 in gross sales less state sales tax and 5% credit card fee. If total sales exceed \$1,000,000.00, then Bandstand Merchandise, Inc. shall pay Society 8% of gross sales less state sales tax and 5% credit card fee for all sales over \$1,000,000.00 in gross sales less state sales tax and 5% credit card fee.

After discussion and on a motion by Grunhovd, seconded by Erspamer, Bandstand Concessions, Inc. was approved for the use of Party Deck space on two of the rooftops of Bandstand Concessions, Inc.'s permanent concession stands in the Grandstand concert area. Sale of up to 600 concert tickets per show will be facilitated by Society, and food and beverage will be sold by Bandstand Concessions, Inc. 100% of gross receipts (after applicable sales tax) of the ticket lift from the sale of Party Deck tickets will be paid by Society to Bandstand Concessions, Inc. In addition, Bandstand Concessions, Inc. will pay Society 18.5% of gross receipts (after applicable sales tax) of beer and Minnesota-produced wine sold on the Party Decks and 15% of gross receipts (after applicable sales tax) of all food and non-alcoholic beverages sold on the Party Decks.

Quam provided an update on the non-fair events schedule for the coming months. Information only, no action taken.

Can Can Wonderland and Orange Treet, Etc. were granted licenses to sell beer and wine at non-fair events throughout the year on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Grunhovd and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

The sales committee meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Storck and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovd; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; Renee Alexander, secretary.

Also present: Brian Hudalla; Sean Casey; Jill Nathe; Wally LeVesseur; Patrick Schoen; Debbie Edman; Marilyn Mangan; Shannon Buchda; Theresa Weinfurtnier; Michelle Butler; Beth Schuldt; Julian Schadeck; Mike Hagen; Andrew Ostapowycz; Danyl Vavreck; Blaire Huneke; Danielle Dullinger; Bailey Anderson; Emily Quam; Nick Juaire; Erin Parnell; Samantha Gilbertson; Virginia Mold; Cory Franzmeier; Lara Hughes; Christine Noonan; Maria Hayden; Tim Dybevik; Jake Bryant; Mary Chung; Pam Simon; Julie Samec; Nikki Hines; Jennifer Holmes; Mel Varriano; Heather Brady; Jim Rougier; Erik Klingner; Keri Huber; Leah Janus.

President Wichmann called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes of the board meetings conducted as part of the Annual Meeting on Jan. 12 through 14, 2024, were reviewed and approved on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Minutes of interim activities from Jan. 11 through April 3, 2024, were approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Action taken earlier in the morning by the sales committee was approved on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Chung provided an update on Minnesota State Fair Foundation activities that included the addition of three new board members and two members rolling off the board as they had reached their term limits. The bench and table program ended in January resulting in a total of more than 2,300 benches and 85 tables being added to the fairgrounds over the course of the program, providing seating for fair guests for years to come. Information only, no action taken.

LeVesseur presented the following financial statement for Feb. 29, 2024.

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
CASH TRANSACTION SUMMARY
Month Ending Feb. 29, 2024**

OPERATING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:

Balance-January 31, 2024		\$ 8,743,577
Add: Cash deposits	\$ 2,738,839	
Less: Payroll Ending February 2	(315,693)	
Payroll ending February 16	(319,863)	
Cash disbursements	<u>(1,639,230)</u>	
		464,053
Balance-February 29, 2024		\$ 9,207,630

BUILDING FUND ACTIVITY:

Balance-January 31, 2024		\$ 453
Add: Interest earned	-	
Securities purchased	-	
Less: Securities redeemed	-	
Balance-February 29, 2024		\$ 453

CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT:

Balance-January 31, 2024		\$ -
Add: Note proceeds	-	
Interest	-	
Less: Disbursements	-	
Balance-February 29, 2024		\$ -

CASH BALANCES FOR MONTH ENDING:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating account	\$ 7,510,677	\$ 9,207,630
Petty cash	6,100	6,100
Building fund	452	453
Construction account (note proceeds)	<u>1,510,839</u>	<u>-</u>
Total cash balances	<u>\$ 9,028,068</u>	<u>\$ 9,214,183</u>

After discussion, the statement was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Alexander presented the secretary's report that included a legislative update, including proposed legislation on ticketing and presenting a transportation plan to the legislature; full-time staff hiring update; master planning. Information only, no action taken.

The Minnesota State Fair Foundation was approved to operate bingo during the 2024 Minnesota State Fair on a motion by Grunhovid, seconded by Storck and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Hudalla and Franzmeier provided information on State Fair operations including the hiring status of law enforcement officers for the fair and partnerships with 18 different law enforcement agencies; a Park & Ride audit; storage, greenhouse and grounds maintenance updates. Information only, no action taken.

Butler provided details on the countless educational opportunities at the fair and throughout the rest of the year. It is estimated that the educational activities at the fair equal approximately 55 school days for a child. Information only, no action taken.

Weinfurther provided details on the booking and planning of fair-time entertainment and arts programming and Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event details. Information only, no action taken.

Noonan provided an update on marketing, guest services and creative projects and planning, included new demographic details that will be

released later this year, marketing campaign plans for 2024, a new app and more. Information only, no action taken.

Nathe provided an update on competition department activities including recognition programs, a new official livestock photographer, an update on avian influenza and possible changes to the Crop Art and Farm Crops layout in the Ag-Hort Building.

Schoen provided an update on the seasonal and fair-time hiring process and the diverse recruiting strategies being utilized. Information only, no action taken.

A replenishment of the Employee Club Fund of \$5,000 was approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

President Wichmann declared the meeting in executive session at 12:26 p.m.

The meeting was reopened and adjourned at 1:21 p.m. on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

**MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES**

April 4 through June 7, 2024

April

4-7 - Schoen taught Human Resources I for the IAFE Institute of Fair Management at Zone 6 in Franklin, Tenn.

6-7 - The GSTA Rod & Custom Spectacular Car Show was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

9 - A meeting of the full-time staff was held in the History & Heritage Center. The Minneapolis Police Department held training in the North End Event Center and surrounding roadways. The Minnesota Horse Council met in the FFA Chapter House.

10 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training on the fairgrounds.

11 - The Minnesota State Patrol conducted bus inspections in Block 56. Chung and Noonan attended a marketing committee meeting of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation.

12 - Huneke and Noonan meet with ASLIS, the company that provides ASL interpretation for Grandstand and Bandshell Tonight! shows and other special requests.

13 - The International Hmong Fashion Show was held in the North End Event Center.

15 - Superintendent training was held in the Libby Conference Center.

16 - Machinery Hill Criterium bicycle races were held on various north roadways. Superintendent training was held in the Libby Conference Center.

17 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training on the fairgrounds.

18 - The Minnesota State Patrol conducted bus inspections in Block 56. Staff attended a lunch & learn presentation and tour of the International Institute of Minnesota. Superintendent training was held via Zoom. Alexander and Chung attended the MSP Business Journal's Power Shift 25 reception at the Four Seasons Hotel where Alexander was an honoree.

18-21 - The Munchkin Market was held in the Education Building.

19 - Superintendent training was held in the Libby Conference Center. Noonan attended a board meeting of the Midway Chamber of Commerce. Noonan attended a meeting of the Visit Saint Paul Strategic Planning Task Force.

19-21 - Gopher Motorsports held driving training in Block 27.

20 - The University of Minnesota's Hoof N Woof 5K took place on portions of Randall Avenue. The MHAHA Spring Horse Show took place in Compeer Arena.

22 - The State FFA Convention was held in Compeer Arena, CHS Miracle of Birth Center, Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum, the Progress Center and the North End Event Center. Superintendent training was held in the

Libby Conference Center. Several State Fair staff participated in the MSF Vendor Communications Committee meeting in the North End Event Center.

23 - Machinery Hill Criterium bicycle races were held on various north roadways. Schoen and Woodis participated in the Be The Change job fair. Several full-time staff participated in CPR/AED training at the Libby Conference Center.

23-24 - Several full-time staff, police and reserves participated in a First Aid/CPR/AED training in the Libby Conference Center.

24-28 - The Minnesota Horse Expo was held in the livestock complex and Dairy Building.

27 - The Camel Lot was used for parking for the PanCan Walk.

27-May 7 - Block 27 was used for Gopher Motorsports driving training.

29 - The State Fair's accessibility committee met.

29-May 2 - Alexander, Chung, Hudalla, Simon and Weinfurter attended the IAFE Management Conference in Sarasota, Fla.

30 - Saint Paul Police Academy K-9 training was held throughout the fairgrounds. Machinery Hill Criterium bicycle races were held on various north roadways.

May

1-2 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training on the fairgrounds.

2 - Hayden and Noonan met with the Marketing Coalition to review creative executions for the annual advertising campaign. Hughes and Noonan met with documentarian Alec Fischer to discuss an upcoming project.

3 - Schoen and Woodis participated in a job fair at Two Rivers High School.

3-5 - The Sahara Sands Spring Classic was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

4 - The Animal Humane Society Walk for Animals was held in the International Bazaar and surrounding roadways. A private event was held at Mancini's.

5 - The Spring Extravaganza Car Show & Swap Meet was held on Machinery Hill. The Northland Vintage Toy Show was held in the Progress Center

6-8 - Approximately 1,300 3rd graders participated in Urban Ag Day presented by the Minnesota State Fair and FFA. Activities were held in the DNR Building and Park, the CHS Miracle of Birth Center and the Sheep & Poultry Barn.

7 - Criterium bicycle races were held on various north roadways. Edman and Schoen participated in the Placement Partners job fair in Edina.

8 - The Minnesota State Fair Foundation held a luncheon for its 1854 Society members at the History & Heritage Center. Schoen met with a representative from Ramsey County to discuss recruiting opportunities.

9 - Alexander and Huneke participated in the Visit Lakeville tourism luncheon where Alexander was the keynote speaker. Noonan gave presentations on college and marketing career prep to six classes at Cottage Grove Middle School. Huneke and Noonan met with a representative of Aira visual interpreting service to discuss the potential for offering this service at the 2024 State Fair for guests who are blind or have low vision. Chung and Leach attended a finance & investment committee meeting of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation.

9-12 - The FASH Spring Horse show was held in the livestock complex.

10-12 - The Friends School Plant Sale was held in the Grandstand and surrounding area.

11 - The Model Railroad Show as held in the Education Building and Creative Activities Annex.

14 - Machinery Hill Criterium bicycle races were held on various north roadways. Huneke and Noonan attended a Hospitality Minnesota webinar on the ADA.

15 - Alexander and Vavreck participated in a meeting of the Minnesota Festival and Events Association at the History & Heritage Center. Members of the operations and competition divisions met with TKDA regarding the Coliseum project.

15-19 - Schoen taught Human Resources I for the IAFE Institute of Fair Management at Zone 2 in Orlando, Fla. and at Zone 1 in Springfield, Mass.

16 - Saint Paul Police and Minneapolis Mounted Patrol training was held throughout the fairgrounds. The Minnesota State Fair Foundation Grand Champion event featuring Steichen's Grocery Store was held in the History & Heritage Center. Alexander, Chung and Grunhovd attended a board meeting of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation. LeVesseur and Leach met with Heather Casperson, the State Fair's municipal advisor with PFM Financial Advisors, LLC.

17 - Noonan attended a board meeting of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

18-19 - Gopher Motorsports driving training was held in Block 27.

19 - The Riders & Ribbons Horse Show was held in Compeer Arena.

20 - Leach and LeVesseur met with Bremer Bank representatives regarding the restructuring of the State Fair's depository and security fund accounts.

20-22 - Bower, Samantha Gilbertson and Nathe attended the North American Livestock Show & Rodeo Managers Annual Meeting hosted by the California Rodeo Salinas in Monterey, Calif.

21 - Noonan met with representatives of the Como Neighborhood Safety Collaborative.

22 - The Saint Paul Police Department held driver training in Blocks 8 & 9.

23-26 - More than 43,000 State Fair fans enjoyed the 2024 Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event produced by State Fair staff and held in the center of the fairgrounds.

28 - The University of Minnesota Police Department held driver training in Block 27. LeVesseur and Leach met with Tina Hollis of FiServ/Clover regarding the transfer of ownership of accounts.

30 - Noonan gave presentations on State Fair marketing to three classes at Irondale High School.

31 - Staff from the Iowa State Fair visited to learn about the History & Heritage Center and historical archives. Hayden and Noonan met with the Marketing Coalition to discuss the 2024 advertising media buy. Anderson, LeVesseur, Samec and Simon met with Ferrellgas to discuss their longtime partnership and a 2024 agreement.

June

1 - Girls on the Run was held in the Midway lot and various roadways throughout the fairgrounds.

2 - The GMCCA Car Show and Swap Meet was held on Machinery Hill.

3 - LeVesseur and Leach met with Peter Cooper and Catherine Courtney, the State Fair's finance counsel with Taft Law.

2-6 - Gopher Motorsports driving training took place on Machinery Hill.

4 - Machinery Hill Criterium bicycle races were held on various north roadways. Ramsey County SWAT training was held throughout the fairgrounds.

5-9 - The Region 10 Horse Show was held in the livestock complex.

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETINGS OF THE SALES COMMITTEE & GOVERNING BOARD

9 a.m. Friday, June 7, 2024

History & Heritage Center, State Fairgrounds

MEETING OF THE SALES COMMITTEE

Members present: Gordy Toenges, chairman; Sara Donaldson;

Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovid; Kent Harbison; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck. Ex officio: Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander; Wally LeVesseur; Pam Simon; Nikki Hines.

Also present: Patrick Schoen, Debbie Edman, Kim Scibak, Jill Nathe, Beth Schuldt, Michelle Butler, Theresa Weinfurtnr, Marilyn Mangan, Shannon Buchda, Nate Dungan, Samantha Gilbertson, Erin Parnell, Virginia Mold, Karmen Sperr, Nick Juaire, Emily Quam, Erik Klingner, Bailey Anderson, Tim Dybevik, Alex Vaquerano, Mike Hagen, Brian Hudalla, Christine Noonan, Maria Hayden, Ron Knafla, Chris Leach, Joe Bagnoli, Mel Varriano, Jennifer Holmes, Lara Hughes, Heather Brady, Julian Schadeck, Shana Zaiser, Jim Rougier, Mary Chung, Jim Eichten, Jackie Huegel.

Chairman Toenges called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

Simon provided an update and overview on commercial vendors and exhibits for the upcoming State Fair. Information only, no action taken.

LeVesseur provided a status report on the licensing of food and beverage operators for the upcoming State Fair. Information only, no action taken.

On a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0), El Burrito Mercado was approved for a second location in the International Bazaar. The existing location sells merchandise, and the new location will sell food and beverage.

On a motion by Erspamer, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0), Iconic Midway Rides, LLC was granted a five-year privilege fee rate adjustment from 41 percent to 30 percent for the new Midway ride, The Kracken.

On a motion by Johnson, seconded by Storck and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0), State Fair Spectaculars, LLC was granted a five-year privilege fee rate adjustment from 41 percent to 30 percent for the new Midway ride, The Defender.

Varriano provided an update on sponsorships for the upcoming State Fair. Information only, no action taken.

Quam provided an update on the non-fair events calendar followed by a request for an alcohol sales license for Golden Badger Events, LLC (Twin Cities Oktoberfest). The license was approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

The meeting of the sales committee was adjourned at 10:03 a.m. on a motion by Erspamer, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovid; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Renee Alexander, secretary.

Also present: Patrick Schoen, Debbie Edman, Kim Scibak, Jill Nathe, Beth Schuldt, Michelle Butler, Theresa Weinfurtnr, Marilyn Mangan, Shannon Buchda, Nate Dungan Samantha Gilbertson, Erin Parnell, Virginia Mold, Karmen Sperr, Nick Juaire, Emily Quam, Erik Klingner, Bailey Anderson, Tim Dybevik, Alex Vaquerano, Mike Hagen, Brian Hudalla, Christine Noonan, Maria Hayden, Ron Knafla, Chris Leach, Mel Varriano, Jennifer Holmes, Lara Hughes, Heather Brady, Julian Schadeck, Shana Zaiser, Jim Rougier, Mary Chung, Jim Eichten, Jackie Huegel.

President Wichmann called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

State Fair government relations representatives Joe Bagnoli and Andrea Rau from Winthrop & Weinstine reported on the 2024 State of Minnesota legislative session. Information only, no action taken.

The meeting was recessed at 9:20 a.m., on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

President Wichman re-opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes of the board meeting conducted on April 14 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Minutes of the interim activities covering the period of April 4 through June 7 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Action taken earlier in the morning by the sales committee was approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Grunhovid and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Alexander reported on the Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event and preparations for the upcoming State Fair. Information only, no action taken.

Jim Eichten and Jackie Huegel of Malloy, Montague Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., PA and LeVesseur reviewed MMKR's audit of the Society's financial activities for fiscal year 2023.

The audit report was accepted on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Leach presented the following financial statement for April 30, 2024.

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
CASH TRANSACTION SUMMARY
Month Ending April 30, 2024**

OPERATING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:		
Balance-March 31, 2024		\$ 9,237,039
Add: Cash deposits	\$2,719,357	
Less: Payroll ending April 12	(350,869)	
Payroll ending April 26	(351,372)	
Cash disbursements	(1,632,690)	
		384,426
Balance-April 30, 2024		\$ 9,621,465

BUILDING FUND ACTIVITY:		
Balance-March 31, 2024		\$ 453
Add: Interest earned	-	
Securities purchased	-	
Less: Securities redeemed	-	
Balance-April 30, 2024		\$ 453

CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT:		
Balance-March 31, 2024		\$ -
Add: Note proceeds		
Interest	-	
Less: Disbursements	-	
Balance-April 30, 2024		\$ -

CASH BALANCES FOR MONTH ENDING:		
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating account	\$6,808,558	\$ 9,621,465
Petty cash	6,100	6,100
Building fund	452	453
Construction account (note proceeds)	<u>1,518,112</u>	-
Total cash balances	<u>\$ 8,333,222</u>	<u>\$ 9,628,018</u>

After discussion, the statement was approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The following recommendations for the Society's designated signature authorization with Bremer Bank for the following accounts was presented: Operating Account – Renee Alexander and Chris Leach; Regular and Fair Period Payroll Accounts – Renee Alexander and Chris Leach; Premium Account – Renee Alexander and Jill Nathe. The recommendations were approved on a motion Toenges, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye–9; Aye-0).

Police Chief Knafla provided a safety and security update. Information only, no action taken.

Chung provided an update on the activities of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation. Information only, no action taken.

Weinfurtnr reported on the status of entertainment bookings for the upcoming fair and submitted the following list of contracts for approval:

CONTRACTOR	DATES	TERMS	VENUE
CTR Touring, Inc. fso Chance The Rapper	8/23	\$1,000,000 plus 90% over \$1,100,000	Grandstand Artist
Growly Bear, Inc. fso Nate Bargatze	8/24	\$750,000 plus 80% over \$850,000	Grandstand Artist
Messina Touring Group fso Blake Shelton	8/25	\$1,200,000 flat	Grandstand Artist
Flower Power Concerts, Inc. fso Happy Together Tour 2024	8/26	\$75,000 plus 80% over \$175,000	Grandstand Artist
Disturbing Tha Peace Touring, Inc. fso Ludacris	8/27	\$200,000 plus 40% over \$500,000	Grandstand Artist
Juan Fiesta Corp fso Jon Pardi	8/28	\$400,000 plus 80% over \$500,000	Grandstand Artist
Nu Crue, Inc. fso Mötley Crüe	8/29	\$1,200,000 flat	Grandstand Artist
Woodshed Music, Inc. fso Matchbox Twenty	8/30	\$650,000 plus 80% over \$750,000	Grandstand Artist
Stephen Sanchez Official, LLC	8/31	\$250,000 plus 80% over \$350,000	Grandstand Artist
Kidz Bop Live, LLC	9/2	\$105,000 plus 80% over \$205,000	Grandstand Artist
Freestyle Productions, Inc.	8/22-9/2	\$93,454 flat	Grandstand Production
P.E.S.O., Inc. (Concert Ushers)	8/22-9/2	Payable upon receipt of invoice, \$31.50/hour per person	Grandstand Production
A.S.I.A., Inc. (Concert Security)	8/22-9/2	Payable upon receipt of invoice, \$33.50/hour per person	Grandstand Production
Eat Your Heart Out Catering (Grandstand Catering)	8/22-9/2	\$25,000 flat plus final payment due upon receipt of invoice	Grandstand Production
Premier Global Production Company, Inc. (Lighting)	8/22-9/2	\$55,048 flat	Grandstand Production
Premier Global Production Company, Inc. (Stage)	8/22-9/2	\$215,000 flat	Grandstand Production
Show Productions, Inc. dba Audio Visions	8/22-9/2	\$77,142 flat	Grandstand Production
Brian Bourn (Grandstand Follow Spots)	8/22-9/2	\$3,500 flat	Grandstand Production
Allied Production and Services	8/22-9/2	\$355,369.80 flat	Free Entertainment Production
Maggalicious, LLC fso Maggie Rose	8/24-8/25	\$30,000 flat	Bandshell Tonight
Dark Moon, LLC fso Tommy Prine	8/22-8/23	\$10,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Derek Edward Drye fso The Dryes	8/24-8/25	\$7,500 flat	Bandshell Stage
Parlay Music Group fso Kazual	8/24-8/25	\$8,000 flat	Bandshell Stage

McKinley James Touring, LLC	8/24-8/25	\$7,500 flat	Bandshell Stage
James Dobosenski fso Doctor Kielbasa	8/26-8/27	\$3,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
The 34th Infantry Division "Red Bull" Band	8/26-8/27	No payment needed	Bandshell Stage
Rolf Ozark Productions, LLC fso Renata The Band	8/28-8/29	\$5,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Benjamin Goldsmith	8/28-8/29	\$6,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Ginger Commodore	8/30-8/31	\$8,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Jonathan Lyons fso Jonny Lyons & the Pride	8/30-8/31	\$7,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Monroe Crossing, Inc.	9/1-9/2	\$7,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Screaming Orphans	9/1-9/2	\$7,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Radius Vocals, LLC fso Radius	8/26-8/27	\$8,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
The 70's Magic Sunshine Band LLC	8/22-8/23	\$4,000 flat	Bazaar After Dark
Pedro Fonseca fso Tropical Zone Orchestra	8/24-8/25	\$3,000 flat	Bazaar After Dark
Pop Rocks Entertainment, LLC	8/26-8/27	\$4,000 flat	Bazaar After Dark
The Cedar Cultural Center Presents The Global Get-Together	8/28-8/29	\$4,000 flat	Bazaar After Dark
Gustavo Camargo fso Grupo Esplendor Norteno	9/1-9/2	\$4,000 flat	Bazaar After Dark
MidAmerica Talent fso International Reggae All Stars	8/30-8/31	\$4,000 flat	Bazaar After Dark
Vladimir S Garrido Biagetti fso Alma Andina	8/22-8/23	\$3,500 flat	Bazaar Stage
Lidia W Sanguma dba Dia Toti LLC	8/30-8/31	\$3,500 flat	Bazaar Stage
O'Shea Irish Dance, LLC fso Kickin' It Irish with O'Shea Irish Dance	8/30-8/31	\$3,000 flat	Bazaar Stage
Native Pride Productions, Inc. fso Native Pride Dancers	9/1-9/2	\$4,000 flat	Bazaar Stage
Pavel Jany fso World Jazz Collegium	9/1-9/2	\$3,000 flat	Bazaar Stage
BC Characters, Inc. fso Monster Shop Bump'n	8/22-9/2	\$36,000 flat	Family Fair at Baldwin Park
Lizzy The Dream Girl, LLC fso Lizzy, Comedy Stage Hypnosis	9/1-9/2	\$2,800 flat	Family Fair at Baldwin Park
Mark Hayward	8/22-/85	\$3,800 flat	Family Fair at Baldwin Park
Charles Lowell Burnes III fso The Chipper Experience	8/22-8/27	\$9,000 flat	Family Fair at Baldwin Park
Steven Wilson fso Tuey	8/26-8/29	\$5,000 flat	Family Fair at Baldwin Park
Rob Miss Jane Productions, LLC fso Alléz-OOPS! Circus.Comedy. Spectacle	8/28-9/2	\$8,100 flat	Family Fair at Baldwin Park
Howard Walstein fso Kidsdance	8/30-9/2	\$4,000 flat	Family Fair at Baldwin Park
Sylvain Pienault	8/27	\$100 flat	Misc. Attractions
Forecast Public Art	8/22-9/2	\$9,200 flat plus final payment due upon receipt of invoice	Misc. Entertainment

Collide Theatrical Dance Company	8/22-8/23	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Colombia Live	8/22-8/23	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Youth Performance Company	8/22-8/23	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Ragamala Dance Company fso Ragamala Training Center	8/24-8/25	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Shakespeare & Company	8/24-8/25	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Twin Cities Trapeze Center	8/24-8/25	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Neal Skoy fso The State Fair Fitness Fanatics Comedy Show	8/26-8/27	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
New Native Theatre	8/26-8/27	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre	8/26-8/27	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Benjamin Domask-Ruh fso An Afternoon with Benjamin and Thom	8/28-8/29	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts fso Interact Theater	8/28-8/29	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Rhythmically Speaking	8/28-8/29	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Keane Sense of Rhythm	8/30-8/31	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Continental Ballet Company	8/30-8/31	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company	8/30-8/31	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
CAAM Chinese Dance Theater	9/1-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Elba Castillo fso Mexica Yolotl	9/1-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
Open Eye Theatre	9/1-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Misc. Entertainment
DL Weatherhead Timberworks Lumberjack Show, LLC fso Timberworks Lumberjack Show	8/22-9/2	\$35,500 flat	North Woods
Chris Perondi dba Stunt Dog Productions fso All-Star Stunt Dogs Splash	8/22-9/2	\$18,000 flat	North Woods
Robert D. Wilson	8/22-9/2	\$1,080 flat	Old Iron Show
Christopher J. Chadwick	8/22-9/2	\$1,080 flat	Old Iron Show
Steve. L. McDonough	8/22-9/2	\$1,800 flat	Old Iron Show
Robert A. McDonough	8/22-9/2	\$1,800 flat	Old Iron Show
James Birk	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Jack's PC Consulting, LLC fso C. John Deschene	8/22-9/2	\$1,080 flat	Old Iron Show
James M. Quirk	8/22-9/2	\$540 flat	Old Iron Show
Lee Jason Sackett	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Shannon M. Sackett	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Cecil L. Bechel	8/22-9/2	\$3,240 flat	Old Iron Show
Rickie D. Grufman	8/22-9/2	\$3,240 flat	Old Iron Show

Joseph Stevermer	8/22-9/2	\$1,800 flat	Old Iron Show
Karrin Sackett	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Paul Thomas Bainbridge	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Lorraine Quirk	8/22-9/2	\$540 flat	Old Iron Show
Nancee Wilson Peterson	8/22-9/2	\$1,080 flat	Old Iron Show
Joe Beckrich	8/22-9/2	\$600 flat	Old Iron Show
Jobie Bainbridge	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Kelly Sackett	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Kenna Sackett	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Henry Reiner	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Sherry Reiner	8/22-9/2	\$1,200 flat	Old Iron Show
Gabe Horrisberger	8/22-9/2	\$1,080 flat	Old Iron Show
Steven G. Bauer	8/22-9/2	\$3,000 flat	Old Iron Show
Rodney Mondor	8/22-9/2	\$1,080 flat	Old Iron Show
Duane H. Rolstad	8/22-9/2	\$360 flat	Old Iron Show
Jon A. Getting	8/22-9/2	\$720 flat	Old Iron Show
Sue Getting	8/22-9/2	\$360 flat	Old Iron Show
Austin Getting	8/22-9/2	\$720 flat	Old Iron Show
Donald C. Fricke	8/26-8/29	\$400 flat	Old Iron Show
Devon Lark	8/30-9/2	\$200 flat	Old Iron Show
Anne Elizabeth Sawyer fso Upstanding Stilts	8/22-9/2	\$4,500 flat	Parade
Master Custom Homes	8/22-9/2	\$11,400 flat	Parade
Joel Matuzak	8/22-8/27	\$1,380 flat	Parade
Barry Peterson	8/22-9/1	\$2,750 flat	Parade
Barry Peterson fso Tri-State Judging Association	8/22-9/1	\$2,600 flat	Parade
Andrew Jay Schmidt	8/28-9/1	\$1,150 flat	Parade
Mike Olander dba Jack Brass Band	8/31-9/2	\$5,280 flat	Parade
Paul Husby fso St. Anthony Park Community Band	8/23	\$100 flat	Parade
Twin Cities Unicycle Club	8/24	\$550 flat	Parade
Regents of the University of Minnesota	9/1	\$2,750 flat	Parade
Roland Hawkins II	9/1	\$500 flat	Talent Contest
Sophie Taggart	9/1	\$100 flat	Talent Contest
Arthur Michael Buckner dba BiG HOMiE LLC fso L.A. Buckner & BiG HOMiE	8/26-8/27	\$5,000 flat	West End at Sunset
Cordell Leonard Medina fso Corey Medina & Brothers	8/28-8/29	\$3,000 flat	West End at Sunset
First Avenue Productions, LLC fso First Avenue Goes To The Fair	8/30-8/31	\$7,500 flat	West End at Sunset
Thomas Alane fso The Brothers Allmanac	9/1-9/2	\$4,000 flat	West End at Sunset
Clare Doyle	8/22-8/23	\$2,500 flat	West End Market
Mick Sterling Presents, LLC fso Mick Sterling and Cate Fierro	8/22-8/23	\$3,500 flat	West End Market

High and Rising, LLC	8/24-8/25	\$2,500 flat	West End Market
Robert E. Henry fso The Robb Henry Trio	8/26-8/27	\$1,600 flat	West End Market
John Wright dba New Folk Productions fso PK Mayo Band	8/28-8/29	\$3,000 flat	West End Market
John R. Kast fso Jiggs Lee Invasion	8/30-8/31	\$2,500 flat	West End Market
Deece Productions fso Gregg Hall & The Wrecking Ball	8/30-8/31	\$2,500 flat	West End Market

The list was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Noonan provided an update on the marketing, advertising, guest services, accessibility and creative efforts for the upcoming State Fair. Information only, no action taken.

Nathe provided an update on the agricultural, creative arts and education contests and programs for the upcoming State Fair. Information only, no action taken.

Schoen provided an update on employment law changes and hiring tactics for the upcoming State fair. Information only, no action taken.

Alexander presented the following list of board-hosted functions for the 2024 State Fair:

Federation of County Fairs Meeting – Friday, Aug. 23; State Fair Hall of Fame & Life Member Lunch – Sunday, Aug. 25; Minnesota Livestock Breeders Breakfast – Thursday, Aug. 29. The functions were approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES

June 7 through Aug. 15, 2024

June

7-8 - The Viking Motorcycle Show was held at the Progress Center and Campground.

8-9 - The MAC Autocross MOWOG Series was held in Block 27. The Minnesota Newspaper Association held volunteer training at the location outside the 4-H Building.

10 - Alexander, Chung, Duda and Mindy Walter toured Bailey Nurseries growing operation in Inver Grove Heights.

10-11 - Gopher Motorsports driving training was held in Block 27. Schoen attended an IAFE human resources committee meeting via Zoom.

11 - A full-time staff meeting was held at the History & Heritage Center. Machinery Hill Criterium Races were held on Machinery Hill. The Minnesota Horse Council held a meeting at the FFA Chapter House. Noonan attended a meeting of the Visit Saint Paul Strategic Planning Task Force.

12 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. The Saint Paul Police Academy conducted K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds. Alexander delivered a presentation about the Minnesota State Fair at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, Minn. Edman, Noonan and Schoen attended the Midway Chamber of Commerce Leadership Summit at Augsburg University.

13 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Alexander delivered a presentation about the Minnesota State Fair at Hermantown City Hall in Hermantown, Minn. Noonan attended a board retreat of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

15 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill.

18 - Leach and LeVesseur met with a contingent from Bremer Bank to

discuss the State Fair's banking relationship.

19-21 - Hudalla, Casey, Hagen, Police Chief Knafla and Assistant Chief Coffey attended a training session presented by the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA and held at the History & Heritage Center.

20 - A private event was held at O'Gara's.

21-23 - The Minnesota Street Rod Association's Back to the 50's car show was held throughout the fairgrounds.

22-25 - Alexander attended the Royal Highland Show and the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth's conference where she presented on fairs remaining relevant.

25 - Machinery Hill Criterium Races were held on Machinery Hill. Saint Paul Police bike training was conducted in the north lots of the fairgrounds.

26 - The Saint Paul Police Academy conducted K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds. A private event was held at O'Gara's. Noonan attended a meeting of the Roseville Business Council. Noonan met with staff of Hamline Midway Coalition.

26-29 - The Tanbark Horse Show was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

27 - Hudalla and Hagen met with representatives of Capital Regions Watershed District to discuss wetlands and storm water management. The Midsummer Mile was held on State Fair roadways. A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Noonan met with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and Metro Transit to discuss Express Bus marketing.

28-29 - Rihm's Anniversary Party and VIP event was held in the North End Event Center.

28-30 - Block 55 was used for parking for the Hmong International Freedom Festival.

30 - The IUPAT Company Picnic was held at the International Bazaar.

July

3 - Hagen, Huneke and Noonan gave a presentation to the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee.

9 - Machinery Hill Criterium Races were held on Machinery Hill. The Minnesota Horse Council met at the FFA Chapter House. Schoen attended a virtual IAFE Human Resources Committee Meeting.

10 - The Foundation's Grand Champion event featuring the Fine Arts Center was held in the Progress Center. Hughes led meeting with Fischr Media documentary team to review their filming schedule during the 2024 fair.

10-14 - The MAQHA Corporate Challenge Horse Show was held in Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

11 - Alexander, Leach and LeVesseur met representatives from PFM and Taft Law to discuss the fair's borrowing capability and bonding authority. Hughes attended a board retreat for Visit Roseville.

12 - The Boston Scientific Company Picnic was held at the International Bazaar. Noonan attended a Visit Saint Paul member meeting.

13 - A celebration of life was held at the History & Heritage Center. A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. MAC Autocross MOWOG Series was held in Block 27. The Minnesota Newspaper Foundation held volunteer training outside the 4-H Building.

14 - Park Dental Partners held their annual picnic at the International Bazaar.

16 - Concessions & exhibits and competition departments met at Libby Conference Center with Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Health.

17 - Metro Transit conducted their Bus Rodeo training in Block 55. Saint Paul Fire conducted elevator training at the Grandstand elevators. Noonan attended an event of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

18 - Noonan staffed an info table at the City of Falcon Heights Ice Cream Social.

19 - Alexander presented about the Minnesota State Fair at the Minneapolis Rotary Club meeting in Minneapolis.

19-21 - Street Machine Nationals took place throughout the fairgrounds.

22 - Members of the Minnesota Legislative Society met at the History & Heritage Center where Alexander was the presenter.

22-28 - Minnesota State Fair Amateur Talent Contest auditions were held at the Bandshell stage.

23 - Alexander, Donaldson, Grunhovid, Hawkins and Chung participated in a meeting of the Foundation nominating committee. Machinery Hill Criterium Races were held on Machinery Hill.

24 - The Minnesota State Fair Job Fair was held at the North End Event Center. Alexander presented about the Minnesota State Fair at the Excelsior Rotary Club meeting in Excelsior.

25 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. The Metro Area Managers Association meeting was held at the History & Heritage Center where Alexander, Hudalla, Casey, Franzmeier, Hagen and Noonan presented details on fair operations.

27 - The Totally Rad Vintage Fest was held in the Grandstand. State Fair Foundation volunteer orientation was held in the North End Event Center. Alexander visited the Anoka County Fair in Anoka.

29 - Alexander, Hudalla, Hagen, Chief Knafla, Assistant Chief Coffey and approximately 60 public safety partners conducted a tabletop training exercise at the Emergency Operations Center.

29-30 - Ramsey County SWAT training was held on Machinery Hill.

30 - A full-time staff meeting celebrating staff's years of service was held at the History & Heritage Center.

31 - The Saint Paul Police Academy conducted K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds

August

1 - Representatives of marketing and sales met with Fox 9 TV to discuss fair plans.

1-4 - The North Central Reining Horse Show was held at the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

1-2 - LeVesseur, Leach, Simon, Samec, Schadeck, Hayden, Hines and Anderson visited the Wisconsin State Fair.

3 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill.

3-4 - The State Fair Foundation bench unveiling event took place at Heffron Park. Alexander visited the Wisconsin State Fair.

4 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill.

5 - Representatives of marketing and sales met with KARE TV to discuss fair plans.

6 - Schoen met with a representative from the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps. Representatives of marketing and sales met with WCCO TV to discuss fair plans.

8 - Alexander, Hudalla, LeVesseur, Nathe and Chung met with representatives of TKDA to review draft plans of the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum remodel. Huneke hosted ASL interpreter training.

9 - Alexander and Zaiser visited the Carver County Fair in Waconia.

12 - Hudalla, Hagen, Chief Knafla, Assistant Chief Coffey and all of the State Fair's public safety partners held a final planning meeting at the Emergency Operations Center. Huneke hosted ASL interpreter training. Representatives of marketing and sales met with Cumulus Media Minneapolis to discuss fair plans.

13 - Representatives of marketing met with iHeart Media to discuss fair plans.

15 - Hudalla and Hagen met with the Saint Paul Police Department to discuss traffic management during the State Fair. The State Fair Foundation's Taste of the Fair event was held at the International Bazaar. Alexander presented on the State Fair to staff from the law firm Winthrop & Weinstine.

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
9 a.m. Friday, Aug. 23, 2024
Officers' Quarters, State Fairgrounds

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president, Ray Erspamer; Danny Grunhovid; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; ex officio Renee Alexander.

Also present: Chris Leach, Debbie Edman, Leah Janus, Joe Bagnoli, Andrea Rau and Heather Casperson.

President Wichmann called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes of the board meeting conducted on June 7 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Harbison, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Minutes of interim activities covering the period of June 7 through Aug. 15 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Leach presented the following financial statement for July 31, 2024:

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
CASH TRANSACTION SUMMARY
Month Ending July 31, 2024

OPERATING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:		
Balance-June 30, 2024		\$ 8,665,264
Add: Cash deposits	\$ 3,902,889	
Less: Payroll ending July 5	(612,647)	
Payroll ending July 19	(431,665)	
Cash disbursements	<u>(3,785,523)</u>	
		(926,946)
Balance-July 31, 2024		\$ 7,738,318
BUILDING FUND ACTIVITY:		
Balance-June 30, 2024		\$ 453
Add: Interest earned	-	
Securities purchased	-	
Less: Securities redeemed	-	
Balance-July 31, 2024		\$ 453
CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT:		
Balance-June 30, 2024		\$ -
Add: Note proceeds		
Interest	-	
Less: Disbursements	-	
Balance-July 31, 2024		\$ -
CASH BALANCES FOR MONTH ENDING:		
	2023	2024
Operating account	\$8,107,105	\$ 7,738,318
Petty cash	6,100	6,100
Building fund	452	453
Construction account (Note Proceeds)	<u>1,756</u>	<u>-</u>
Total cash balances	<u>\$ 8,115,413</u>	<u>\$ 7,744,871</u>

After discussion, the statement was approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Heather Casperson of PFM Financial Advisors reported on the society's history around financing and the potential for future borrowing. Information only; no action taken.

State Fair government relations representatives Joe Bagnoli and Andrea Rau from Winthrop & Weinstine reported on the 2024 State of Minnesota legislative session. Information only; no action taken.

Alexander reported on the preparations and start of the 2024 Minnesota State Fair. Information only; no action taken.

Alexander reported on the status of entertainment bookings for the current fair and submitted the following list of contracts for approval:

CONTRACTOR	DATES	TERMS	VENUE
Beast Mode Touring, Inc. fso Becky G	8/22	\$400,00 plus 80% over \$515,000	Grandstand Artist
Beast Mode Touring, Inc. fso Becky G	8/22	\$8,000 audio expenses	Grandstand Artist
Los Aptos, LLC fso Los Aptos	8/22	\$15,000 flat	Grandstand Artist
EAR Music, LLC fso Emily Ann Roberts	8/25	\$10,000 flat	Grandstand Artist
EAR Music, LLC fso Emily Ann Roberts	8/25	\$1,000 production buyout	Grandstand Artist
Nappy Boy Touring, LLC fso T-Pain	8/27	\$200,000 plus 40% over \$500,000	Grandstand Artist
Nappy Boy Touring, LLC fso T-Pain	8/27	\$20,000 flat (travel expenses)	Grandstand Artist
Dogs Three Entertainment, Inc. fso Dillon Carmichael	8/28	\$15,000 flat	Grandstand Artist
White Reaper Touring, Inc. fso White Reaper	8/29	\$35,000 flat	Grandstand Artist
Beauty School Dropout	8/30	\$6,000 flat	Grandstand Artist
RES Specialty Fireworks	8/22-9/2	\$47,250 flat	Grandstand Production
Perk Global Productions, Inc. (Grandstand Stage Manager)	8/22-9/2	\$25,875 flat	Grandstand Production
Ken Nagel	8/22-9/2	\$21,530 flat	Grandstand Production
Live+Well Entertainment fso Mallory Hines	8/22-9/2	\$12,800 flat	Grandstand Production
BQ Productions, Inc. fso Phil Vassar	8/22-9/2	\$50,000 flat	Bandshell Tonight
The War and Treaty Corporation fso The War & Treaty	8/26-8/27	\$60,000 flat	Bandshell Tonight
Dog Snout, Inc. fso Marky Ramone Plays The Ramones Classics	8/28-8/29	\$35,000 flat	Bandshell Tonight
Ameritronica, Inc. fso Moon Taxi	8/30-8/31	\$50,000 flat	Bandshell Tonight
Semisonic, Inc.	9/1-9/2	\$50,000 flat	Bandshell Tonight
Church of Cash, LLC	8/22-8/23	\$6,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
KAJ Productions LTD fso The Men Of Motown	8/22-8/23	\$11,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Terrence Simien Incorporated fso Terrence Simien and the Zydeco Experience	8/26-8/27	\$15,300 flat	Bandshell Stage
Campanas de America, LLC fso Mariachi Campanas de America	8/28-8/29	\$15,300 flat	Bandshell Stage
Forge Entertainment Group, LLC fso Lucas Hoge	8/30-8/31	\$10,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Max Baca fso Los Texmaniacs	9/1-9/2	\$15,000 flat	Bandshell Stage
Stanley William Kipper fso New Primitives	8/22-8/23	\$3,500 flat	Bazaar Stage

Guava Entertainment, LLC fso Pan Dimensions	8/24-8/25	\$2,400 flat	Bazaar Stage
Yahaira Sandoval fso Rumba Nueva	8/24-8/25	\$3,500 flat	Bazaar Stage
The Crwn, LLC fso Illism	8/26-8/27	\$3,000 flat	Bazaar Stage
McNasty Brass Band, LLC	8/28-8/29	\$3000 flat	Bazaar Stage
Maurice Jacox fso Maurice Jacox & We Still R	8/28-8/29	\$3000 flat	Bazaar Stage
Women's Drum Center	8/24, 8/25, 8/31 & 9/1, 9/2	\$1,500 flat	Parade
Minnesota Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists fso Pathfinders Drill Team	8/28, 8/29, 9/1	\$1,200 flat	Parade
Minnesota Pipes and Drums	8/24	\$1,250 flat	Parade
Saint Paul Police Band	8/24	\$250 flat	Parade
Minnesota "Over-60" Band	8/29	\$500 flat	Parade
Regents of the University of Minnesota	8/31	\$2,750 flat	Parade
Thomas Logan fso Tom's Carousel Music	9/1, 9/2	\$400 flat	Parade
River City Rhythm, Inc	9/2	\$1,200 flat	Parade
Laci Bloss fso Caleb and Laci	9/1	\$100 flat	Talent Contest
Christina Ann Schlieske fso Tina Schlieske & Friends	8/22-8/23	\$6,500 flat	West End at Sunset
Mae Simpson Music, LLC fso Mae Simpson	8/24-8/25	\$4,500 flat	West End at Sunset
Alexander Craig, LLC fso Alexander Craig	8/24-8/25	\$4,000 flat	West End Market
Hope's Eternal Entertainment, LLC fso The Scarlet Goodbye	8/27-8/28	\$3,000 flat	West End Market
Faith Boblett	9/1-9/2	\$2,000 flat	West End Market
Geoffrey L. Wilson fso LAAMAR	9/1-9/2	\$2,500 flat	West End Market
Kurt Jorgenson fso The Jorgensons	8/28-8/29	\$3,000 flat	West End Market

The contracts were approved on a motion by Grunhovd, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Alexander was authorized to make miscellaneous ticket refunds and payment of minor claims as she deems appropriate on a motion by Harbison, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

President Wichmann declared the meeting in executive session at 10:50 a.m.

The meeting was reopened and adjourned at 11:10 a.m. on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Storck and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

12:45 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024

Officers' Quarters, State Fairgrounds

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Danny Grunhovd; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; ex officio, Renee Alexander.

Also present: Debbie Edman

President Wichmann called the meeting to order at 12:48 p.m.

Alexander provided an update on activities of the 2024 State Fair.
Information only; no action taken.

Alexander recommended that the board approve a budget expense of approximately \$1.5 million to replace the roof on the 4-H building, with the project tentatively scheduled for the upcoming fall. The project was approved on a motion by Erspamer, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The dates for the 2025 fair were set for Aug. 21 through Sept. 1 on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The addition of December 24 as a standard paid holiday for full-time staff was approved on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Alexander presented a request from select members of the Honorary Life Member Committee, asking if the Society could cover hotel costs for committee members who need to travel from a distance to attend meetings. After discussion, the request was declined.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m. on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES

Aug. 15 through Nov. 14, 2024

August

15 - The Minnesota State Fair Foundation's Taste of the Fair event was held at the International Bazaar. Alexander spoke at a gathering of Winthrop & Weinstine staff at the Officers' Quarters.

17 - The Tour de Fair Committee held a French Toast Breakfast and program for full-time and seasonal staff at the 4-H Building.

20 - The Minnesota State Fair Foundation hosted the First Glance event at the Fine Arts Building.

21 - Rachel Visser was crowned Princess Kay of the Milky Way at a ceremony on the Bandshell Stage. Alexander and Noonan attended a gathering of the Como Neighborhood Safety Initiative.

22 - The 2024 Minnesota State Fair opened at 7 a.m. President Wally Wichmann presided over the official State Fair opening ceremony at the Bandshell.

23 - The Minnesota Federation of County Fairs held a meeting at the Administration Building.

24 - Alexander gave welcome presentations at the Rotary District 5950 Conference, held at the Horton Pavilions.

25 - The Minnesota State Fair Board of Managers hosted a luncheon for the State Fair's Honorary Life Members and Hall of Fame members and their guests outside the Administration Building.

27 - For the first time in State Fair history, the fair opened late due to an early morning storm hitting the fairgrounds. With cooperation, hard work and dedication of staff, vendors and volunteers, the fairgrounds opened safely at 9 a.m. The Minnesota State Fair Foundation Board met at the Officers' Quarters followed by a reception at the J.V. Bailey House. The master planning team from Alliance did a site visit and met with staff and board members about the vision for the fair's future. The National Independent Concessionaires Association (NICA) held a networking event for staff and concessionaires at The Hangar.

28 - The Minnesota State Fair's marketing department met with Iowa State Fair marketing staff during their fair visit.

29 - The Minnesota State Fair Board of Managers hosted the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association breakfast at the Officers' Quarters. The Best Awards were presented at the International Bazaar Stage.

31 - The 50 Year Awards ceremony was held on the Bandshell Stage.

September

1 - Outstanding employee MVP nominees and winners were honored on the Grandstand stage.

2 - The Minnesota State Fair closed with attendance of 1,925,904, the fifth-best attended fair in history and the highest attended fair since the 2020 pandemic. Visitors during the Great Minnesota Get-Together included the Manitoba Minister of Agriculture, staff from the Texas State Fair, Iowa State Fair, South by Southwest, Oklahoma State Fair, Washington State Fair, OC Fair, Royal Ag Society of England, and United Kingdom government officials.

4 - Noonan attended a virtual meeting of the University of Minnesota Tourism Center Advisory Committee.

6 - A staff appreciation luncheon was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Sweet Martha's held an employee appreciation picnic at Heffron Park. Giggles held an employee appreciation picnic at Giggles' Campfire Grill.

6-28 - Block 56 was used as a Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste drop-off site (Fridays & Saturdays).

7 - Block 27 was used for University of Minnesota Gopher Football parking. Fresh French Fries held their employee picnic at Mancini's.

9-April 15 - The Camel Lot was used for L-Z Truck Storage.

10 - The Minnesota Horse Council held a meeting in the FFA Chapter House.

11 - The Saint Paul Police Academy conducted K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds. Alexander spoke at the White Bear Lake Rotary Club meeting.

12 - A private event was held at O'Gara's.

13 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Noonan attended a Visit Saint Paul membership meeting.

13-16 - The Minnesota 4-H Horse Show was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

14 - Block 27 was used for University of Minnesota Gopher Football Parking. A citywide drop-off event was held in Blocks 8 & 9. The Model Railroad Show and Sale was held in the Education Building. A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill.

15 - The Viking Motorcycle Swap Meet was held in the Campground. Gopher Motorsports driving training was held in Block 27.

16 - The Saint Paul Police Department held training on Machinery Hill.

16-27 - County and City SPOT training was held on Block 55 and the History & Heritage Center.

17 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds.

18 - Alexander participated in a panel discussion on leadership, hosted by Fredrikson & Byron at Orchestra Hall. Samantha Gilbertson, Virginia Mold, Scibak and Woodis attended a promotions trade show at the Minneapolis Marriott West. Noonan attended a meeting of Visit Saint Paul's Strategic Planning Task Force.

19-22 - Munchkin Markets Children's Fall Consignment Sale was held in the Education Building.

19-23 - The Western Saddle Club Horse Show was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

20 - Bus parking for the Roy Griak Invitational was held in Blocks 8 & 9. Hayden spoke to a student group at the University of Minnesota about careers in marketing.

20 - Block 27 was used for University of Minnesota Gopher Football Parking. A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Alexander attended and spoke at the MFCF District 9 meeting at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, Minn.

21-22 - The State 4-H Dog Show was held in the 4-H Building and Blocks 24 & 25. The Twin Cities Mission Furniture and 20th Century Design Show was held in the North End Event Center.

22 - Gopher Motorsports driving training was held in Block 27.

24 - An after-action safety and security meeting was held at 1640 Como and was attended by State Fair staff and law enforcement partners.

25 - A full-time staff meeting was held at the History & Heritage Center. The Metro Children's Water Festival was held on Machinery Hill, 4-H Building, Progress Center and Home Improvement Building. St Paul Police Academy K9 training was held throughout the fairgrounds. Hughes attended a Visit Roseville board meeting.

26 - The Upper Mississippi River Committee and St. Paul Police Department held emergency operations center training at 1640 Como. A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Alexander, Grunhovid, Donaldson, Hawkins and Chung attended a meeting of the Foundation's nominating committee. Edman attended a state employee benefits open enrollment training in St. Paul.

27 - Hayden attended a board of advisers meeting for the University of Minnesota student advertising group Backpack Communications.

27-29 - The Fall Festival Arabian Horse Show was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

28 - The Twin Cities True Vintage Show was held in the Progress Center. A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Gopher Motorsports driving training was held in Block 27.

28-29 - The Minnesota Mineral Club Annual Rock and Gem Show was held in the Dairy Building. The Antique Spectacular was held in the Grandstand.

29 - The Roadsters Swap Meet was held in the north parking lots.

30 - Mortenson held a company event in the North End Event Center. The State Fair accessibility committee met.

30-Oct. 4 - Block 55 was used for Habitat for Humanity's Carter Work Project.

October

1 - Alexander spoke at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management First Tuesday luncheon at the McNamara Alumni Center.

1-6 - The Minnesota Harvest Horse Show was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

1-April 30 - The Owl Lot was utilized for UPS trailer storage.

2 - The Saint Paul Police Academy held K-9 training throughout the fairgrounds.

3 - The 30th Annual ITS Minnesota Fall Forum was held at the History & Heritage Center.

4-5 - Twin Cities Oktoberfest took place at the Progress Center and Campground.

5 -Block 27 was used for University of Minnesota Gopher Football parking. Block 55 was used for the ABTA event shuttle.

6 - The Cold-Blooded Expos Reptile Show was held at the North End Event Center.

6-9 - Alexander, Dungan and Weinfurter attended the International Association of Entertainment Buyers Conference in Nashville, Tenn., where they received the Fair of the Year award.

8 - The Minnesota State Fair Foundation held their volunteer appreciation dinner in the North End Event Center. The Foundation governance committee met at Libby Conference Center. The Minnesota Horse Council held a meeting in the FFA Chapter House. Edman attended a meeting with the St. Paul Human Resources group.

9 - The Saint Paul Police Department conducted traffic stop training on the Midway lot.

10 - The Ujamaa Place Breakfast was held in the North End Event Center, attended by Noonan.

10-12 - The Curio Brands Warehouse Sale was held in the Education Building.

11 - A private event was held at Giggles' Campfire Grill. Huneke and Hayden presented at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Social Media Breakfast about the 2024 Minnesota State Fair social media strategy & guest services.

12 - Gopher Motorsports driving training was held in Block 27. The Woodworkers Expo was held in the Progress Center.

12-13 - FallCon was held in the Grandstand.

14 - A flu shot clinic was held in the Libby Conference Center for Minnesota State Employees.

15 - McGough Construction held a company meeting in the North End Event Center.

15-April 15 - Blocks 53 & 54 will be utilized by the Saint Paul Police Department as the city's winter impound lot.

17 - Alexander, Leach and Chung attended a meeting of the Foundation's finance & investment committee.

17-20 - The Minnesota Beef Expo was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum and surrounding livestock complex.

18 - Noonan attended a Midway Chamber of Commerce board meeting.

19 - The Twin Cities Book Festival was held in the Progress Center.

19-20 - Gopher Motorsports driving training was held in Block 27.

22 - Alexander and Franzmeier met with the State of Minnesota's Enterprise Sustainability Director regarding the State Fair's sustainability efforts. Edman attended an employment law web conference hosted by Fredrikson & Byron. Noonan spoke to three marketing classes at Lakeville North High School.

24 - The Minnesota State Fair Foundation Board met in the Libby Conference Center. The Minnesota Prayer Breakfast was held in the North End Event Center. Williams AV held sound testing in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum. Edman attended an employment law web conference hosted by Fredrikson & Byron.

26 - Block 27 was used for University of Minnesota Gopher Football parking.

26-31 - Winter storage intake was held at various fairgrounds buildings.

29 - Minneapolis Police Department training was held in the North End Event Center and on surrounding roadways.

30 - Saint Paul Police Academy K-9 training was held throughout the fairgrounds. A Minnesota State Fair Foundation Grand Champion event was held in the Warner Coliseum. Hughes attended a Visit Roseville board meeting.

November

2 - Circus of the Heart was held in the North End Event Center. The Minnesota State High School League utilized Blocks 6 & 7 for parking.

6 - West Coast Dance Explosion equipment testing was held in the North End Event Center. Dungan and Noonan attended an open house hosted by OMG Studios.

10 - The Girls on the Run 5K was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum and on surrounding roadways.

12 - The Minnesota Horse Council held a meeting in the FFA Chapter House. The State Fair Honors Committee met to discuss candidates for the fair's Honorary Life Membership and Hall of Fame. Full-time staff attended a Lunch & Learn program at the Emergency Operations Center with presentations by Hagen and Hudalla.

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND SALES & PLANNING COMMITTEES

9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024

North End Event Center, Minnesota State Fairgrounds

MEETING OF THE SALES COMMITTEE

Members present: Gordy Toenges chairman; Sara Donaldson;

Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhove; Kent Harbison; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck. Ex officio: Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander; Wally LeVesseur; Pam Simon; Nikki Hines; Danielle Dullinger.

Also present: Debbie Edman, Bailey Anderson, Jennifer Bower, Emily Quam, Julie Samec, Shannon Buchda, Blaire Huneke, Tim Dybevik, Brian Hudalla, Christine Noonan, Samantha Gilbertson, Grace Woodis, Jim Rougier, Mike Hagen, Cory Franzmeier, Andrew Ostapowycz, Julian Schadeck, Nick Juare, Jake Bryant, Mary Chung, Brett Ward, Mel Varriano, Michelle Butler, Sean Casey, Jill Nathe, Shana Zaiser, Kim Scibak, Ron Knafla, Lara Hughes, Jennifer Holmes, Beth Schuldt, Karmen Sperr, Nate Dungan, Marilyn Mangan, Chris Leach, Danyl Vavreck, Erin Parnell, Frank Parisi, Leah Janus.

Chairman Toenges called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

New vendor Joy Collaborative presented on the services they provided during the 2024 Minnesota State Fair. Information only, no action taken.

LeVesseur, Simon, Anderson, Hines and Varriano reported on the activities and income of the 2024 State Fair sales division. Division income was reported at \$21.4 million from food and beverage percentage, front footage fees, Midway, Kidway and ticketed attractions percentage, sponsorship and touring promotional exhibits. The report will be reviewed by committee members and considered for approval at the January 2025 meeting of the sales committee.

Alexander and Quam provided details on the history of the North End Event Center and events being held in the facility. Information only, no action taken.

Quam presented a request for an alcohol sales license for Liquid 12 Festival, LLC for Merry Market (Dec. 14, 15, 21 & 22) and Winter Beer Dabbler (Feb. 22) The licenses were approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

The sales committee meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Storck and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Dan Grunhove, chairman; Sara Donaldson; Ray Erspamer; Kent Harbison; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck. Ex officio: Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander; Brian Hudalla; Sean Casey; Cory Franzmeier.

Also present: Debbie Edman, Bailey Anderson, Jennifer Bower, Emily Quam, Julie Samec, Shannon Buchda, Blaire Huneke, Tim Dybevik, Christine Noonan, Samantha Gilbertson, Grace Woodis, Jim Rougier, Mike Hagen, Andrew Ostapowycz, Julian Schadeck, Nick Juare, Jake Bryant, Mary Chung, Brett Ward, Mel Varriano, Michelle Butler, Jill Nathe, Shana Zaiser, Kim Scibak, Ron Knafla, Lara Hughes, Jennifer Holmes, Beth Schuldt, Karmen Sperr, Nate Dungan, Marilyn Mangan, Chris Leach, Danyl Vavreck, Erin Parnell, Frank Parisi, Leah Janus, Wally LeVesseur, Pam Simon, Nikki Hines, Danielle Dullinger.

Chairman Grunhove called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Hudalla provided information and ridership from the State Fair's 2024 park & ride and transportation system. Information only, no action taken.

Casey provided details on the 2024 construction season's projects that included constructing a new emergency operations center, replacing doors and windows at the Fine Arts Center, constructing a new Grandstand ticket office, installing a digital marquee at Dan Patch and Snelling avenues, various electrical projects, new paving, sidewalks, curb cuts and more. Information only, no action taken.

Franzmeier provided details on facilities maintenance, landscaping, and sanitation. Information only, no action taken.

Hudalla provided information on planning for the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum roof replacement and remodeling project scheduled to begin in April of 2025. Information only, no action taken.

Hudalla presented a preliminary budget of \$1,955,000 in capital projects and \$2,174,500 in maintenance work for fiscal 2025. After review and discussion, the capital and maintenance projects were approved

on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0). The projects will be included in the comprehensive capital and maintenance budgets to be considered at the board's meetings in January 2025.

The planning committee meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhove; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; Renee Alexander, secretary.

Also present: Debbie Edman, Bailey Anderson, Jennifer Bower, Emily Quam, Julie Samec, Shannon Buchda, Blaire Huneke, Tim Dybevik, Brian Hudalla, Christine Noonan, Samantha Gilbertson, Grace Woodis, Jim Rougier, Mike Hagen, Cory Franzmeier, Andrew Ostapowycz, Julian Schadeck, Nick Juare, Jake Bryant, Mary Chung, Brett Ward, Mel Varriano, Michelle Butler, Sean Casey, Jill Nathe, Shana Zaiser, Kim Scibak, Ron Knafla, Lara Hughes, Jennifer Holmes, Beth Schuldt, Karmen Sperr, Nate Dungan, Marilyn Mangan, Chris Leach, Danyl Vavreck, Erin Parnell, Frank Parisi, Leah Janus, Wally LeVesseur, Pam Simon, Nikki Hines, Danielle Dullinger.

President Wichmann called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Minutes of the board meetings conducted on Aug. 23 and Sept. 1, 2024, were reviewed and approved on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Grunhove and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Minutes of the interim activities covering the period of Aug. 16 through Nov. 14, 2024, were presented by Alexander, reviewed, and approved as presented on a motion by Storck, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Action taken earlier by the sales committee was approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Action taken earlier by the planning committee was approved on a motion by Grunhove, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

Alexander reported on the overall success of the 2024 Minnesota State Fair despite challenges posed by weather. Information only, no action taken.

Chung reviewed activities of the State Fair Foundation including grants of \$2,017,585 in support of State Fair facilities, environment and educational programs. This brings all-time grants to the fair to \$20.6 million.

Leach presented the October 2024 financial statement as follows:

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
CASH TRANSACTION SUMMARY
Month Ending Oct. 31, 2024**

OPERATING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:		
Balance-September 30, 2024		\$16,546,070
Add: Cash deposits	\$ 9,591,839	
Less: Payroll ending Oct. 11	(416,888)	
Payroll ending Oct. 25	(422,907)	
Fair payroll	(196)	
Cash disbursements	(10,054,625)	
		(1,302,777)
Balance-October 31, 2024		\$15,243,293
BUILDING FUND ACTIVITY:		
Balance-September 30, 2024	\$	453
Add: Interest earned	-	
Securities purchased	-	
Less: Securities redeemed	-	
Balance-October 31, 2024	\$	453

CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT:

Balance-September 30, 2024	\$	-
Add: Note proceeds		
Interest	-	
Less: Disbursements	-	
Balance-October 31, 2024	\$	-

CASH BALANCES FOR MONTH ENDING:

	2023	2024
Operating account	\$17,207,088	\$15,243,293
Petty cash	6,100	6,100
Building fund	453	453
Construction account (note proceeds)	-	-
Total cash balances	\$17,213,641	\$15,249,846

After review and discussion, the statement was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

MSF Chief of Police Ron Knafla reported on the safety & security details of the 2024 State Fair. Highlights include the State Fair's fully functional police department that has been certified by the POST Board. Partnerships remain in place to enhance the fair's ability to provide a safe and secure event, including agreements and relationships with Minnesota State Patrol, BCA, Homeland Security, Saint Paul Police Department, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Minnesota DNR, Hennepin and Ramsey County sheriff's offices, Minneapolis Mounted Police, Metro Transit Police and more. Information only, no action taken.

Woodis provided details on seasonal and fair-time staffing, including a 73 percent retention rate from 2023 to 2024. Information only, no action taken.

Alexander reviewed Grandstand attendance and revenue for the 2024 Grandstand concert series. Information only, no action taken.

Alexander reviewed the 2024 State Fair free entertainment programming, which included: 900 free performances; two naturalization ceremonies; the State Fair Amateur Talent Contest; 45 high school marching bands competing; Arts A'Fair brought 18 artists to the fair with 30 percent being new participants; Joyful World Mural Park had four new artists; amenities were added to Dan Patch Park, including new shade structures; and the History & Heritage Center installed a new case featuring two Silver Cup Sweepstakes trophies from 1889. Information only, no action taken.

Nathe provided details from the competition department: More than 2,600 4-H animals, more than 5,500 open class livestock and more than 1,600 FFA livestock competed during the 2024 State Fair. In addition, there were 2,700 horse entries. Due to H5N1, dairy cattle were tested throughout the fair to ensure the safety of all livestock on-site. There were a record number of scarecrow and crop art entries with a total of 777 pieces entered. Updates were made to the Farm Crops and Crop Art area to create a better guest experience. Fine Arts had 2,822 entries, Creative Activities had more than 10,000 entries, K-12 had 4,056 entries, and Ag-Hort had more than 5,800 entries. 163 scholarships were distributed. Nathe provided information on the fall Beef Expo event where 1,136 head of cattle were in attendance. Nathe also noted that Beef Expo will not take place in 2025 due to the construction in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum. Information only, no action taken.

Butler provided an overview of the 2024 educational programming that included 14 different exhibits that relied on approximately 7,500 volunteers and staff to implement. Cats & Dogs The Exhibition was the featured exhibit in the North End Event Center. During the fair, 159 animals were born at the CHS Miracle of Birth Center; there were no cows in the Miracle of Birth Center due to the H5N1 virus. Information only, no action taken.

Noonan provided details from the marketing, creative and guest services departments. Numbers include: 145.6 million impressions of the fair's paid advertising campaign; the fair's social media audience of

835,000 followers across five platforms; 14.26 million website pageviews; and earned media value of \$588.3 million. More than 85,000 daily schedules were distributed along with 316,000 maps. More than 98,000 Blue Ribbon Bargain Books were sold. Noonan also provided details on guest services and accessibility. Information only, no action taken.

Edman provided details for the 2025 joint conventions of the Society, the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs and the Midwest Showmen's Association. Information only, no action taken.

Donaldson reported on actions of the Honors Committee, which recommended the nomination of longtime beef superintendent Chuck Schwartau be elected as Honorary Life Member.

Recommendation was approved on a motion by Erspamer, seconded by Toenges and carried (Aye-8, Nay-0).

President Wichmann declared the meeting in executive session at 1:05 p.m. The executive session and general business meetings were adjourned at 1:50 p.m. on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9, Nay-0).

MINNESOTA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Jan. 16-19, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Bloomington

The 166th annual meeting of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, held in conjunction with the conventions of the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs and the Midwest Showmen's Association, opened Jan. 16, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, Minn.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

10:15 a.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2025

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhord; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; Renee Alexander, secretary.

Also present: Pam Simon; Lara Hughes; Brian Hudalla; Mike Hagen; Virginia Mold; Debbie Edman; Karmen Sperr; Erin Parnell; Samantha Gilbertson; Theresa Weinfurter; Michelle Butler; Danyl Vavreck; Shana Zaiser; Emily Quam; Jennifer Holmes; Mary Chung; Bailey Anderson; Chris Leach; Sean Casey; Christine Noonan; Wally LeVesseur; Danielle Dullinger; Alex Vaquerano; Nick Juair; Julie Samec; Cory Franzmeier; Maria Hayden; Blaire Huneke; Beth Schuldt; Tim Dybevik; Patrick Schoen; Catherine Cortney; Peter Cooper; Andrea Rau; John Mueller.

President Wally Wichmann called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. State Fair counsel Andrea Rau from Winthrop & Weinstine reported on the upcoming Minnesota legislative session and potential issues that may impact the Society.

Peter Cooper and Catherine Courtney of Taft Law along with Leach presented a reimbursement bond resolution allowing the State Fair to reimburse itself for any project expenditures paid by the Society prior to the time of issuance of bonds. The resolution was approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Alexander and Leach reviewed the proposed operating budget and year-end cash position for 2025. The budget was approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Alexander provided an update on the formulation of a master plan. Information only; no action taken.

Alexander provided details on the entertainment outlook for the 2025 Minnesota State Fair as well as the Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event. Information only, no action taken.

Samantha Gilbertson and Butler provided details on agriculture and creative competitions and educational programming. Information only; no action taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE SALES & PLANNING COMMITTEES
1:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2025

SALES COMMITTEE

Members present: Gordy Toenges, chairman; Sara Donaldson; Kent Harbison; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovid; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck. Ex officio: Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander; Wally LeVesseur; Pam Simon; Danielle Dullinger; Nikki Hines.

Also present: Blaire Huneke; Lara Hughes; Sean Casey; Brian Hudalla; Chris Leach; Alex Vaquerano; Tim Dybevik; Mike Hagen; Christine Noonan; Jennifer Holmes; Mel Varriano; Bailey Anderson; Maria Hayden; Samantha Gilbertson; Virginia Mold; Karmen Sperr; Erin Parnell; Nick Juaiere; Cory Franzmeier; Theresa Weinfurtner; Michelle Butler; Danyl Vavreck; Shana Zaiser; Emily Quam; Debbie Edman; Patrick Schoen.

Chair Toenges called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

LeVesseur and Simon provided an update on activities in the sales department. A motion to approve the sales report presented at the Nov. 14, 2024 sales committee meeting was approved on a motion by Grunhovid, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

LeVesseur presented the following commercial exhibitors for multiple-site consideration for the 2025 fair:

CONCESSION-EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	SITES
African Collections	Crystal Visions	2
American Amusement Arcades	Arcade, Photo Booth	2
American Dairy Association of the Midwest	Ice cream, Milk, Dairy Foods	3
Bandstand Concessions, Inc., Bandstand Merchandise, Inc.	Grandstand Food & Beverage, Grandstand Artist Merchandise	2
Big Dog Corn Dogs – Bobick Concessions	Corn Dogs, Foot-long Hot dogs, Beverages	2
Candy Factory – George's Fun Food	Candy, Caramel Corn, Popcorn, Apples On-a-Stick	2
Cenaiko Enterprises, Inc.	Shami Cloths, JD Salsa	2
Cotton Candy, L. Immerman	Cotton Candy	3
Cotton Candy, K. Yahr	Cotton Candy	3
Cumulus (KQRS, KXXR, WGVX)	Radio Stations	3
Crutchee-s, Inc.	Cheese On-a-Stick, Lemonade	2
Dandy Souvenirs	Novelties, Souvenirs, Toys	8
Delrick Enterprises	Popcorn, Caramel Corn, Caramel Apples, Beverages	2
Fresh French Fries	Fresh Cut French Fries	2
Giant Slide, Inc.	Giant Slide, Cheese On-a-Stick	2
Gopher State Ice Co., Abdo	Big Fat Bacon, Ice (wholesale permit only)	2
G-Two Concessions, Inc.	Root Beer	5
HomeTown Mobility	Wheelchair, Scooter & Wagon Rental	5
Hubbard Broadcasting (myTalk, SKOR North)	Radio Stations	2
The Icee Company	Icee Frozen Beverages	3
iHeart Radio (K102, KDWB, KFAN)	Radio Stations	3

Lancer Food and Beverage	Burgers, Sandwiches, Beer & Wine, Craft Brewers	5
Midtown Global Market	Rotating Food Vendors, Global Merchandise	2
Midwest ATM	ATM Service	27
Minnesota Honey Producers Association	Honey, Honey Ice Cream, Honey Candy	2
Minnesota State Fair Foundation	State FairWear & Merchandise, Bargain Books, Memberships, BINGO	5
Minnekabob	Kabobs	2
Netterfield Food Court	Popcorn, Caramel Corn, Sausage, Corn Dogs, Hamburgers	2
Orange Treet, Etc.	Orange Treets, Smoothies, Ice Cream, Dairy Products	2
Paddle North	Paddle Boards, Kayaks, Logo Apparel	2
Perfect Pickle – KWF, Inc.	Deep-Fried Pickles, Pickles on-a-Stick	2
Poncho Dog, Leah O'Neil	Hot Dogs On-a-Stick	3
Schroder Concessions	Popcorn, Caramel Corn, Caramel Apples, Cheese Curds, Bratwurst	4
Strawberries N' Creme	Strawberries N' Creme, Loon Lake Iced Tea	2
Syndicate Sales Corp.	Ratchet Pruners, Salsa Makers, Magic Play Sand	4
Tom Thumb Mini Donuts	Mini Donuts, Soda	2
Wee Dazzle	Novelties, Souvenirs, Toys	4

The locations were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

LeVesseur recommended the following concessionaires be approved for beer and wine licenses for the 2025 non-fair event season, the Kickoff to Summer at the Fair event and the Minnesota State Fair.

CONCESSIONAIRE	BLOCK	LOCATION
American Restaurant Consultants, Inc. dba RC's BBQ (Randy Jernberg, Charles Torgerson)	Block 28	1801 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Cider
Andrus Concessions, Inc. dba Andy's Grille (Joseph and Michael Andrus)	Block 42	1774 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages
Ball Park Cafe, Inc. (David and Daniel Theisen)	Block 35	1312 Underwood St. Malt Beverages & Cider
Bandstand Concessions, Inc. (Jacob Severson, Ryan Caulfield)	Block 28	1755 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Blue Plate Restaurant Company dba Blue Barn (Stephanie Shimp, David Burley)	Block 27	1839 W. Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Chi-Dogs Inc., Chicago Dogs (Anne Chesin)	Block 35	1670 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
CMK Investment Co., dba Leinie Lodge (Paul McDonald)	Block 34	1302 Cooper St. Malt Beverages
Coasters (Paul and Diana Hohenwald)	Block 42	1804 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine

Cuisine Concepts, dba Tejas Express (Mark Haugen, Wayne Kostroski)	Block 35	1670 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
Dino's Festivals Inc., dba Dino's Gyros (Constantin and Jason Adamidis, Alysia Anderson)	Block 36	1701 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Cider
The Firefly Group, dba LuLu's Public House (Charlie Burrows, Mike Brennan)	Block 27	1843 W. Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Cider
French Crêperie (Marc Vezies, Tracy Anderson)	Block 36	1711 Carnes Ave. Minn. Wine
Giggles' Campfire Grill, LLC (Timothy Weiss)	Block 19	1520 Cooper St. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
GSH Food Services, Inc. dba The Hideaway (Bryan and Jennie Enloe)	Block 38	1755 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
The Hangar Group, LLC (Nathan and Stephanie Janousek)	Block 12	1673 Murphy Ave. Malt Beverages & Cider
HMH of St. Paul Inc. dba Shanghai Henri's (Henry, Ellen and Megan Hanten)	Block 47	1658 Judson Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Lancer Food and Beverage, LLC dba Aldo's Burgers; Sabino's Pizza Pies; Snack House; Swine & Spuds (Tony Arvidson, Brittany Mayer-Schuler)	Block 50	1784 Judson Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Lancer Food and Beverage, LLC dba Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild (Tony Arvidson, Brittany Mayer-Schuler)	Block 45	1263 Cooper St. Malt Beverages
Mancini's al Fresco, LLC (Pasquale and Kathryn Mancini)	Block 36	1715 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Midway Mens Club (Matthew Stark)	Block 30	1354 Underwood St. Malt Beverages
Mintahoe dba Minnesota Wine Country (James and Shawn McMerty)	Block 44	1271 Underwood St. Minn. Wine
MJ Financial Group dba Ragin Cajun (Ronald Jacob)	Block 35	1670 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages
O'Gara's Bar & Grill, Inc. (Daniel and Kris O'Gara)	Block 34	1626 Dan Patch Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
TRES-C, Inc., dba Cafe Caribe (Joel, Mary and Jennifer Chesin)	Block 42	1770 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages & Minn. Wine
Werner's Frontier, Inc., The Frontier (Richard Werner)	Block 42	1790 Carnes Ave. Malt Beverages

The licenses were approved as recommended on a motion by Harbison, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

LeVesseur recommended the following caterers be approved for beer and wine licenses during the 2025 non-fair event season:

2025 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR BEER & WINE CONCESSIONS - CATERING

1. Kabob by Dangerfield's (Gus Khwice)
2. Mintahoe (Shawn McMerty)
3. Shakopee House (Heather Williams)
4. Tinucci's Catering (Mark Tinucci Jr.)
5. Orange Treet, Etc. (Ross & Patricia Robey)

The licenses were approved as recommended on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Erspamer and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

LeVesseur recommended the following ticketed attraction percentage structures be approved for the 2025 Minnesota State Fair:

CONCESSIONAIRE	ATTRACTION	2024%	2025%
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Turbo Bungy</u>	25%	25%
Biggest Wheel, LLC	Ferris Wheel	30%	30%
D.M.C., Inc.	Skyride	25%	25%
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Rock Climbing Wall</u>	25%	25%
Giant Ride, Inc.	Giant Slide	30%	30%
Hot Shot Thrill Rides	<u>Sling Shot</u>	25%	25%
K & M Recreation, Inc.	Haunted House	30%	30%
Krazy Maze, LLC	Krazy Maze	25%	25%
Mighty Midway and Kidway	Kidway Rides and Shows Midway Rides and Shows Games of Skill	43% 41% 23%	43% 41% 23%
Skyfair, Inc.	SkyGlider	30%	30%
Skyscraper Two, Ltd.	<u>Skyscraper</u>	25%	25%
Spineless Wonders	Butterfly House	20%	20%
Tinsley Amusements, Inc.	Carousel	40%	40%
Ventnor Place, Inc.	Space Tower	25%	25%

Attractions underlined are located at Adventure Park

The percentage fees above represent the fee(s) payable to the Minnesota State Fair on receipts from ticket sales associated with operation of the preceding attractions. Percentages are applied as follows: State sales tax (8.375%) is deducted from gross receipts, and reconciliation between the Minnesota State Fair and concessionaires is made on the net of tax balance.

The percentages were approved as recommended on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Storck and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

LeVesseur recommended the following ticketed attraction pricing structures be approved for the 2025 Minnesota State Fair:

CONCESSIONAIRE	ATTRACTION	2024 TICKET PRICE(S)	2025 TICKET PRICE(S)
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Turbo Bungy</u>	\$7	\$7
Biggest Wheel, LLC	Ferris Wheel	\$7	\$7
D.M.C., Inc.	Skyride	\$6 one-way \$10 round trip	\$6 one-way \$10 round trip
Adventures 2 You, LLC	<u>Rock Climbing Wall</u>	\$7	\$7
Giant Ride, Inc.	Giant Slide	\$4	\$4
Hot Shot Thrill Rides, Inc.	<u>Sling Shot</u>	\$40 per rider Early bird: \$30 per rider	\$40 per rider Early bird: \$30 per rider
K & M Recreation, Inc.	Haunted House	\$5	\$5
Krazy Maze, LLC	Krazy Maze	\$5	\$5
Mighty Midway/ Kidway	Rides & Games of Skill	\$1 single, \$30 for 33 tickets (\$.9091 per ticket), \$60 for 70 tickets (\$.8571 per ticket) Advance purchase: (\$.80 per ticket)	\$1 single, \$40 for 44 tickets (\$.9091 per ticket), \$70 for 80 tickets (\$.875 per ticket) Advance purchase: (\$.80 per ticket)
Skyfair, Inc.	SkyGlider	\$6 one way \$10 round trip	\$6 one way \$10 round trip

Skyscraper Two, Ltd.	Skyscraper	\$40 per rider	\$40 per rider
		Early bird:	Early bird:
		\$30 per rider	\$30 per rider
Spineless Wonders	Butterfly House	\$4	\$4
Tinsley Amusements, Inc.	Carousel	\$3	\$3
Ventnor Place, Inc.	Space Tower	\$5	\$6

Attractions underlined are located at Adventure Park and operate on a central ticket system.

The pricing was approved as recommended on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

LeVesseur and Quam reviewed the 2025 non-fair events calendar, followed by a request for non-fair event rate changes. The rates were approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

The sales committee meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m. on a motion by Harbison, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-8; Nay-0).

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Dan Grunhovd, chair; Sara Donaldson; Ray Erspamer; Kent Harbison; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; Wally Wichmann. Ex officio: Wally Wichmann; Renee Alexander; Brian Hudalla; Wally LeVesseur; Sean Casey.

Also present: Blaire Huneke; Lara Hughes; Chris Leach; Alex Vaquerano; Tim Dybevik; Mike Hagen; Christine Noonan; Jennifer Holmes; Mel Varriano; Bailey Anderson; Maria Hayden; Samantha Gilbertson; Danielle Dullinger; Virginia Mold; Karmen Sperr; Erin Parnell; Nick Juare; Cory Franzmeier; Theresa Weinfurter; Michelle Butler; Danyl Vavreck; Shana Zaiser; Emily Quam; Julie Samec; Nikki Hines; Pam Simon; Jennifer Holmes; Debbie Edman; Patrick Schoen.

Chair Grunhovd called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Hudalla reviewed the capital and maintenance projects completed in 2024.

Hudalla presented the capital and maintenance project recommendations for 2025 totaling \$20.14 million and including \$13.9 million for phase one of Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum renovations and \$1.6 million for the 4-H roof replacement.

A summary of the project list follows and includes projects previously approved at the Nov. 14, 2024, meeting of the board:

2025 CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE BUDGET SUMMARY

A. Structure Improvements	\$15,650,000
B. Land Improvements	
BI. Fencing & Fixtures	-
BII. Land	-
BIII. Sewer System	-
BIV. Streets & Sidewalks	-
BV. Water Distribution System	-
BVI. Gas Distribution System	-
BVII. Land Purchases	-
Total Land Improvements	-
C. Personal Property	325,000
D. Electric Plant	100,000
TOTAL Improvements	\$16,075,000
E. Structure Maintenance	\$ 2,064,000
F. Land Maintenance	
FI. Fencing & Fixtures	170,000

FII. Land	147,000
FIII. Sewer System	187,000
FIV. Streets & Sidewalks	293,100
FV. Water Distribution System	90,000
FVI. Gas Distribution System	2,000
Total Land Maintenance	889,100
G. Personal Property Maintenance	271,000
H. Vehicle Maintenance	190,000
I. Electric Plant	653,500
Total Maintenance	\$ 4,067,600
	\$20,142,600

After review and discussion, Peysar moved, Erspamer seconded, and the motion was carried that the 2025 capital improvement and maintenance budget be approved by the committee as presented and recommended to the full board for approval (Aye-8; Nay-0). Included in the motion was staff authority to adjust, shift, add or cancel specific line items as appropriate to accommodate changes that occur throughout the budget year.

The planning committee meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. on a motion by Johnson and seconded by Donaldson.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

2:40 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2025

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovd; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; Renee Alexander, secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 2:55 p.m. by President Wichmann and declared in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned by President Wichmann at 4 p.m.

DISTRICT CAUCUSES OF THE SOCIETY

11:15 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025

Delegates from the second and eighth districts met in caucus to certify nominees for election to the Minnesota State Agricultural Society's board of managers during the Society's general business session on Sunday, Jan. 19. Selected were Jeff Hawkins of Inver Grove Heights, Minn. (second district), and Ray Erspamer of Hibbing, Minn. (eighth district).

GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION OF THE SOCIETY

8:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025

Delegates, staff and friends of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society (governing body of the Minnesota State Fair) met for breakfast and convened in general session at 8:30 a.m. President Wichmann opened the meeting and asked State Fair CEO Renee Alexander for her report. Her report was accepted by the delegation.

President Wichmann called for a report of the credentials committee by Lilah Crowe of Itasca County. The committee report was presented as follows and adopted as read:

Report of Credentials Committee

Credential forms submitted to the State Agricultural Society have been inspected by the full committee. All credentials have been found to be in order with the following exceptions:

- There were two statewide associations that did not file with the secretary of state as required by Dec. 20, 2024.
- There was one statewide association whose credential form was not completed correctly.
- There were seven county fair credential forms that were not completed correctly.

- Ramsey County Fair designated on their credential form that they did not meet eligibility requirements to vote per Minnesota statute.

Members of the credentials committee do attest to the actions noted above on the 18th day of January, 2025.

President Wichmann called for a report of the resolutions committee. Committee member Kathy Travis from Ramsey County presented the following resolutions for consideration by the Society's delegation:

2025 Approved and Adopted Resolutions

1. Whereas, the Minnesota State Fair continues to enjoy great distinction throughout the state, region and around the world as one of the largest, preeminent and most-beloved events celebrating the people of and all that is great about the state of Minnesota; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that we, the members of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, governing body of the Minnesota State Fair,

- Appreciate the significance of a successful 2024 Great Minnesota Get-Together and recognize that many individuals and groups share responsibility for this, including agriculturalists, artists, competitors, concessionaires, contractors, demonstrators, donors, livestock and horse exhibitors, local and national media, neighbors, non-fair-time events, partners, performers, public safety officers, sponsors, state and local agencies and officials, suppliers, vendors, volunteers, the boards and staff of the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, and 1,925,904 guests – making 2024 the fifth-best-attended fair in its history.
- Honor and value the traditions cultivated by those who attend and participate in the Minnesota State Fair and affirm our commitment to present a premier exposition that also attracts new generations of fair guests. As its mission, the Minnesota State Fair strives to: educate, engage and entertain people through a culturally rich, high-quality, world-class showcase of agriculture, food, industry, performances, arts and crafts and the exchange of knowledge and ideas; present innovative, top-notch, diverse, unique and fun programs and initiatives; provide outstanding guest services in a safe, clean, well-maintained fairgrounds environment that is accessible to all; offer exceptional value while maintaining its financial independence through sound and fiscally responsible management; and above all, celebrate each other and our common humanity.
- Commit to nurturing strong partnerships with other expositions, associations and allied organizations invested in professional development and improving our industry, including 4-H, FFA, the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, International Entertainment Buyers Association, Midwest Showmen's Association, Minnesota Federation of County Fairs, National Independent Concessionaires Association, Outdoor Amusement Business Association, and others.

2. Whereas, committing our best efforts to pursuing the State Fair's mission and presenting quality programs, exhibits and entertainment are not possible without also heavily investing in maintaining, preserving and improving the historic fairgrounds and facilities; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society will continue to explore and pursue avenues for acquiring the financial resources, support and expertise to responsibly care for and upgrade the beautiful park-like fairgrounds and its iconic buildings. Over its long history, the now-322-acre site of the State Fair has continually been heralded as one of the finest exposition facilities in the country; to sustain this requires significant investment, and in 2025 and 2026, the Society will prioritize repairs and renovation to the 75-year-old Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum, among dozens of projects comprising a multi-million dollar capital and maintenance budget.

3. Whereas, the paramount objective of the Minnesota State Fair

is to safeguard the well-being of its guests and participants; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society is firmly dedicated to gathering law enforcement personnel from throughout the state to serve as part of the Minnesota State Fair Police Department; pursuing collaborative partnerships with public safety agencies at local, state and federal levels; and dedicating necessary resources to develop, implement and continuously evaluate and enhance a robust and comprehensive public safety framework.

4. Whereas, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, which has granted to the State Fair more than \$20 million over the Foundation's 22-year history, has had a significant impact throughout the entire fabric of the State Fair through giving areas that include the enhancement of agricultural education programs and construction and renovation of agricultural facilities, creation of new arts and culture programming, improvements to the fairgrounds environment and accessibility, care of trees and historic structures, the addition of extensive seating throughout the grounds, sidewalk replacement, and countless other projects; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society expresses its deep gratitude for the Foundation's board of directors and generous community of donors, whose unwavering commitment, especially in challenging times, has driven the Foundation's continued support for the betterment of the State Fair and its legacy for future generations.

5. Whereas, the Minnesota State Fair generates significant social benefits and contributes nearly \$300 million in economic impact to the Twin Cities area with expansive reach across the entire region; and Whereas, the State Fair supports more than 12,000 individuals, including thousands of young people, who gain much-needed work skills through part-time and seasonal employment; and Whereas, the State Fair serves as Minnesota's largest educational platform, providing unmatched learning opportunities for individuals of all ages, especially in agriculture, the arts and sciences, history and more; and Whereas, early school opening would deprive thousands of 4-H and FFA youth from being a part of this unique annual opportunity to gain valuable education and life experiences at the State Fair while contributing to the fair's historical mission to promote agriculture; and Whereas, the State Fair plays a vital role in the state's broader tourism and hospitality industries, contributing to their strength and growth; and Whereas, disruption to the traditional summer schedule, such as an early school start, would have negative economic consequences for these sectors and businesses when State Fair attendance is driven down; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society, whose membership includes stakeholders from every corner of the state, strongly urges lawmakers to support current state law requiring Minnesota's schools to open after Labor Day, ensuring that children and families from throughout the state can fully participate in the educational, historic and culturally rich Minnesota State Fair.

6. Whereas, the outstanding renown of the Minnesota State Fair is a testament to the dedication of countless individuals over many years; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society acknowledges the legacy and contributions of its members, partners and State Fair supporters who we lost in the past year, including:

Lollie Ames, co-founder of Cedar Ridge Arabians and active in the Arabian Horse Association and Arabian Horse Foundation; Ron Ames, dedicated supporter of the Minnesota State Fair and Scott County Fair; Peter Andrews, long-time employee of Royal American Shows and concessions manager for two decades; Robert "Bob" Armstrong, worked for the State Fair for 25 years and retired in 1997 as deputy director; Marlene Banttari, Creative Activities baking judge for 35 years; John Bartley, member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) for many years;

Al Benney, emergency medical technician for horse shows at the State Fairgrounds; Margaret “Peggy” Clark, Lost & Found employee with six years of service; Al DeRusha, Hall of Fame member of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association and the Midwest Showmen’s Association; Don DiGirolamo, owner and operator of the SkyGlider at the Minnesota State Fair for 24 years; Jim Foss, Minnesota State Fair board member 2002-2011, board president 2012-2013, Goodhue County Fair board member 1959-2022, and Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Hall of Fame member; Liz Foss, 4-H leader and recognized with husband, Jim, as American Milking Shorthorn Society Citizens of the Year in 2001; Susan Hecht, long-time Charolais cattle exhibitor inducted into the American-International Charolais Association Hall of Fame; Denny Johnson, who sold hot dogs on-a-stick for decades and worked on parade floats; John H. Keenan Sr., owner and operator of the historic Ye Old Mill attraction at the Minnesota State Fair for 61 years; Rich Keenan, legal representative for the fair and then fifth district vice president of the State Fair board 1986-2001, inducted as an honorary life member of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society in 2003; Robert “Marion” Lucas, former manager and CEO of the Iowa State Fair and friend of the Minnesota State Fair; Tom Mason of the band Tom Mason & The Blue Buccaneers, which performed at the Bandshell in 2023 and numerous times on the International Bazaar stage; William McGrann, the Minnesota State Fair’s first lobbyist; Mark Moenning, long-time livestock exhibitor who served on the Dodge County Fair board and the Minnesota Beef Council, among others; Richard “Dick” Mueller, who opened the Original Deep Fried Cheese Curds concession at the State Fair in 1975 and operated it for 40 years; Dean Myhre, Hampshire swine exhibitor for 50 years, board member of the Minnesota Purebred Swine Breeders Association and Houston County Fair, and Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame member; Mary Oz, long-time proprietor of Isabel Burke’s Taffy with husband, Bill; Dan Pearson, owner of State Fair exhibitor PleasureLand RV Center; Scot Ribar, who joined the sanitation department in 1965 and served as sanitation superintendent 1986-1998; Troy Sabean, greenhouse and employment center employee and MSF All-Star MVP Award winner in 2011 with eight years of service; Byron Schneider, Minnesota State Director of 4-H Youth Development, 1981-89; Bill Schoetz, 49-year seasonal employee at the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum and State Fair campground and a Minnesota State Fair Foundation volunteer; Erven Skaar, who worked for the potato and vegetable department for 18 years, including as vegetable superintendent 1997-2006, and received the 50 Year Award in 2006; Donna Speltz, long-time Midwest Federation of County Fairs secretary and member of the Minnesota Brown Swiss Association; Roger Sullivan, long-time Simmental and Shorthorn beef cattle exhibitor and supporter of the Minnesota Beef Expo; Carolyn Tande, 4-H and open class horticulture and home economics judge at the State Fair and area county fairs; and Jean Thomforde, State Fair friend and wife of John Thomforde, poultry superintendent 1996-2012, recognized with a 50 Year Award in 1990.

7. Whereas, noteworthy achievements were celebrated and important work was affirmed at the Minnesota State Agricultural Society’s 166th annual meeting; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society gratefully acknowledges the efforts of all who helped make today’s program a great success.

The resolutions were adopted as read.

Vice President Donaldson conducted the election of Society president for the term of one year. Wally Wichmann, the Minnesota State Agricultural Society’s seventh district board of manager from Balaton, Minn., was nominated by Gordy Toenges and seconded by Dan Grunhovd. The election was held with no opposition and Wichmann assumed the chair.

Honorary Life Member Ron Oleheiser nominated longtime open class

beef superintendent Chuck Schwartau for election to Honorary Life Membership in the Society. Society Life Member Paul Merkins seconded the nomination. Schwartau was duly elected and presented with his award by Chair Wichmann and Vice President Donaldson.

President Wichmann then conducted elections as follows: Kent Harbison of Roseville, Minn., was re-elected to a two-year term as vice president representing the fourth district; Jeff Hawkins of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., was re-elected to a three-year term as second district representative, and Ray Erspamer of Hibbing, Minn., was re-elected to a three-year term as the eighth district representative.

There being no further business before the Society, President Wichmann declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
10:05 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025

Members present: Wally Wichmann, president; Sara Donaldson, vice president; Kent Harbison, vice president; Ray Erspamer; Dan Grunhovd; Jeff Hawkins; Gail Johnson; Kirk Peysar; Steve Storck; Gordy Toenges; Renee Alexander, secretary.

Also present: Patrick Schoen; Kim Scibak; Debbie Edman; Grace Woodis; Danyl Vavreck; Andrew Ostapowycz; Julian Schadeck; Wally LeVesseur; Michelle Butler; Beth Scholdt; Maria Hayden; Christine Noonan; Heather Brady; Nate Dungan; Theresa Weinfurter; Shannon Buchda; Mel Varriano; Jennifer Holmes; Shana Zaiser; Brett Ward; Nick Juare; Erik Klingner; Jake Bryant; Jim Rougier; Mike Hagen; Cory Franzmeier; Danielle Dullinger; Emily Quam; Bailey Anderson; Brian Hudalla; Jill Nathe; Lara Hughes; Pam Simon; Mary Chung; Sean Casey; Leah Janus; Dan Miller; Jim Sadler; John Mueller.

President Wichmann called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Edman administered the oath of office to the newly elected board members as follows:

Wally Wichmann of Balaton, Minn., president (one-year term); Kent Harbison of Roseville, Minn., vice president representing fourth regional district (two-year term); Jeff Hawkins, second district representative of Inver Grove Heights, Minn. (three-year term); and Ray Erspamer of Hibbing, Minn., eighth district representative (three-year term).

On a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Johnson, Renee Alexander was re-appointed as CEO and secretary of the Society (Aye-9, Nay-0). Edman administered the oath of office to Alexander.

Minutes of the board meeting conducted on Nov. 14, 2024, were reviewed and approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Toenges and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Minutes of the interim activities covering the period of Nov. 14, 2024, through Jan. 19, 2025, were approved on a motion by Grunhovd, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Leach presented the financial statement for Dec. 31, 2024, as follows:

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
CASH TRANSACTION SUMMARY
Month Ending Dec. 31, 2024

OPERATING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:	
Balance-November 30, 2024	\$ 12,110,485
Add: Cash deposits	\$ 2,371,582
Less: Payroll ending Dec. 6	(341,844)
Payroll ending Dec. 20	(356,255)
Cash disbursements	(3,162,954)
	(1,489,471)
Balance-December 31, 2024	\$ 10,621,014

BUILDING FUND ACTIVITY:	
Balance-November 30, 2024	\$ 453

Add: Interest earned	-	
Securities purchased	-	
Less: Securities redeemed	-	
Balance-December 31, 2024	\$	453
CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT:		
Balance-November 30, 2024	\$	-
Add: Note Proceeds	-	
Interest	-	-
Less: Disbursements	-	
Balance-December 31, 2024	\$	-

CASH BALANCES FOR MONTH ENDING:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating account	\$ 9,855,809	\$10,621,014
Petty cash	6,100	6,100
Building fund	453	453
Construction account (note proceeds)	-	-
Total cash balances	<u>\$ 9,862,362</u>	<u>\$10,627,567</u>

After review, the statement was approved as submitted on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The following recommendations for the Society's designated depository, signature authorization and security funds transfer were presented by Leach:

Bremer Bank as the depository for the Society's operating account, payroll account and premium fund account with the following signatory authority: Operating account – Renee Alexander and Chris Leach with “Alexander/Leach” signature imprint authorized for operating account; regular and fair-period payroll account – Renee Alexander and Chris Leach with “Alexander” signature imprint authorized for payroll funds; Premium account – Renee Alexander and Jill Nathe with “Alexander” signature imprint authorized for premium account; Security funds transfer resolution – Renee Alexander or Chris Leach. The preceding was approved on a motion by Erspamer, seconded by Storck and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

President Wichmann declared the meeting in recess for committee meetings.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Toenges called the meeting to order.

Alexander presented the following gate admission policy for the 2025 State Fair for consideration:

Entry into the Minnesota State Fair shall be contingent solely upon the presentation of a valid ticket of admission in accordance with the most current schedule of gate prices as established by the board of managers.

The gate admission policy was adopted as presented on a motion by Johnson, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The operations committee meeting was adjourned on a motion by Grunhvd, seconded by Hawkins and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order.

Ex officio committee member Noonan presented the 2025 marketing and creative division budgets. After discussion, the budgets were approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The public affairs committee meeting was adjourned on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Toenges and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

RULES & PREMIUM LIST COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Erspamer called the meeting to order.

Authority was granted to Alexander's delegates to make adjustments in rules, release dates and premium allocations for competitive departments in accordance with guidelines established by the Society's 2025 operating budget on a motion by Grunhvd, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order.

The 2025 capital and maintenance budgets, reviewed in detail earlier in the weekend by the board, were approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The authority to implement flexible pricing for Grandstand events was approved on a motion by Peysar, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

The finance committee meeting adjourned on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Grunhvd and carried (Aye-5; Nay-0).

President Wichmann reconvened the meeting of the board.

Action taken earlier by the sales, planning, operations, public affairs, rules & premium lists and finance committees was approved on a motion by Toenges, seconded by Peysar and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

After discussion, the following admission fee schedule for the 2025 Minnesota State Fair was approved on a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Adults (13-64)	\$20
Seniors (65 and over).....	\$18
Children (5-12).....	\$18
Kids (4 and under)	Free
All-ages pre-fair discount	\$17
Seniors & Kids Days promotions.....	\$15
Opening Day Adults	\$18
Opening Day Children & Seniors.....	\$15
Military Appreciation Day*	\$15
Auto parking	\$25
Motorcycle parking.....	\$15
Vendors & competitors discount.....	\$16

*Discount applies to active military, spouses and kids; retired military and spouses; and military veterans and spouses. All must present valid documentation of military service.

Alexander was authorized to set staff salaries according to the following job classifications and pay ranges on a motion by Storck, seconded by Donaldson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

Operating Classification

Title: Specialist

Minimum \$800 - \$1,620 weekly (\$41,600 - \$84,240 yearly)

Intermediate & Professional Classification

Title: Supervisor

Minimum \$982 - \$1,785 weekly (\$51,064 - \$92,820 yearly)

Middle Management Classification *

Title: Manager

Minimum \$1,400 - \$2,430 weekly (\$72,800 - \$126,360 yearly)

Executive Classification *

Titles: Director, Deputy Director, Executive Administrator, Deputy GM
Minimum \$1,720 - \$3,750 weekly (\$89,440 - \$195,000 yearly)

* Exempt from overtime

The Society's legal representation by Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. and Winthrop & Weinstine was approved on a motion by Erspamer, seconded by Harbison and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Johnson and carried (Aye-9; Nay-0).

MINUTES OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES

Nov. 14, 2024 through Jan. 19, 2025

November

14 - Chung participated in a meeting of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation's development committee.

18 - Sperr attended Highland Park High School's Career Day where she was part of a panel talking about careers in agriculture.

19 - A meeting for all full-time staff was held in the History & Heritage Center. Several of the senior staff participated in a creative work session with Alliance on the State Fair's master plan.

20 - The Midway Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon program at the History & Heritage Center.

21 - Staff attended defensive driving training at the History & Heritage Center.

23 - Block 27 was used for University of Minnesota Gopher Football parking.

26 - A Flash Sale for 2025 pre-fair discount admission tickets was held.

December

1-5 - A delegation of staff and board members attended the International Association of Fairs & Expos annual convention in Phoenix, Ariz.; at the convention, Gail Johnson received the Heritage Award, and Danielle Dullinger and Grace Woodis were honored at a ceremony for graduates of the IAFE's Institute of Fair Management.

2 - Quam and Juairé met with the City of Roseville chief of police and representatives of Visit Roseville and Minnesota Street Rod Association to discuss traffic on Snelling Avenue during Back to the '50s Weekend.

2-7 - Minnesota Task Force 1 Search & Rescue training was held in the North End Event Center and at the Grandstand Ramp.

3 - Alexander, Samantha Gilbertson and Walter toured the Bachman's Lyndale Garden Center and Wholesale facility with State Fair Foundation board member Dale Bachman and met with CEO Susan Bachman-West. The Foundation held a holiday open house at the J.V. Bailey House. Chung presented at the Ramsey County Historical Society Gala, which was held in the History & Heritage Center. As part of its Minnesota State Fair Community Gives Together initiative, a group of full-time staff helped to decorate for the holidays at Lyngblomsten senior living facility.

4 - Noonan attended a meeting of the University of Minnesota Tourism Center Advisory Committee.

5 - Hughes attended a Visit Roseville board retreat.

6 - Simon and LeVesseur met with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources to discuss fairgrounds site location.

6-7 - Horse Crazy Holiday Market was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

9-15 - As part of MSF Community Gives Together, a donation drive was held to collect Mindfulness Kit items for the St. Paul nonprofit FamilyWise.

10 - A Minnesota Horse Council meeting was held in the FFA Chapter House. As part of MSF Community Gives Together, a group of full-time staff helped to decorate for the holidays at Lyngblomsten. Staff attended a Minnesota State Retirement System presentation at the Libby Conference Center.

11 - Alexander was a panelist for University of Minnesota Architecture students' final project, which consisted of concepts for the World Horticulture Expo. Simon met with Dr. Logan Spector, Dr. Ellen Demerath

and Annie Hotop to discuss the Driven to Discover exhibit at the fair, past, present and future. Hughes attended a Visit Roseville board meeting.

12 - As part of MSF Community Gives Together, a group of full-time staff sang holiday songs for Lyngblomsten residents. Tickets went on sale for the Melissa Etheridge and Indigo Girls: Yes We Are Tour concert at the Grandstand, Aug. 24, 2025.

13 - Butler and Nathe met with Dr. Torremorell, Prof. Pyles and Lora Berg from the University of Minnesota to discuss possible collaboration on a new educational exhibit. Noonan spoke about marketing careers and college preparation to four AVID classes at Andover High School.

13-15 - The State Gymnastics Championship was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

14-15 - Minnesota Merry Market was held in the North End Event Center.

16 - Full-time staff who attended the IAFE Convention in Phoenix met to recap and share information from the convention.

18 - Minnesota State Fair full-time staff held their holiday party in the History & Heritage Center.

19 - Samec and Simon met with the Memorial Blood Center. Hughes attended a Visit Roseville Board meeting.

20 - As part of MSF Community Gives Together, a group of full-time staff wrapped holiday gifts for Lyngblomsten residents.

21-22 - Minnesota Merry Market was held in the North End Event Center. Minnesota Blizzard FC Indoor Soccer held games in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

January

3 - Ice Castles opened at the North Fox Lot and ran through approximately Feb. 17.

9 - Several State Fair staff participated in a creative work session with Alliance on the State Fair's master plan. Minneapolis Police Department training was held in the North End Event Center and on surrounding roadways.

10 - Noonan attended a Visit Saint Paul membership meeting.

11-12 - The Winter Antique Show was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

15 - Saint Paul Police Academy K-9 training was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

17 - Noonan attended a Midway Chamber of Commerce board meeting. Tickets went on sale for the Old Dominion concert at the Grandstand, Aug. 21, 2025.

18 - The Twin Cities Gymnastics Invitational was held in the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

18-19 - A church service was held in the North End Event Center.



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