

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## 2021 Annual Meeting Resolutions – Recommended for Approval by Committee

**1. Whereas**, there are very few times when a global crisis calls upon us to rise and meet unprecedented challenges we haven't encountered for generations, 2020 became one of just six such momentous years in the history of our great Minnesota State Fair; now, therefore, be it

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

1. Reaffirms that the Great Minnesota Get-Together is just that – an awe-inspiring celebration that brings our state's many communities together at a single, extraordinary location to participate in a grand showcase of the very best of Minnesota;
2. Recognizes that the cancellation of the 2020 Minnesota State Fair, while complex and difficult, was necessary to protect the health and safety of millions, and essential to the recovery and healing of the world;
3. Despite the deep disappointment of a year with no State Fair, we acknowledge with profound gratitude the thousands whose support and very best efforts the fair needs to move forward, including the vast network of agriculturists, 4-H and FFA participants, vendors, artists, entertainers, competitors, exhibitors, amusement operators, sponsors, news media, contractors, advertisers, volunteers, the boards and staff of the Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota State Fair Foundation, neighbors and community organizations, and millions of fair guests; and
4. Understands that longtime partnerships with countless allied industries have never been more important, including memberships with 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 other organizations that are essential to furthering and improving the fair industry locally, nationally and internationally.

**2. Whereas**, a year without a Minnesota State Fair and virtually no operating revenue has been challenging, as it has for countless others enduring this crisis, the fair's future remains hopeful and bright; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Minnesota State Agricultural Society,

1. Remains committed to managing a financially sound operation that prioritizes the care and maintenance of its beautiful fairgrounds and facilities and the presentation of a culturally rich, high-quality exhibition worthy of its reputation as one of the premier expositions in the world;
2. Supports the unbounded creativity and ingenuity required to adapt State Fair operations and programs in an ever-evolving environment, and to acknowledge all who worked toward and supported the success of two Food Parades, fairgrounds events, unique sales opportunities and other programs that have brought essential revenue to the organization; and
3. Reaffirms its mission to educate and engage people by presenting a world-class showcase of agriculture, entertainment and the innovative exchange of knowledge and ideas; provide outstanding customer service in a safe, clean, well-maintained environment that is accessible to all; and offer exceptional value while remaining financially independent through sound and fiscally responsible management.

**3. Whereas,** the Great Minnesota Get-Together is a cherished and unparalleled event due to the exceptional efforts of thousands of individuals; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* that the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, on behalf of its members, expresses our deep sadness at the passing this last year of: Dick Anderson, former Park & Ride superintendent and 50 Year Award recipient; Steve Anderson, an officer with the State Fair Police Department for seven years; Alan Bradley, an officer with the State Fair Police Department for five years; Donald Craighead, husband of Minnesota State Fair Foundation board chair Sandy Craighead and Foundation benefactor; Rosella Fefercorn, 4-H Achievement Award winner, lifelong fan of the Minnesota State Fair and benefactor of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation's endowment and bench programs; Ann Fox, wife of Minnesota State Agricultural Society board member Joe Fox; Mike Heffron, respected, knowledgeable and influential fair leader who began his career at the Minnesota State Fair in 1954 and served as general manager from 1977 to 1997, and was president of the Midwest Fairs Association, International Association of Fairs & Expositions, and Minnesota State Fair and IAFE Hall of Fame member; Arthur "Al" Hohenwald, longtime proprietor of State Fair concessions; Kimberly Kane, wife of Mike Kane, former member of the State Fair police department; Richard Klein, fair-time watch commander with the State Fair Police Department for many years; Rick Kolodziej, gate ticket sales employee; Lewis Miller Jr., president and CEO of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions from 1980 to 2000; Lester Moore, Grandstand head rigger and staging engineer; Jim Olson, former Grandstand food concession operator and son of State Fair legend Cliff Olson; William Paddock, former State Fair sales department employee; Ethel F. Peters, who, with her husband, Jim, owned and operated the Peters Hot Dogs concessions; Greg Petrie, parking department employee; Joseph C. Premont Sr., owner of Paramount Attractions, longtime game arcade operator; Hugh Schilling, founder and chairman of the board of Horton Holding Inc., and Minnesota State Fair Foundation benefactor of the Hugh and Margaret Schilling Amphitheater at West End Market and the Horton Pavilions at Heffron Park; William Schomberg, recipient of a 50 Year Award in 2003 for swine exhibition at the State Fair; David Sprengeler, Brown Swiss cattle breeder and fourth-generation State Fair exhibitor; John A. "Jack" True, former Machinery Hill superintendent employed by the State Fair; Fredrick L. Vescio, owner of Vescio's, longtime food and beverage concession at the State Fair; and Dominic A. Vivona Sr., with Amusements of America, who provided rides on the Mighty Midway.

**4. Whereas,** the Minnesota State Fair is an internationally renowned exposition and a time-honored tradition deeply rooted in the attendance and participation of millions of Minnesotans and beyond, with an estimated economic impact of nearly \$300 million in the Twin Cities alone plus priceless educational and social value, now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* that the Society and its statewide network of stakeholders urges support for any and all measures that will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our state and, as the pandemic eases, bolster tourism, the fair industry, businesses and the ability for us to gather together safely as our communities recover.

**5. Whereas,** this 162<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society was unlike any other in its history; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* that the Society extends its gratitude to all those who participated in this virtual gathering and contributed to its success. We look forward to a promising and hope-filled 2021.